

## 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

Worship Music Director:

Marit Medefind

209-658-0633

mmedefind@gmail.com

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:

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 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.

We are in an intriguing new format of worship at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran.

We've launched an expanded liturgy, with more congregational singing, liturgical chanting, and mutual responses. This brings a greater sense of warmth and collegiality to our worship that compliments who we are as a faith family.

Many churches are now regaining a greater sense of liturgical awareness and practice in their services, something we have missed since the pandemic changed so much of our Sunday, and daily life.

We aren't fooling ourselves into thinking that the pandemic is over and done with. There are new Covid variants cropping up, and care is still needed.

But for now – we rejoice. We sing our praises to God. We bask in his embracing love. And we care for one another as a sacred family. That's a good way to step into the coming Fall season.



**PRAYER REQUESTS**

Prayers for healing:

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**.

*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](http://spselca.org), and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, [elca.org](http://elca.org).

**NEWS FROM THE COUNCIL**

*(From August 9 Council Meeting)*

Our July 2022 Actual Net Income was \$5,888.07 and the YTD Actual Net Income is \$17,368.04. Our total assets come to \$293,453.65.

The Call Committee hosted an in-person visit with a pastoral candidate last week and it was determined that they were not an appropriate match for our congregation. The Synod indicated that additional candidates will be identified as soon as possible.

We continue to accept donations towards the restoration of the church roof.

Monthly cleaning days are set to be held on the first Saturday of every month (with the possible exception of September due to Labor Day weekend).

Several committees will soon be established and looking for members. These include a Roof Committee and an Outreach Committee.



**BIBLE TEXT READINGS**

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Armando Campos	09/02
Jesse Saldivar	09/03
Amy Sofranek	09/05
Kimberly Castillo	09/11
Jan Carpenter	09/14
"Katie" Katherine Faust	09/23
Emily Saldivar	09/27

**OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

Desiree Hamamoto	10/05
Parker Oates	10/06
Nan Dailey	10/06
Marit Medefind	10/10
Brandon LiWang	10/12
Betty Madsen	10/13
Kaylei Rigers	10/13
Annie Sofranek	10/13
"Ana" Anastasia Crosley	10/16
Sarah Sofranek	10/17
Ron Basso	10/18
Rylee Bernal	10/20
David J Cherf II	10/20
Bryan Hofmann	10/20
Yolanda Campos	10/22
Stacy Christofferson	10/29

**Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost**      **September 4**  
 Deuteronomy 30:15-20  
 Psalm 1  
 Philemon 1-21  
 Luke 14:25-33      Green

**Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost**      **September 11**  
 Exodus 32:7-14  
 Psalm 51:1-10  
 1 Timothy 1:12-17  
 Luke 15:1-10      Green

**Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost**      **September 18**  
 Amos 8:4-7  
 Psalm 113  
 1 Timothy 2:1-7  
 Luke 16:1-13      Green

**Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost**      **September 25**  
 Amos 6:1a, 4-7  
 Psalm 146  
 1 Timothy 6:6-19  
 Luke 16:19-31      Green

**Centering Prayer**

After a hiatus of more than two years, the Centering Prayer group will resume its weekly in-person sessions in September. Centering Prayer is a form of silent meditation and helps you to quiet your mind and become centered in daily life. If you're interested in exploring this ancient form of Christian prayer, please contact Dave Hetland (209 388-1608) for details regarding starting date, time, and place. Beginners are welcome!

**Campus Ministry**

We continue with our partnership with other Merced congregations to develop ministries at Merced College and UC Merced. Dave Hetland represents our church on the board of Wesley Foundation, an ecumenical organization that supports a part-time campus pastor and a residential house where students live in intentional community. Bible study, journey conversations, worship, and service opportunities are offered students. Coming up – a take-out chicken BBQ on October 22<sup>nd</sup> to help support this vital ministry.



**MONTHLY BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON**

12:00 PM on the third Thursday every month at Table 59, 3360 N. State Highway 59 in Merced.

Join us this month on Thursday, September 15th for food and fellowship!

**PROPERTY REPORT  
August 9, 2022  
For July-August 2022**

HVACS: All seems to be going good. Haven't had any issues.

MULCH PILES: Manuel 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.

LEAKS: Leaks were noticed at the main water valve and out by the garden. The main valve was fixed by the city and the other fixed by Johnson Plumbing (Carolyn took care of calling and getting these done). The garden leak was fixed by !?!, but has stopped.

WASP NEST: Was put on the 'Out of sight out of mind' list. We will have it removed in the next week.

SPRINKLERS: Ken and Dave were out fixing sprinklers. My 3 boys and I were fixing the flower bed and strip along the street. All these sprinklers seem fine.

CLEANING CREW: My family of 5 and 3 others came out to vacuum, sweep, mop, dust, polish, wipe as much of the church as possible on our first outing. We will try to set aside the first Saturday of the month for major cleaning and then touch up for the rest of the weeks.

CENTER ISLAND TREES: Still trying to figure out why the center doesn't work. My boys and I have been out on multiple days hand watering these trees.

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 September-October Benevolence  
BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF MERCED COUNTY  
615 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Merced, CA 95340  
209-722-9922  
www.bgcmerced.org**

**OUR MISSION**

*To enable all young people, especially those who need us the most, to be productive, caring, and responsible individuals.*

The Boys & Girls Club of Merced County is part of one the largest and most impactful community organizations across America. We set out to serve youth, their families, and communities through evidence-based youth development programs.

We are a non-profit organization that is working hard to fill in the gaps for our youth and it is our goal that every child graduates high school ready for opportunities in the workforce, vocational trade, post-secondary education, and/or the military.

We know that we are not the *single* answer, but with strategic partnerships, dedicated sponsors, caring staff, passionate mentors, dedicated volunteers and leaders, we will serve the needs of our youth, help children explore their interests, facilitate the pursuit of their dreams and be on track for a Great Future!

**How do we serve youth?**

The Boys & Girls Club of Merced County provides programs and mentors to foster a sense of competence, usefulness and belonging in youth, so they can reach their full potential.

**28<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner and Auction Fundraiser**

*The event is scheduled for:*

Friday, September 30, 6-9 PM

at Boys & Girls Club of Merced County  
615 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street

For more information call 209-722-9922.

This year's theme is "**Great Futures Begin Here**".

Donations may be given to Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church with Boys & Girls Club on the memo line to be forwarded.

**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 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 US Centers for Disease Control is advising that masks be worn in indoor public settings in California due to rising COVID cases. We encourage you to practice caution.

**CALL COMMITTEE NEWS**

The following is an article that had previously been emailed out earlier in August.

Dear members and friends of Shepherd of the Valley,

Last week the Call Committee hosted an in-person visit of a candidate for pastor. This followed a screening of the candidate's profile and two Zoom interviews. The visit to Merced entailed an in-depth tour of our church and community, as well as multiple visits with Call Community members in a variety of contexts.

At the end of the visit, the Call Committee unanimously concluded that the candidate was not an appropriate match for our congregation and has released the candidate from the call process. The Synod has been notified and has indicated that additional candidates will be identified as soon as possible for our consideration.

Your patience and prayers are appreciated as we move forward with the challenging task of discerning who God is sending us to serve as pastor.

Peace/Joy/Love,

Members of the Call Committee,  
Bryan, Karen, Tim, Candice, Barb, Dave



**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: **SEPTEMBER 13, 2022 6:00 PM***

**SEPTEMBER 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, Reader/Assisting Minister for our 10 A.M. Sunday Worship Service.

	Sunday September 4	Sunday September 11	Sunday September 18	Sunday September 25
Greeters	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>	<i>Mary Jo Knudsen</i>	<i>Barb Ward</i>	<i>Nan Dailey</i>
Ushers	<i>Cherf Family</i>	<i>David Bettis</i>	<i>Cherf Family</i>	<i>Karen &amp; Al Arnold</i>
Reader/Assisting Ministers	<i>Pat &amp; Tim Shaw</i>	<i>Marc Medefind</i>	<i>Barb Ward</i>	<i>Pam Andersen</i>

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
					<b>SOV Weekly News</b> sent via email	Church Clean-Up <b>9:00 AM</b>
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Worship: <b>10:00 AM</b> Sanctuary & Zoom  Bible Study <b>11:00 AM</b> Lineberger Hall	<b>LABOR DAY</b> Office Closed		Bible Study <b>10:00 AM</b>		<b>SOV Weekly News</b> sent via email	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Worship: <b>10:00 AM</b> Sanctuary & Zoom  Bible Study <b>11:00 AM</b> Lineberger Hall		Council Meeting <b>6:00 PM</b>	Bible Study <b>10:00 AM</b>	Birthday Luncheon at Table 59 <b>12:00 PM</b>	<b>SOV Weekly News</b> sent via email	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Worship: <b>10:00 AM</b> Sanctuary & Zoom			Centering Prayer <b>9:00 AM</b>  Bible Study <b>10:00 AM</b>		<b>SOV Weekly News</b> sent via email	
25	26	27	28	29	30	
Worship: <b>10:00 AM</b> Sanctuary & Zoom			Centering Prayer <b>9:00 AM</b>  Bible Study <b>10:00 AM</b>		<b>SOV Weekly News</b> sent via email	



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED