

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

Spring Cleaning

March 19, 2024, is the first day of spring.

Traditionally, attention is given to those things requiring review. For instance, some rooms or items stored for the winter need to be "aired out" or "dusted". In the yard, some "weed-whacking" is appropriate.

Stuff of all sorts is collected for garbage pick-up. It's a good time of the year for a trip to the county dump.

This is the time of year my yard erupts in splendorous green of new growth. Unfortunately, due to neglect because of the wetness and cold of winter, my pool water appears to be greener than my yard.

I need to poke around to see what requires attention (do the sprinklers work... has debris collected... what requires repair...?).

Such it is for the attention of the Council of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church and its members.

Council is in the process of determining what needs review. This is the year for reviews for possible "spring cleaning". There are requests to review policies for staff. There are job descriptions needing review for duties of committees. Procedures and policies for facility usage need review. Official records require up-dates. Worship might need "tweaking". Maybe, there are "squeaks" that need some WD-40. Maybe, some things have collected dust or cobwebs.

The last few years, some things seem to have been neglected or overlooked due to the "cold and wetness" of winter.

This, in no way whatsoever, means that there will be changes or interruptions to "upset the apple cart". Anxiety and fear are not the elements of spring cleaning.

Joyous anticipation is a theme for "spring cleaning". We anticipate a world that is attended faithfully.

We might need to add some oil or gasoline to the engine. We might need to wipe it clean in anticipation of usage. We'll clean the windows to improve our view of the world in need – wipe off the lenses of our glasses, put on gloves, grab a rake, haul junk to the garbage...

Scripture (God's Word and God's Holy Spirit) tells us to be ready - to be ready for intentional action in the world to serve God and to serve all those in need.

Pastor John

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
Also on Facebook

Council President:
David Cherf
Home: 209-725-0921
Cell: 209-489-7757
djcherf@yahoo.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 15th 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, and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, elca.org.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayers for healing:

Family of Dottie Andersen; Hetland Family; 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, **Mt. Cross Ministries**, 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.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 24

Palm Sunday 10 AM

Combined Maundy Thursday/Good Friday

Friday, March 29 10 AM

Easter Sunday,

March 31 10 AM

Bring flowers for the Easter Cross.



COUNCIL NEWS

February 12, 2024

Candice Medefind was here to discuss about Healthy House and the community garden, as well as giving insight about what goes on with the produce.

Church Banner still in the works.

Security system was checked on, and was found to be working fine. Will not be changed.

An installation luncheon will be held for Pastor John when he is installed, February 25th.

RITE OF INSTALLATION

On Sunday, February 25, Pastor John Russell-Curry was installed by Pastor Karen Johnson, Interim Dean of the Sierra Central Valley Conference of the Sierra Pacific Synod.



BIBLE TEXT READINGS

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Alan Arnold	03/06
Dorothy Woody	03/07
Monte Hamamoto	03/08
Bill Turner	03/08
Carol Girard	03/09
Carolyn Stephens	03/10
Dan Woods	03/10
Christine Boyenga	03/11
Dylan Cherf	03/20
Susan Kateley	03/23
Ken Sullivan	03/26
Carolyn Daberkow	03/26
Claudia Fournier	03/26
David Pressly	03/27
Patti LiWang	03/28
Brent Sales	03/29
Tiana LiWang	03/31

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

David Cherf	04/03
Connie Lineberger	04/03
Rita McDonald	04/19
Karen Arnold	04/20
Lilliana Gallaway	04/25
Charlotte Sofranek	04/25
Dakotah Timpson	04/28

Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

March 3

Purple

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

March 10

Purple

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

March 17

Purple

Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)

March 24

Scarlet or Purple

Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43
Mark 16:1-8 or John 20:1-18

March 31

White or Gold

MONTHLY BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

Join us on
Thursday, March 21 at 11:30 AM
for food and fellowship!
This month we will meet at Rainbird
in the El Capitan Hotel, 609 W. Main
Street.

The family of Dottie Andersen would like to thank you for all the kindness, love, and support you gave to mom for the past 60-plus years. You were also her family, and she loved you too. We appreciate your attendance to honor Dottie during the viewing, funeral service, and committal at San Joaquin National Cemetery.

God's peace,
Pam and Gary

NOMINATION FOR CHURCH COUNCIL

The nominating process to elect four new council members at the May Congregational Meeting has begun. Starting March 3, nominating forms will be available in the narthex. Please fill out the form and put it in the offering plate, hand to an usher or return to the church office no later than Sunday, March 31.

Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 10 at 2:00 a.m. Don't forget to "spring forward." Set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday night.



MARCH 2024

PROPERTY REPORT

February 12, 2024

HVACS: Haven't had any more problems from the 10 HVAC unit. We'll be ordering and replacing all HVAC filters as summer approaches and we switch to A/C.

GARAGE: Garage door being used by Healthy House has been fixed.

FENCE: We are watching a section of fence.

OUTDOOR LIGHTS: Still have 8 bulbs that need to be put in.

INDOOR LIGHTS: We are still replacing the old fluorescent bulbs with energy efficient LED bulbs. This takes time to remove the ballasts and rewire the fixtures.

SPRINKLERS: Will need to replace some in the front courtyard. Need to find leak in center 'round' planter. Leak in main box in front. Called again but no callbacks yet.

POWER POINT, ZOOM, PA SYSTEM: We have a constant 60-70 views of our weekly services on ZOOM and later on Facebook.

HOMELESS: Since last meeting no problems.

GROUNDS: 2 trees will need to be removed. Will have to mow down weeds again toward the east side.

All seems to be going good, we have been fixing problems as they arise and as always are looking forward to starting new and finishing old projects.

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

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.

March & April Benevolence

Mt. Cross Ministries

Providing Profound Experiences in God's Creation

831-336-5179

7795 Hwy 9 • Ben Lomond CA 95005

P.O. Box 387, Felton, CA 95018

mtcross@mtcross.org

www.mtcross.org

Your Support Means Everything

Mt. Cross is a religious non-profit organization that is supported by the generosity of donors, churches, and organizations.

For over 75 years, your financial gifts have helped Mt. Cross provide profound experiences in God's creation for hundreds of children, youth, and families in Northern California and beyond.

We promise not to turn campers away due to an inability to pay, and your gifts help us to keep our promise to make camp a possibility for everyone. Every gift is valued and appreciated.

Donations may be given to Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church with Mount Cross on the Memo line to be forwarded.

Shepherd of the Valley Website

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.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Term ends May 2024

Pam Andersen
 David John Cherf II
 Marc Medefind
 Carolyn Stephens

Term ends May 2025

David Cherf
 Jan Collins
 Steven Hand
 Mary Jo Knudsen

Tim Shaw – Interim Treasurer & Bookkeeper
 Christine Boyenga – Financial Secretary
 Audit Committee: Karen Arnold, Chris Tomford, and Barb Ward

2023-2024 Council Officers

President: David Cherf Vice-President: Carolyn Stephens
 Secretary: David John Cherf II

*Next Meeting Date: **Monday, March 11 6:00 PM***

MARCH 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 March 3	Sunday March 10	Sunday March 17	Palm Sunday March 24	Easter Sunday March 31
Greeters/ Attendance	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>	<i>Barb Ward</i>	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>	<i>Mary Jo Knudsen</i>	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>
Ushers	<i>Al Arnold</i>	<i>Dave Bettis</i>	<i>Cherf Family</i>	<i>Dave Bettis</i>	<i>Al Arnold</i>
Reader/Assisting Ministers	<i>Mary Jo Knudsen</i>	<i>Tim Shaw</i>	<i>Mary Jo Knudsen</i>	<i>Barb Ward</i>	<i>Marc Medefind</i>

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					SOV Weekly News sent via email	Church Clean-up 9 AM
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Worship 10 AM Sanctuary & Zoom				Text Study 10 AM	SOV Weekly News sent via email	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Worship: 10 AM Sanctuary & Zoom	Council Meeting 6 PM			Text Study 10 AM	SOV Weekly News sent via email	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Worship 10 AM Sanctuary & Zoom				Text Study 10 AM Birthday Luncheon 11:30 AM- Rainbird	SOV Weekly News sent via email	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Palm Sunday Worship 10 AM Sanctuary & Zoom				Maundy Thursday	Combined Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Service 10 AM SOV Weekly News sent via email	
31						
Easter Sunday Worship 10 AM Sanctuary & Zoom						



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1455 E Yosemite Ave
Merced CA 95340

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED