

Loved by God; Loving Others. Fed by God; Feeding Others.

January
2022

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 1 Corinthians 12:12-15

I've now seen many senior high groups come through the church and they are all the same and all different. They always throw things. I'm not sure what it is about teenagers and their need to lob objects at each other. They tend to talk about nine million things at one time and I only understand a wee bit of what they are talking about. They are weird. Please don't take offense, but it's a different conglomerate every time and how they adjust to each other is fascinating.

I give each new crew the little talk about how everyone feels out of place at some point and this isn't a group they are trying to find their way into. We are creating community out of a quirky crew who might not have that much in common other than showing up to church.

It's never perfect and there are some definite bumps along the way, but there is something beautiful about watching a crew try to adjust and adapt to each other. I'm sorry if you or your youth felt like they didn't belong. What's weird about church is there isn't a core community where one belongs. Everyone is part of creating that community. As a community gathered around Christ we try to create safe space and sacred tools to nurture that community, but grace is imperative because community can't be forced, only lived.

It was good to do the ropes course together as a youth group. That's an important step in learning to trust and know each other. I wish I could take the whole church out there because we all need to work on trusting and knowing each other.

January is the month for the annual meeting. I love our annual meeting and enjoy looking over the past year while dreaming for the future. Our council worked on some discussion questions as a way of checking in with the congregation. This year we are asking you all to think about:

How have you felt included in the life of the church?

How have you felt disconnected?

I would add the question, "How have you reached out to others?" The church isn't a service provider that meets your needs; we are people gathered in the name of Christ to witness to the power of forgiving love.

You are not joining a group; you are creating community. We all need to work on hospitality and making space for each other; we all need to work on reaching out and expressing our needs. It's awkward and hard work. People are rarely who we want them to be, but we know and experience the grace and love of God when we live in it and offer it to others.

I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together.

Peace,
Pastor Tari



Faith Formation at SOV

(It doesn't just happen on Sunday.)

Holden Evening Prayer on New Year's Eve

Let's take a deep breath and spend a quiet, reflective 1/2 hour in prayer together on New Year's Eve. Join us at 5:30 p.m., Friday, December 31 for Holden Evening Prayer. The Zoom link is on the SOV website.

High School & Post-High Overnighter

On Wednesday, January 5 our high school and post-high youth are invited to an overnighter at the Jubilee Cabin. Stay tuned for details.

SOV Book Club

The Book Club will meet at 6:30 p.m., Friday, January 7 at Forbidden Peak. The book this month is *The Art of Hearing Heartbeats* by Jan-Philipp Sendker. According to Pastor Tari "it is soooo good!" A poignant and inspirational love story set in Burma, *The Art of Hearing Heartbeats* spans the decades between the 1950s and the present.

Small Group Opportunities

We've got several small groups happening in January: small group devotions; Holden Evening Prayer on most Wednesdays; as well as a study about forgiveness led by Pastor Tari. Everyone is invited to participate in one or more groups. The Zoom links are available on the website or the weekly emails.

Small Group Devotions

Groups often read and talk about the weekly lectionary readings, or whatever each group wants to discuss.

8:30 a.m. Sundays in-person at SOV. Leader Chris Wallace.

9 a.m. Fridays on Zoom. Leader Becky Corson.

Holden Evening Prayer (Zoom)

5:30 p.m. most Wednesdays in January (see calendar). 30-minute prayer service with beautiful music.

A Lutheran Welcome to Forgiveness

5:30 p.m., Thursdays, January 20 and 27 at SOV (hopefully in-person, but maybe on Zoom, stay tuned for details). Join Pastor Tari for this study about forgiveness.

Faith Formation Classes

We will resume our Sunday morning classes at 10:45 a.m., Sunday, January 9.

Younger Ones gather with Pastor Tari in the sanctuary. We'll begin looking at the book - *What Is God Like* by Rachel Held Evans and Matthew Paul Turner

Middle School youth meet in-person with Glenn. We hope to start meeting with mentors in January

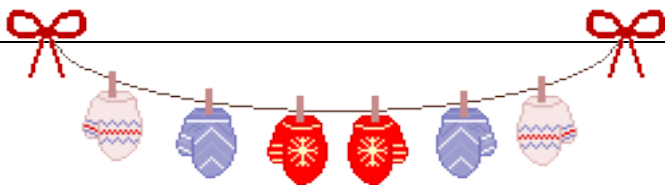
High School youth will meet at 10:45 a.m. to walk, play games, and/or do a devotion.

Adults might do a discussion on Zoom following worship, if there is interest. Thank you to Eileen Hosey for leading the devotions during Advent.

Sunday Worship

Join us at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. The Zoom invitations for Sunday worship are published in the SOV Weekly email. Sunday Worship is both in-person and on Zoom. Folks who worship in person need to wear a mask. While we miss having little ones around, it's still not safe for us to have small children wandering around the church. We also encourage folks who want to worship in person to get vaccinated.





Many Hands! Many Hearts!

Serving with Love at SOV

We've always got a healthy list of ways to get involved. Check out these ways to contribute your generous gifts of time, money, food, or prayers. Prayers are appreciated for all of our ministries.

Glory Hole Meatloaf

We cook our monthly meal on Wednesday, January 19. Watch for the online sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

Community Food Pantry

Donations of food are always needed and appreciated. The pantry is available for food order pick-ups from 4-6 p.m. Wednesdays and 9-10 a.m. Saturdays. If you know folks who need food, please have them call the direct line to the food pantry (907) 500-3588 and the food pantry operator will answer their questions.

Devotions on the SOV App

If you haven't yet downloaded the SOV app on your phone or tablet, please do so. Allow the app to send notifications, so you don't miss any devotions (and we've posted several lovely ones).

Newsletter Sponsor

If you are interested in sponsoring a month of the newsletter in honor or celebration of something or someone, let us know. The suggested donation is \$100. Call or email the church to let us know which month you would like to sponsor and any special wording you want included.

AWARE and Glory Hall at Christmas

Thank you to everyone who donated food, gifts, and warm clothing for our AWARE family sponsorships and for the Glory Hall tree. Your loving generosity is much appreciated!

Attic Art Auction for World Hunger

We raised about \$600 for ELCA World Hunger through our Attic Art Auction! Thank you to everyone who placed bids and donated art work; and thanks to Becky for taking the photos and organizing the webpage.

Nigerian Student Sponsorship

One of the gifts of Zoom has been connecting with our friends in Nigeria. An opportunity has come up to make a difference in the lives of youth there. Nuwayina has collected a list of youth who need assistance paying for school. We are focusing on sponsoring older youth. This would involve giving \$50 to cover school fees and uniforms as well as committing to pray for that youth for the next year. Watch for details on how to get involved.

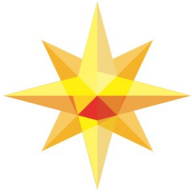
Here are some statistics from UNICEF about education in Nigeria:

"One in every five of the world's out-of-school children is in Nigeria. Even though primary education is officially free and compulsory, about 10.5 million of the country's children aged 5-14 years are not in school. Only 61 percent of 6-11 year-olds regularly attend primary school and only 35.6 percent of children aged 36-59 months receive early childhood education.

In the north of the country, the picture is even bleaker, with a net attendance rate of 53 percent. Getting out-of-school children back into education poses a massive challenge.

Gender, like geography and poverty, is an important factor in the pattern of educational marginalization. States in the north-east and north-west have female primary net attendance rates of 47.7 percent and 47.3 percent, respectively, meaning that more than half of the girls are not in school. The education deprivation in northern Nigeria is driven by various factors, including economic barriers and socio-cultural norms and practices that discourage attendance in formal education, especially for girls."





Season of Epiphany

The word *epiphany* means manifestation or dawning light. It is the season of the church year that begins with the coming of the magi, heads to Jesus' baptism, continues with Jesus' first miracle (turning water into wine), and ends with the Transfiguration. Through these events the true nature of Jesus is revealed. **Epiphany** is a celebration of this dawning light. January 6 is the first day of Epiphany. Throughout the season, listen for themes of light in our hymns and readings.

Baptism of our Lord - The first Sunday of Epiphany (January 9) is Baptism of our Lord and a time to welcome new members through baptism or affirmation of baptism. If you are interested in being baptized or becoming a member, please contact the church office.

In Memory of Ann Skoe

We recently received a lovely letter from Roger Skoe, a former member of Shepherd of the Valley. Roger and his wife Ann were members of SOV from its beginning until 1998, when they moved to Oregon. They've kept in touch through the years by staying on our mailing list and regularly receiving *The Shepherd's Voice*.

Roger is sponsoring the newsletter in loving memory of Ann. She passed away August 31, 2021. Thank you to Roger for reaching out to us and for his generous donation. God's peace and blessings!

A Note from Pastor Tari "I'm Available for Visits"

I never thought I would miss shaking hands at the back door of church, but I miss having those few moments to check in with people and schedule visits for the week. I'm having a hard time keeping up with people to make sure everyone is doing okay and it's difficult sometimes to welcome everyone who walks into church during the week, especially when I'm working on a sermon or article. My attention span and focus aren't the best so please forgive me if I don't chat with everyone who comes through to drop something off.

I want to be available and I also want you all to know our amazing life coaches are available. Sometimes we just need someone to talk through challenges with and get out of our own heads. I'm happy to visit with people and you can have my complete attention for an hour; I don't sit still well after an hour.

Always feel free to call the church and arrange a time to call, but you can also do it through the website and app. There's an easy and private form you can fill out that's only seen by the pastor. There is also a box to check if you would like to talk with someone on council about concerns. It's like chatting at the back door of church, except I'm more likely to remember and we don't hold up the line.

I'm doing my best to keep tabs on everyone, but there are over 300 people, so please don't hesitate to reach out. We want to make it as easy as possible for people to connect and express what's happening in their lives.



Columbarium Report

Thank you to everyone who is helping with the columbarium ministry. We hope to have it installed by Pentecost (if the snow ever melts).

So far, we have sold two single niches and six companion niches. We also donated one companion niche to Pastor Larry and Laura Rorem. There are nine companion niches and 14 single ones left. Our goal is to sell four more niches to cover all the costs of the project. We will open sales to the folks at Resurrection Lutheran Church later in January. Feel free to talk with any of the members of the columbarium committee if you are interested (Julie, Chuck and Craig Orsborn; Eileen Hosey; Katherine Andrews; Glenn & Sharon Mitchell; Steve Landvik; and Pastor Tari).

Family Promise of Juneau Update

Thank you for your continued support and prayers. Family Promise has made many adjustments during the pandemic and worked hard to keep families in housing. As part of the COVID mitigation plan, Shepherd of the Valley will serve as the static site for the month of January. We are expecting a family to join and our hosting week is January 9-16. Other churches will serve at Shepherd of the Valley for the other three weeks. As hosts for that one week, we will provide meals and there will be some volunteer hours needed too. Stay tuned for details.

Here are the lives touched by the work of Family Promise since Day 1 on April 30, 2017 :

Households Served: 57 Households
Families in Transition: 37 Families
Prevention Services: 20 Households

Utilizing Shelter Services, 80% of Families in Transition graduated to long-term permanent housing.

With \$69,000.00 distributed and case-management provided,
100% of households in Prevention Services remained housed.

Adults Served: 87
Children Served: 108
Hospitality Nights Provide: 8,688
Meals Served: 26,064
Average Length of Stay: 68 Days
Active Volunteers: 478
Active Hosting Supports: 16



Annual Meeting of the Congregation 10:45 a.m., Sunday, January 30 on Zoom

There will only be virtual church that day followed by the annual meeting. Hybrid meetings are a nightmare, so on that day we are worshipping and meeting only on Zoom. The link will be the same as the worship and reports will be available two weeks before the meeting.

If you have not filled out your intended giving and service form please do. That helps us plan the next year and live within our means. Our winter costs have been especially high. Two months of plowing and gravel will be over \$2500.

The following committee reports are due to the church office by January 12.

Pastor's Report - PT
Council Prez - Mindy Birk
Treasurer - Gail Fenumiai
Stewardship - Eileen Hosey
Scholarship - Michelle Weaver
Worship and Music/Altar Guild - PT
Fellowship - Mindy Birk
Parish Education - Pastor Tari & Glenn
Property Management - Theresa Ross
Social Concerns - Eileen Hosey
Social Media - Becky Corson
Summer Lunch - Hannah Harvey & Rosemary Kiessling

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in January



Birthdays

1	Nyah Martin
1	Dean Rasmussen
3	August Kiessling
4	Tiffany Hinchman
4	Judy Marshall
5	Dylan Miller
6	Luke Dihle
9	Teresa Kissel
10	Julie Orsborn
10	Derik Swanson
12	Beth Weldon
13	Roger Birk
13	Bianca Jennings
14	Roger Drapeaux
16	Jen Pegues
19	Debbi Howard
21	Jon Weaver
26	Bob Stevenson
27	Amber Miller
29	Peter Christensen
31	Elaine Duvall
31	Aaron Landvik

Baptismal Birthdays

1	Peg Corazza
1	Helen Mehrkens
1	Marianne Jacobs
1	David Moe
1	Drew Sielbach
9	Teresa Kissel
10	Jacob Carls
10	Norman Carls
12	Dan Corson
12	Brittany Fenumiai
19	Mac Oliver
20	Braden Jenkins

Anniversaries

3	Dean Rasmussen & Nancy Davis
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A Moment for Prayer



We pray for God's peace and protection for...people who are homeless, that they find warmth on cold days; people in transition who need guidance making important life decisions; and students and teachers as they head back to the classroom. Also, keep in your prayers Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Shelley Wickstrom; and ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

Photo Board Updates

Send us your family photos, especially if the one we currently have on the photo board is outdated! We are working on updating the church photo board. You can email them to sovjuneau@gmail.com.

Let's Bundle Up and Go Ice Skating!

11 a.m. to Noon, Wednesday, January 5.

Join us at Treadwell Arena for a free hour of ice skating.
It includes skate rentals. All ages are invited!



Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

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Return Service Requested



Your church family is here for prayers, visits, and encouragement. Please call if you would like a visit from Pastor Tari, or anytime you can use a kind word.

Pastor Tari enjoys opportunities to go for walks while visiting with folks. Feel free to call her and plan a time to go for a walk.

We would also love to hear from you with comments about or submissions to *The Shepherd's Voice*. If your address has changed, or if you no longer wish to be on our mailing list, we want to know that too.

Rev. Tari Stage-Harvey, Pastor

Please see inside the newsletter for the many ways we are connecting.

Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m. (via Zoom and in-person)

Faith Formation for All Ages: See page 2 of newsletter for details.

Food Pantry Order Pick-Up: 9-10 am Sat. and 4-6 pm Wed.

Food Pantry Direct Line (call with questions or to place orders): 500-3588

The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates