

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 SUPPLY MINISTER PASTOR JACK

STAFF

Supply Pastor:
Pastor Jack Damien
pulpitsupplyjack@gmail.com

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.

It's a beautiful time of the year to be a part of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran, where we have a smorgasbord of special family events in November and December.

I encourage you to keep pace with the church newsletter, so you don't miss such events as All Saints Sunday on November 6 (and change your clocks the night before), our Thankfest, the uplifting Advent services on Wednesdays and Sundays, and Christmas Day itself – which falls on a Sunday this year.

This is what we do so well – envisioning opportunities for our members, friends, and guests to bond together as a family, pull strong through these current times, and celebrate what we can become in the future.

It's what so many people are looking for now – a place to slow down the daily pace of life and enjoy a sense of belonging to a vibrant family. That's what many people across the earth are longing for – a calm and reassuring home where we can be our true selves, and welcome others into our hearts.

I say, let's keep this beautiful season going, with all of its hard and rewarding work, as we bless one another, and praise our Lord.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayers for healing:

Eric Smith, Lynette Figueroa’s nephew; 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; Dottie Andersen; Sylvia Poupard; Jeane & David Hetland; Karen Darby; 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, **Boys and Girls Club**, for our Sierra Pacific Synod Interim Bishop, **Rev. Claire Burkat**, and for the people of **Ukraine and Russia**, and for people impacted by Hurricane Ian.

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.



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

NEWS FROM THE COUNCIL

(From October 11 Council Meeting)

- Our September 2022 Actual Net Income was \$3,225.27 and the YTD Actual Net Income is \$18,346.13. There is currently \$214,471.14 in the Money Market Account and \$85,330.95 in the Checking Account. This brings our total assets to \$299,802.09. The roof fund currently has approximately \$6,184.00
- The next Clean-up will be held on Friday, November 4th at 9:00AM
- Marc and Candace Medefind are continuing to communicate with Healthy House and the gardeners. The greenhouse is also being repaired/ maintained.
- Our Christmas Eve service will be held at 4:00PM this year
- The council voted to have the Scholarship Fund be our January/ February 2023 benevolence

Call Committee Update

Greetings from your Call Committee:

We continue to dialog with the Synod about our next slate of candidates and we are being told that may happen in early November. The Committee has a scheduled Zoom meeting with Pastor Manda on Nov. 2 to talk about and plan for the next candidate slate. There is also news from the Synod on bringing additional help to distribute the workload for Pastor Manda in working with congregations to locate full time Pastors. Finally, Interim Pacific Synod Bishop Claire Burkat will be holding a Workshop for our Sierra Central Valley Conference of churches on Nov 5 at Emanuel Lutheran in Modesto. We will have a number of our committee members in attendance and hope to add our voice and needs for our congregation at that event.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support as we continue the work of locating a full time Pastor for our congregation.

Blessings,
Your Call Committee

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Mary Brown	11/01
Tim Shaw	11/02
Ana Boyenga	11/04
Gwen Cherf	11/06
Karen Goldsmith	11/06
Larry Waha	11/06
John Pruett	11/07
Danica Christofferson	11/13
Kylie Christofferson	11/13
Oliver Lee Oates	11/20
Dominic Basso	11/23

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Karen Darby	12/05
Sylvia Poupard	12/07
Dave Sofranek	12/09
Jim Sofranek	12/09
Wendy Oates	12/11
Eileen Fite	12/12
Kathie Mackie	12/12
Lynette Figueroa	12/13
Erin Ward	12/15
Candice Medefind	12/16
David Bettis	12/17
Amanda Campos	12/18
Janel Wilkerson	12/26
Nancy Heagy	12/27
Cary Yanagi	12/27
Sally Sales	12/29
Terry Roduner	12/31
Lynn Tatum	12/31



Monthly Birthday Luncheon will not be meeting until January.

BIBLE TEXT READINGS

All Saints Sunday Psalm 149 Ephesians 1:11-23 Luke 6:20-31	November 6 White
Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost Malachi 4:1-2a Psalm 98 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Luke 21:5-19	November 13 Green
Christ the King Sunday Jeremiah 23:1-6 Psalm 46 Colossians 1:11-20 Luke 23:33-43	November 20 White
First Sunday in Advent Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44	November 27 Blue

All Saints Day

On **All Saints Day**, November 6, we remember those dear ones we have lost this year. We will ring bells as we recount their names. We thank God that they are now in eternity with all the saints.

Thankfest – November 20

We are bringing back our old-fashioned “**Thankfest**” on Sunday, November 20, with all the trimmings. We have a sign-up chart in the church entrance for the food. We will also give thanks by designating our commitment to service, time and financial pledges to the church. We hope to welcome many of our congregational family.

Advent – November 27

The glorious **season of Advent** begins on Sunday, November 27. Join us as we go through the four festive Sundays of the season.

Bishop's Visit -

Our 13 conference churches meet with Bishop Claire on Saturday, November 5, 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM, at Emanuel Lutheran in Modesto. Laity will have a private discussion meeting with the bishop, and all will share in worship. A \$10 box lunch will be provided. Call Committee and Council members are especially invited.

PROPERTY REPORT
October 11, 2022
September - October

HVACS: All seems to be going good. Office seems to kick on at off times. We have been monitoring the situation.

MULCH PILES: Miguel of the Healthy House gardeners has been moving loads to the trash.

FENCE: We are watching a section of fence.

LAWN UPKEEP: Lawn seems okay. Carolyn continues to do cleanups as needed.

LIGHTS: Have replaced 22 outside compact fluorescent lights with 8 more to be done this week. The church should look brighter at night.

WASP NEST: Was knocked down.

SPRINKLERS: All the sprinklers seem fine. No issues have been raised.

CLEAN-UP SATURDAYS: A small group of us have been cleaning and changing out toilet paper rolls and such. If there are any issues, please bring them to my attention.

CENTER ISLAND TREES: My boys and I have been out on multiple days hand watering these trees.

ROOF REPAIRS: Alan Arnold has been getting bids. We are waiting for the raising of funds to repair. We will watch and see.

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
home: (209) 725-0921

Recycling Reminder

Please do not drop off recycling items by the garage. This is friendly reminder that the program has been discontinued.

The November - December Benevolence
SENIOR BROWN BAG PROGRAM
2000 W. Olive Avenue, Merced, CA 95348
Earla Anderson, Senior Brown Bag Program Manager
(209) 726-3663
email earlaa@mmcfb.org.

Next to children, seniors are the most vulnerable group at risk of hunger. Senior food insecurity has risen as a result of the recession. The number of seniors at risk of hunger in 2015 was 70% higher than in 2007. Pre-seniors between the ages of 55 and 64, are particularly vulnerable as they are not yet of retirement age and thus ineligible for safety net programs like Medicare and Social Security.

Merced County Food Bank's Senior Brown Bag Program provides supplemental nutritious groceries twice a month to over 2,400 older adults (ages 55+) at 16 distribution sites in Merced and Mariposa Counties. Without the Senior Brown Bag Program, many seniors in Merced and Mariposa counties would be extremely isolated and at increased risk for malnourishment and illness. Many seniors are forced to make difficult but unavoidable choices such as whether to purchase their medications, pay for their housing, and/or pay their utilities. Buying food, especially nutritious food, is often last on their list.

Sample Senior Brown Bag food items:

Chicken, Eggs, Fresh Produce, Cereal, Rice,
Other staple items

Senior Brown Bag Program participants are provided with opportunities to volunteer at their food pickup site, which offers them social connections and a sense of belonging and purpose as they contribute to the Food Bank. Every month, more than 200 volunteers gather at the various Senior Brown Bag sites to sort, bag, and distribute food to their peers. Many participants have built new friendships and a sense of community by volunteering.

Donations may be given to Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church with Senior Brown Bag Program 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 Pat Shaw and 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.

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.

IN-PERSON WORSHIP

We are continuing to worship in person. The service will also be available on Zoom. The service will also be uploaded to our Facebook page.

The CDC recommends that masks be worn in certain settings. Shepherd of the Valley encourages you to practice caution.

Wednesday Bible Study will not meet in November or December but will return in January.

CHRISTMAS CHILD ANNOUNCEMENT

Shoebboxes for Operation Christmas Child are available for pick-up in the narthex. Information on how to pack a shoebox is available inside each box. The final collection day will be November 21st.



Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 6 at 2:00 a.m. Don't forget to "fall back." Set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday night.

Betty Hale Memorial Service

The **memorial service** for charter member Betty Hale is on Tuesday, November 15, 11:00 AM, at Shepherd of the Valley. A reception will follow. Betty, known for her loving acts, will be especially missed by her family and many friends.

Prison Project – Holiday Gift Packets

As we move into the Fall, keep in mind the Christmas gift bag program for the women's prison in Chowchilla. Travel size soap, bath gel, shampoo, conditioner, hand lotion, and toothpaste are needed, as well as unused greeting cards with envelopes, toothbrushes (regular adult size), and combs (no rat-tail). Note that the wish list has shrunk in size due to the pandemic. And due to very strict prison rules, we are unable to use any items except those that are listed.

A container for donations is located in the narthex, and the deadline for donations is Thanksgiving. Collected items will be transported to a Fresno church for sorting, packing and then distribution the week before Christmas. Inmates frequently experience great loneliness during the holidays, and the gift bags express much needed support and care. For more information, contact David Hetland at 209-489-8969.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Term ends May 2023

David Cherf
 Steve Hand
 Betty Madsen
 Amy Sofranek

Term ends May 2024

Pam Andersen
 David John Cherf II
 Marc Medefind
 Carolyn Stephens

Tim Shaw –Interim Treasurer & Bookkeeper
 Christine Boyenga – Financial Secretary
 Audit Committee: Bryan Hofmann, Mary Jo Knudsen, Carolyn Stephens

2022-2023 Council Officers

President: David Cherf Vice-President: Steve Hand
 Secretary: Amy Sofranek

*Next Meeting Date: **NOVEMBER 8, 2022 6:00 PM***

NOVEMBER 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 November 6	Sunday November 13	Sunday November 20	Sunday November 27
Greeters	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>	<i>Barb Ward</i>	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>	<i>Mary Jo Knudsen</i>
Ushers	<i>Cherf Family</i>	<i>Dave Bettis</i>	<i>Karen & Al Arnold</i>	<i>Cherf Family</i>
Reader/Assisting Ministers	<i>Marc Medefind</i>	<i>Pam Andersen</i>	<i>Mary Jo Knudsen</i>	<i>Barb Ward</i>

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH
NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
			Centering Prayer 9:00 AM		Church Clean-Up 9:00 AM	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom Bible Study 11:00 AM Lineberger Hall		Council Meeting 6:00 PM	Centering Prayer 9:00 AM	SOV Weekly News sent via email	Veterans Day Office Closed	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom Bible Study 11:00 AM Lineberger Hall		Betty Hale Memorial Service 11:00 AM	Centering Prayer 9:00 AM		SOV Weekly News sent via email	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom THANKFEST			Centering Prayer 9:00 AM SOV News sent via email	Thanksgiving Day	Office Closed	
27	28	29	30			
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom			Centering Prayer 9:00 AM Advent Service 10:00 AM			



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1455 E Yosemite Ave
Merced CA 95340

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED