

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

It begins!

But what exactly is the “it” of March?

First, I would suggest that all of you refrain from throwing dirt in the air, and covering yourselves with ashes.

Secondly, I would also encourage you to keep on eating chocolate, and drinking coffee, if those are among the pleasures you usually enjoy before Lent.

Thirdly, the “Lent” that is signaled by “imposition of ashes” on March 2 dates back by official decree to 1,000 years ago. It was a sign of repentance, and the beginning of a 40-day stretch to seriously look at our lives.

A true spirit of Lent acknowledges that the majority of human beings already sense that there is something missing, or gone astray, in everyone’s life. We usually don’t need help in feeling guilty, especially considering some of the circumstances some of us were raised in.

The argument is not about a question - “is there something wrong in the world,” but about a confession – “who needs to repent, to what degree have I sinned, and who gets off the hook this year.”

Hopefully, we can all look at Lent 2022 as a season of honesty, awareness and healing – something we could all use a little more of in these times.

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

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.

Wednesday Lenten Worship Services will be held at 6:00 PM starting with the Ash Wednesday Service on March 2 and ending on April 6. Please plan on joining us each week during the season of Lent either in person or via Zoom.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayers for healing:

Nan Dailey; Kimberly Castillo’s daughter Jillian and mother-in-law Lupe; Pam Andersen; Pastor John Russell-Curry and his family; Warren Westerberg; LaVonne Wenrich; Jan & Joe Collins; Dottie Andersen; Sylvia Poupard; Jeane & David Hetland; Jan Carpenter; Karen Darby; Penny Waha; Annie Sofranek; Susanne Smith; David Churf; and people who are ill around the world.

We lift prayers for our Benevolence of the Month, **Mount Cross Ministries** and for our Sierra Pacific Synod Bishop **Dr. Rev. Megan Rohrer**.

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.



IN-PERSON WORSHIP

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

Please note, we will be following safety guidelines of the CDC and the state of CA and are asking all attendees, vaccinated and unvaccinated, to wear a mask and practice social distancing whenever possible.



New to Medicare or Need Help Understanding:

- Medicare Health Care options?
- Prescriptions Drug Plans?
- Medicare Advantage Plans?
- Medicare Supplements?
- Medic-Cal Share of Cost?

The Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) is here to help. Appointments are conducted over the phone or in person all while providing you the quality service you need from your Merced County HICAP.

Our Services Include:

- Explanation of Benefits;
- Part D plan comparisons and assistance with application;
- Medicare Advantage plan comparison and assistance with application;
- Medicare Supplement explanation;
- Assistance with Medi-Cal Share of Cost issues for dual eligible beneficiaries;
- Low Income Subsidy/Extra Help application assistance;
- And more.....

Call us at (209) 385-7550 or 1-800- 434-0222 to schedule your appointment with one of our trained and registered HICAP Counselors.

**851 W. 23rd Street
Merced, CA 95340**

www.co.merced.ca.us/aaa

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Handouts are available on the table in the narthex.

MARCH 2022

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
Richard Darby	03/18
Dylan Cherf	03/20
Dottie Andersen	03/23
Patty Putman	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
Scott Chastain	04/06
Rita McDonald	04/19
Karen Arnold	04/20
Lilliana Gallaway	04/25
Charlotte Sofranek	04/25
Dakotah Timpson	04/28

BIBLE TEXT READINGS

First Sunday in Lent **March 6**

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

Purple

Second Sunday in Lent **March 13**

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 13:13-35

Purple

Third Sunday in Lent **March 20**

Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

Purple

Fourth Sunday in Lent **March 27**

Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Purple

MONTHLY BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

Jantz Cafe & Bakery in the
El Portal Plaza at 3361 G Street
at 1:00 PM on the third Thursday every month.

Join us this month on Thursday, March 17th
for food and fellowship!



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
JANUARY 2022**

Feb. 8th, 2022

SPRINKLERS: Have been working on locating water lines for trees. Ken has been the main person heading this up.

HVACS: We have had little to no problems with any of our 10 units.

GREENHOUSE: The clips to hold the panes in place have arrived, and we're planning to put the green house back together.

MULCH PILES: We have gotten a load to the trash and will continue to get rid of piles that the garden people don't want or need.

FENCE: We are noticing another section of fence buckling. This will probably have to be addressed this year.

PROPERTY UPKEEP: Carolyn Stephens has been the beacon for taking care of the little things around our property both inside and outside.

LAWN MOWERS: Carolyn Stephens brought to my attention that the grass was getting high on the east side of our property and that it should be mowed before it gets out of control. Steve Hand, David John and I got 1 tractor mower and the push mower running. David John has been mowing on Fridays. We will mow once every 2 weeks. \$200 in parts were ordered for both mowers.

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

David Cherf, Property Manager (209)725-0921

BENEVOLENCE OF THE MONTH

March and April Benevolence

Mt. Cross Ministries

Providing Profound Experiences in God's Creation

831-336-5179

– P.O. Box 387, Felton, CA 95018

mtcross@mtcross.org

www.mtcross.org

Mt. Cross is excited to offer "regular" summer camp in 2022! Check out the information on our website at mtcross@mtcross.org for all the details regarding the programs, schedule, and then head over to the registration portal and make sure you reserve your spot at Mt. Cross this summer!

Volunteers Needed

Mt. Cross, a not-for-profit, depends on many volunteers. We would love to hear from you about how you would like to offer your gifts, talents, and time to make Mt. Cross shine! Check out our website for more information.

Employment Opportunities

Serving year-round in outdoor ministry is multifaceted to say the least. A small ministry staff makes for positions that have primary responsibilities and secondary roles. It means working in an active and alive setting and then serving behind the scenes when no campers are present. It can mean service onsite and service offsite. There are also Summer Staff employment opportunities. To inquire about any positions listed on the website, please email Adam Erickson at adam@mtcross.org.

Your Support Means Everything

Your support is vital to helping us provide profound experiences in God's creation. We have promised not to turn campers away due to an inability to pay, and your gifts help us to keep that promise. 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 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.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE CALL COMMITTEE?

That's always a good question, and although we do our best to provide updates, please feel free to share questions and concerns with members of the Call Committee – Bryan (chair), Dave, Barbara, Candice, Karen, and Tim. There are some things of a confidential nature that can't be shared right now, but the Committee welcomes questions about our congregational profile, where we are in the process, etc. Most importantly, hold our church and the Call Committee in your prayers.

Loving God, be with us and guide us during this time of discernment. Fill our leaders with your wisdom. Keep us mindful of the work you would have us do. Lead us and guide us, O God, to be about the work of establishing your dream here on earth as the search for a new pastor continues. Bless all who have taken on extra responsibilities, and fill them with a sense of your love and presence. We pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.



Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 13 at 2:00 a.m. Don't forget to "spring forward." Set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday night.

NOMINATING PROCESS for church council continues. Nominating forms will be available through Sunday, March 20.

FREE COVID-19 TESTS

If you would like to order free COVID-19 tests, go to the following website.

COVIDTests.gov

or call 1-800-232-0233

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



CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Term ends May 2022

Pat Shaw
 Marit Medefind
 Sally Sales
 Steve Hand (one year term)

Term ends May 2023

David Cherf
 Betty Madsen
 Amy Sofranek

Tim Shaw - Interim Treasurer & Bookkeeper
 Christine Boyenga – Financial Secretary
 Audit Committee: To be elected in May

2021-2022 Council Officers

President: David Cherf as of November 1, 2021
 Secretary: Amy Sofranek

Vice-President: To be determined

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

MARCH SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	Sunday March 6	Sunday March 13	Sunday March 20	Sunday March 27
Screeners	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>	<i>Mary Jo Knudsen</i>	<i>Nan Dailey</i>	<i>Chris Boyenga</i>
Ushers	<i>Cherf Family</i>	<i>Dave Bettis</i>	<i>Cherf Family</i>	<i>Dave Bettis</i>
Reader/Assisting Ministers	<i>Pat & Tim Shaw</i>	<i>Barb Ward</i>	<i>Mary Jo Knudsen</i>	<i>Marc Medefind</i>

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH
MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
			ASH WEDNESDAY Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship: 6:00 PM Sanctuary & Zoom		SOV Weekly News sent via email	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom Bible Study: 11:00 AM Lineberger Hall		Council Meeting 6:00 PM	Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship: 6:00 PM Sanctuary & Zoom		SOV Weekly News sent via email	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom			Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship: 6:00 PM Sanctuary & Zoom	Birthday Luncheon 1:00 PM Jantz	SOV Weekly News sent via email	
20	21	21	23	24	25	26
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom Bible Study: 11:00 AM Lineberger Hall			Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship: 6:00 PM Sanctuary & Zoom		SOV Weekly News sent via email	
27	28	29	30	31		
Worship: 10:00 AM Sanctuary & Zoom			Bible Study 10:00 AM Worship: 6:00 PM Sanctuary & Zoom			



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED