

# THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE



## Shepherd of the Valley Evangelical Lutheran Church

1455 East Yosemite Avenue, Merced CA 95340 209-383-0632

**Our Mission Statement:** To be loving Christians, centered in God's Word and serving one's neighbor.

**Our Vision Statement:** Accepting people where they are and loving them as God does.

### MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

#### STAFF

Pastor John Russell-Curry  
jrussellcurry@comcast.net

Administrative Assistant:  
Carolyn Daberkow  
shepherdofthevalleyelca@gmail.com

Office Hours  
8:00 – 11:00 AM Monday-Friday

web page: [www.thesovlutheran.net](http://www.thesovlutheran.net)  
Also on Facebook

Council President:  
Marc Medefind  
Cell: 209-777-9302  
mrmedefind@aol.com

**Sunday worship is live on Zoom at 10:00 AM and in-person in sanctuary.** (See updates on calendar & SOV Weekly News emails.)

Please have your articles for the newsletter sent each month by the 15<sup>th</sup> to:  
shepherdofthevalleyelca@gmail.com  
Thank you.

THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE newsletter is available as a paper copy for pickup, mailed, or sent as an email attachment, or viewed on the website.

ELCA Statements and information are available on the web sites: Sierra Pacific Synod, [spselca.org](http://spselca.org), and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, [elca.org](http://elca.org).

As I age, I am discovering physical problems anticipated by the observations during my lifetime. I reach for a jacket in a room with air conditioning. I “cup” my ear to hear people in a public setting...

I know I'm getting older and slower.

So, what's the deal with a “trigger finger syndrome”? It started with waking up several times a night with pain/discomfort in my fingers. On-line materials said to “rest”. “Resting” is what I can do well, but it's not working. What's going on?

My Saturday mornings were filled with Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, Sky King...

My evening television included Gunsmoke, Maverick, The Rifleman, Bonanza...

I wasn't aware of being prepared to be a professional gunslinger. Yet, this image of Roy with guns a-blazin' in pursuit of the “bad guys” is the familiar mortal myth.

Tonto tells us of the news. There's trouble “a-brewin”. Bad guys are making trouble for the innocent.

We rush down from our perch and start the “blazing” of our guns with prayer, thoughts, collections, and announcements in newsletters... Our “trigger fingers” are flailing away.

Then, the episode is complete. All is quiet. We expect the innocent to say, “Who were those masked people? I didn't get a chance to tell them, ‘thanks’.”

Addressing the needs of the innocent – the hungry, the poor, the elderly, the immigrants, the vulnerable, the “different” **does not entail** the use of the trigger.

Addressing needs involves a quieter, more involved set of interactions over the lifetime that uses the heart (by the guidance of the Holy Spirit – not the range finder and scopes of violent response).

Jesus is un-masked and not alone. And, we say, “Thanks!”

*Pastor John*



**PRAYER REQUESTS**

Prayers for healing:

Joel Knox; Betty Madsen; Gleneda Muralt; Dorothy Woody; Rosie Sullivan; Karen Darby; Eric Smith; Gleneda Muralt’s niece, Shereida; Lynette Figueroa; Nan Dailey; Kimberly Castillo’s daughter Jillian and mother-in-law Lupe; Pam Andersen; Pastor John Russell-Curry and his family; Warren Westerberg; Jan & Joe Collins; Sylvia Poupard; Jeane & David Hetland; Penny Waha; Annie Sofranek; Susanne Smith; David Cherf; and people who are ill around the world.

We lift prayers for our Benevolence of the Month, **Restore Merced** and for our Sierra Pacific Synod Bishop, **Jeff Johnson**.

*The names on the Prayer List may be removed at the end of each month unless the office is notified that you would like them left on for another month. Please leave a message at the office, 209-383-0632. Thank you.*

**PRAYER CHAIN UPDATE**

We would like to thank Pam Andersen for volunteering to take over leading the Prayer Chain.

If you have any prayer requests, please contact Pam at 209-631-4594 to start the Prayer Chain.

**Shepherd of the Valley Website**

[www.thesovlutheran.net](http://www.thesovlutheran.net)

The website is active and being monitored by Carolyn Daberkow, Administrative Assistant. Take a little time to review the website. Any suggestions/articles and/or photos may be shared with Jeane Hetland to be reviewed for placement.

You will find the links to the Zoom gatherings by clicking on ABOUT US, click on WORSHIP SERVICE OUTLINES and click on the long link. You will need the Zoom app downloaded to your phone, tablet, or computer first.

Thanks go to Carolyn Daberkow, along with Jeane Hetland for the continuing updates.

**Garden welcomes summer with potluck lunch**

**By Marc Medefind  
Garden Liaison**

About 25 folks took part in the Shepherd of the Valley/Healthy House Garden potluck on May 31, including gardeners, SOV members, HH staff, and members of the community at large. James Thao led the program portion of the meeting, sharing about some of the Asian herbs that are grown in the garden and interpreting for the Hmong gardeners. He also led the group in a pre-luncheon prayer.

The summer garden – planted in late April -- is starting to take off. Sugar snap peas and some “Early Girl” tomatoes are already being harvested.

One huge bit of news is the fact Healthy House gardener Miguel has reattached the missing panels on the greenhouse. After being unable to obtain more of the specialized clips used when it was first built and after the panels didn’t stay put with caulk, Miguel used small screws which we hope will keep the greenhouse together.

In addition to that fix, the channel between the greenhouse and the shed (that we originally thought we needed to run an electrical line) has been filled. We found that even in winter, the greenhouse heats up tremendously which negates the need for heating pads. This marks the second year the greenhouse has been used to grow seedlings for the garden.

**JULY BIRTHDAYS**

Jan Collins	07/01
LaVonne Wenrich	07/02
Beth Loredo	07/09
Carol Linneman	07/10
David Hetland	07/11
Barbara Ward	07/12
Anna Marie Sofranek	07/13
Clark LiWang	07/15
Erica Kateley	07/16
Mary Jo Knudsen	07/18
Karen Faust	07/19
Judy Westerberg	07/19
Myrla Seibold	07/24
Devin Cherf	07/31

**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

Jim Goldsmith	08/02
Andrea Sofranek	08/19

**BIBLE TEXT READINGS**

<b>Seventh Sunday After Pentecost</b>	<b>July 7</b>
Ezekiel 2:1-5	
Psalms 123	
2 Corinthians 12:2-10	
Mark 6:1-13	Green
<b>Eighth Sunday After Pentecost</b>	<b>July 14</b>
Amos 7:7-15	
Psalms 85:8-13	
Ephesians 1:3-14	
Mark 6:14-29	Green
<b>Ninth Sunday After Pentecost</b>	<b>July 21</b>
Jeremiah 23:1-6	
Psalms 23	
Ephesians 2:11-22	
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56	Green
<b>Tenth Sunday After Pentecost</b>	<b>July 28</b>
2 Kings 4:42-44	
Psalms 145:10-18	
Ephesians 3:14-21	
John 6:1-21	Green



**MONTHLY BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON**

Join us on  
Thursday, July 18 at 11:30 AM  
 for food and fellowship!  
 This month we will meet at  
 Scott's Diner,  
 2015 E. Childs Avenue.

**SOV WORSHIP SERVICES ARE ON FACEBOOK**

Our worship services can be seen any day, at any time, on Facebook. Just type in the search box "Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Merced" and you will see the church listed. Click on our church and our Facebook page appears, with all the services.

We encourage you to send the service to your family and friends by clicking on the "SHARE" icon below the picture, and then use "Share to your friends" or "Send in Messenger" service.

**PROPERTY REPORT**

June 10, 2024

HVACS: Had one condenser go out for the offices. KHYN came and fixed it.

FENCE: We are watching a section of fence.

OUTDOOR LIGHTS: Bulbs were ordered and are getting replaced.

INDOOR LIGHTS: We are still replacing the old fluorescent bulbs with energy efficient LED bulbs.

SPRINKLERS: Leak in a main valve box in front is being looked at by a gardener. Sprinklers were replaced in the main courtyard.

POWER POINT, ZOOM, PA SYSTEM: We have a constant 40-50 views of our weekly services on ZOOM and later on Facebook. Ordering a multimeter to check batteries being used in the mics.

GROUNDS: I have contacted a backhoe (plus) owner and the 2 dead trees and still coordinating.

GRAFFITI: All graffiti was cleaned up and or painted at the last cleanup day.

David Cherf, Property Manager  
cell/text: (209)489-7757

BENEVOLENCE OF THE MONTH

July and August Benevolence

**RESTORE MERCED**

419 W. 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Merced, CA 95348

restoremeced.org

WHO WE ARE

Restore Merced is a community development effort focused on creating opportunities for low-moderate income residents in Merced, CA to experience spiritual, social, and economic flourishing. Employing an Assets Based Community Development approach in the downtown neighborhood, we began by looking at existing community efforts and areas of need in order to determine where to invest our time and energy. Through conversations with residents, faith leaders, and other community organizations, we identified three primary areas of focus for community transformation — neighborhood engagement, economic opportunities, and volunteer mobilization.

In order to accomplish our goal of seeing all Merced residents experience spiritual, social, and economic flourishing through the demonstration of Christ’s love, we seek to mobilize the local Church and community volunteers to enter into genuine, reciprocal relationships with neighbors in need. Through the development of these relationships, we believe that all Merced residents are given the opportunity to experience transformation in ways that bring to fruition the marks of a thriving community.

DIGNITY & WORTH OF ALL HUMAN BEINGS

Restore Merced cultivates renewal by strengthening relationships. We labor to see this bear fruit in restored relationships with God, meaningful work opportunities, vibrant families, and sturdy community networks. Our work is shaped by the community -- guided by the collective strengths and needs of residents -- even as we seek to harness proven resources so that all residents can grow into the fullness of our God-given humanity.

Donations may be given to Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church with Restore Merced on the memo line to be forwarded.

**COUNCIL NEWS**

**June 10, 2024**

Old council members have stepped off from the council, and new council members have stepped on.

The MOU for Healthy House has been tabled for another time since the council has just gotten new members.

Council Officers were voted in to serve. A council retreat day has been decided.

Barb Ward went to the Synod Assembly to represent SOV.

The Ukulele Group will be using the church June 20th and 22nd.

**CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**Term ends May 2025**

David Cherf  
 Jan Collins  
 Steven Hand  
 Mary Jo Knudsen

**Term ends May 2026**

Karen Arnold  
 David John Cherf II  
 Marc Medefind  
 Barbara Ward

Tim Shaw – Interim Treasurer & Bookkeeper  
 Christine Boyenga – Financial Secretary  
 Audit Committee: Pam Andersen, Alan Arnold, Mona Kowalczyk, and Carolyn Stephens

**2024-2025 Council Officers**

President: Marc Medefind                      Vice-President: Barb Ward  
 Secretary: David John Cherf II

*Next Meeting Date: **Monday, July 8, 6:00 PM***

**JULY SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

To help serve the glory of God in worship - please contact Chris Boyenga, 209-759-8544 to participate as Greeter, Usher, or Reader/Assisting Minister for our 10 A.M. Sunday Worship Service.

	Sunday July 7	Sunday July 14	Sunday July 21	Sunday July 28
Greeters/ Attendance	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>	<i>Mary Jo Knudsen</i>	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>	<i>Barb Ward</i>
Ushers	<i>Alan Arnold</i>	<i>Dave Bettis</i>	<i>Cherf Family</i>	<i>Dave Bettis</i>
Reader/Assisting Ministers	<i>Marc Medefind</i>	<i>Barb Ward</i>	<i>Tim Shaw</i>	<i>Mary Jo Knudsen</i>

**SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
JULY CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
				4 <sup>th</sup> of July Office Closed	SOV Weekly News sent via email	Church Clean-up 9 AM
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Worship 10 AM Sanctuary & Zoom	Council Meeting 6 PM				SOV Weekly News sent via email	Council Retreat 9 AM
14	15	17	18	19	20	21
Worship: 10 AM Sanctuary & Zoom				Birthday Luncheon Scott's Diner 11:30 AM	SOV Weekly News sent via email	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Worship 10 AM Sanctuary & Zoom					SOV Weekly News sent via email	
28	29	30	31			
Worship 10 AM Sanctuary & Zoom						



Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church  
1455 E Yosemite Ave  
Merced CA 95340

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED