

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

April
2022

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

The women came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body.
Luke 24:1-3

My rules when I travel are:

1. Be Flexible
2. No Whining

We are preparing for our family trip to Greece and our church pilgrimage to Ireland and Wales. There is a lot going on in our world, and my heart continues to break for the people of Ukraine and all others affected by war. For all those wondering if Greece is safe, they are asking Hannah if Alaska is safe.

There is always a risk factor to traveling and (as I would remind my grandmother when I was younger) there is risk in staying home. We try to gauge the risk and move forward in a way that affirms life and isn't a burden to others.

The women were taking a risk going to the tomb. They spent money on spices and they expected to find a body. They prepared for that experience and something totally different confronted them. Life became more beautiful and full than they could imagine. That's often the gift of going outside the comfortable and taking risks.

But they could have gotten wrapped up in their expectations and missed what happened. They could have whined about the waste of preparations and money, the inconvenience of not finding the body. They could have been rigid in their mission, anointed the tomb, mission accomplished. But they encountered two men in dazzling clothes who announced a new reality and they believed. Life changed forever.

They run to tell the disciples hanging out in the confines of a room and the words that make me angrier than snot, "But these words seemed to (the disciples) an idle tale, and they did not believe them."

I hate to be dismissed and I double dog hate to be dismissed because I'm a woman. If you ever question the role of women as pastors, here they are the first proclaimers dismissed by the disciples.

Holy Week will be different this year, as it is every year. We've adjusted, and as of right now, it looks like we will get to celebrate fully in person (there will still be Zoom).

Here's what I ask as we make this journey:

1. Be Flexible
2. No Whining

Things will never go back to how they were and we'll continue making adjustments. Please be gentle with yourselves and others. We all have different comfort levels and expectations. Keep your eyes on the gathering of the community to proclaim the grace and love of Christ and remember the two rules.

Peace,
Pastor Tari



Faith Formation at SOV

It doesn't just happen on Sunday.

Faith Formation Survey Re: Near-Future Plans

Thank you for a great year of learning together. Pastor Tari sent us all a Faith Formation survey via email. While we all have full lives and SOV doesn't want to add to the "busyness," Pastor Tari reached out with this survey to get a sense of where families are and how we can connect this summer. She's also been working on a program about empowering parents and caregivers to help youth navigate sexuality faithfully. Please check your email for the survey and take a moment to fill it out. Thank you!!

Small Group Spiritual Breaks Throughout the Week

We've got several small groups gathering in April: devotions; yoga & meditation; and Holden Evening Prayer; plus coffee fellowship on Sundays after worship. Everyone is invited to participate in these spiritual breaks. Some groups meet on Zoom and some in person. Zoom links are on the SOV website.

Small Group Devotions

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

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

9 a.m. Fridays. The Friday group will begin meeting in-person at SOV on April 1. Zoom is still an option. Leader Becky Corson.

Yoga & Midday Reflection (in person)

11 a.m., Wednesdays, April 6 and 13. Meet for 20 minutes or so of beginner's yoga and then a devotion.

Holden Evening Prayer (Zoom)

5:30 p.m., Wednesdays, April 6 and 13. 30-minute prayer service with beautiful music.

Faith Formation Classes and Choir on Sundays on April 3, 10, and 24

Happening Sunday mornings at 10:45 a.m. Middle school meets on Zoom; everyone else in person.

Younger Ones gather in-person with Pastor Tari for crafts and stories.

Middle School youth meet on Zoom with Glenn. The middle school youth will also meet from 3-5 p.m. on Saturday, April 16 at SOV to help prep Easter breakfast.

Adults meet for coffee fellowship and conversation.

Senior High plans are still being formulated. Stay tuned for details.

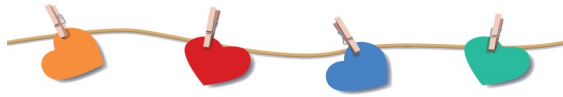
SOV Choir is rehearsing in the sanctuary immediately following worship on April 3 and 10. They will rehearse at 8:30 a.m. on Easter Sunday (April 17) and sing during the 9:30 a.m. Easter Service.

Confirmation and Graduate Recognition Sunday

We hope to celebrate confirmation and recognize our high school graduates on Sunday, May 1. Our eighth graders are Braith Dihle and Aaron Doten-Ferguson. Our high school graduates are Kiah Dihle, Maya Ross, Xandor Beck, Ilya Wallace, Dani Witt, and Kayleigh Newport.

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. Masks are still encouraged but currently not required.





Many Hands! Many Hearts!

Serving with Love at SOV

Check out these ways to contribute your generous gifts of time, money, food, or prayers.

Ways to Serve Survey

A link to an online survey has appeared in several of the weekly church emails. Please fill it out and let us know where you're willing to serve as a worship servant and/or with any of our food ministries (pantry, Glory Hall, Family Promise). Thank you!

Sponsor a Nigerian Student

Sponsorships are going well, but we would like to raise another \$1250 for sponsoring students in Nigeria. You may donate by check or online using Tithely and designating "Nigeria." You can find more information about sponsorship on the SOV website under News.

Glory Hole Meatloaf

We cook our monthly meal on Wednesday, April 20. Watch for the online sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

Food Pantry Updates

The social concerns committee met recently and decided to return to in-person food pantry on Saturdays beginning April 2. Wednesdays will be deliveries to homebound folks only. The Saturday hours are 9-10 a.m. We will need at least 3 volunteers on Saturdays and very likely up to four volunteers on Wednesdays (two baggers and two delivery drivers). As always, donations of food are always needed and appreciated.

Summer Lunch Updates

We are not receiving USDA program funding this summer but are thankful for a grant from the Benito and Frances C. Gaguine Foundation to help us run the program. There will be lots of volunteer and paid positions. Please keep your eyes open for more news. We hope to start an additional day camp for 3rd-6th graders on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting June 23.

FISH at Glacier Bible Camp

The theme this year is FISH. The online registration is live on the SOV website. Early bird registration is \$100. We will be at Boy Scout Camp July 18-23. We're currently recruiting staff. Talk to Pastor Tari or Hannah Harvey if you're interested.

Newsy Bits & Pieces

Family Promise Juneau

Happy birthday to Family Promise of Juneau! FPJ will celebrate five years of operating on April 30. Over 150 children and nearly 300 adults have been served in the last five years. Thank you for helping us make a difference in the lives of children and their families.

Make sure you don't miss the **Halibut Chowder Take Away Meal on April 3**. Tickets are pre-purchase only (the link to purchase tickets is on the FPJ website).

Thank you to everyone who helped during our hosting week at Chapel by the Lake.

www.familypromisejuneau.org

Donations for Ukraine to LWR

Wondering how you can help make an impact in Ukraine? Lutheran World Relief is on the ground now and can use financial assistance. The website is lwr.org.

Alaska Synod Assembly

Please keep Pastor Tari, Eileen Hosey, and Sue Trivette in your prayers as they prepare for this year's Alaska Synod Assembly. Currently the plan is to hold the meetings virtually.

Looking ahead to May & June

May 1

Last day of Faith Formation classes.

May 7

Spring Cleaning at Church.

May 7

Potluck with Breakthrough at 5 p.m.

May 8

Mother's Day Brunch.

May 14

Rummage Sale for Ukraine and Ireland/Wales Pilgrimage (please stay tuned for when you can bring rummage sale donations to church).

June 5

Bike Rodeo.

June 7-21

Deaconess Kelly serving at SOV while the crew is in Ireland and Wales.



Holy Week and Easter

The Triduum is Latin for "the three days." Lent is the build-up to the worship that takes three days to complete. Any of these experiences without all of them is an incomplete worship. The Triduum begins with Maundy Thursday, we continue to Good Friday, and complete the three days on Easter morning.

Maundy Thursday Dinner - 6 p.m., Thursday, April 14

Maundy means "the commandment." It refers to the commandment to "love one another as I have loved you" that Jesus gives the disciples after he washes their feet. We will remember Jesus' last meal and commandment with a potluck dinner and worship. We need readers to participate. If you are interested, please talk to Pastor Tari. The rabbinical student from Sukkat Shalom will be present with us virtually to talk about ritual washings in Judaism.

Good Friday Worship - 7 p.m., Friday, April 15

The Good Friday worship service continues the journey through the three days of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection with the reading of the passion from the Gospel of Luke.

Prayer Vigil - 8 p.m. Friday to 5 p.m. Saturday

After Good Friday worship, we begin our Prayer Vigil. The sign-up sheet for one hour time slots is on the front door at church. During the vigil our sanctuary is transformed into "prayer central." If you have prayer requests, feel free to email them to church at sovjuneau@gmail.com.

Easter Food Boxes for AWARE

If you took eggs from the bulletin board at church, please have your food donations to church by 5 p.m., Wednesday, April 13. That is when we will sort donations and assemble the food boxes for five families at the AWARE Shelter. Food boxes will also be delivered to AWARE that evening.

Breakfast Preparation on Saturday Afternoon

The middle school youth will meet at church from 3-5 p.m., Saturday, April 16 to prep for Easter breakfast, and fill the eggs for the Easter egg hunt.



Easter Sunday - April 21

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Easter Worship at the Skater's Cabin
(with Aldersgate Methodist and St. Brendan's Episcopal churches)

9:30 a.m. Easter Worship at SOV

10:30-11:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast at SOV (provided by fellowship committee & middle school youth)

10:45 a.m. Easter egg hunt for the little ones (and a good time to get photos taken for the photo board).

5:30 p.m. Easter Dinner at SOV. Everyone is welcome to join us for potluck dinner at church. Ham and lamb provided; bring a side dish to share. Please contact the church office if you plan to attend.

If your photo is not on the photo board, or if you would like a new photo taken, Easter Sunday is a great day to have us take a photo of you. Find Becky Corson on Easter Sunday!

Easter Music

The music for Easter worship is ready for those of you who would like to share your brass skills. We'd like to get a few folks together to play. Also, it's not too late to rehearse with the choir for Easter. They rehearse after worship on April 3 and 10. Choir is led by Missouri Smyth and they have a good time!

SOV Book Club



Feel free to join the book club crew at 6 p.m., Friday, April 8 in the private room at Forbidden Peak. We gather at 6 p.m. but don't start discussing the book until about 6:30 p.m.

The book for April is *Exit West* by Mohsin Hamid.

In a country teetering on the brink of civil war, two young people meet—sensual, fiercely independent Nadia and gentle, restrained Saeed. They embark on a furtive love affair and are soon cloistered in a premature intimacy by the unrest roiling their city. When it explodes, turning familiar streets into a patchwork of checkpoints and bomb blasts, they begin to hear whispers about doors—doors that can whisk people far away, if perilously and for a price. As the violence escalates, Nadia and Saeed decide that they no longer have a choice. Leaving their homeland and their old lives behind, they find a door and step through.

Exit West follows these characters as they emerge into an alien and uncertain future, struggling to hold on to each other, to their past, to the very sense of who they are. Profoundly intimate and powerfully inventive, it tells an unforgettable story of love, loyalty, and courage that is both completely of our time and for all time.

***Good Enough* by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie**

Speaking of books, if you have enjoyed and already finished reading the Lenten devotion book *Good Enough*, feel free to bring it back to church and we will pass it on to another reader.

ELCA Statement on Abortion

There is a good chance that abortion is going to be discussed widely as the Supreme Court deliberates. Much like any “issue” discussion, the church has often lacked compassion and grace for those affected in these conversations. Many have experienced a variety of feelings and encounters with terminated pregnancies.

We will have a forum to discuss a faithful response around abortion at 6 p.m., Thursday, April 28 at SOV. Pastor Tari's goal is that this forum will be safe for all regardless of experiences or opinions. It will not be an argument about legal vs. illegal but a discussion about concrete actions that “seek to shape attitudes and values that affirm people in whatever circumstances they find themselves. Pastoral care, compassionate outreach, and life-sustaining assistance are crucial in supporting those who bear children, as well as those who choose not to do so. Through these and other means the people of God seek to be truly supportive of life” (ELCA Statement on Abortion, p. 11).

Two resources Pastor Tari will use to help guide this discussion:

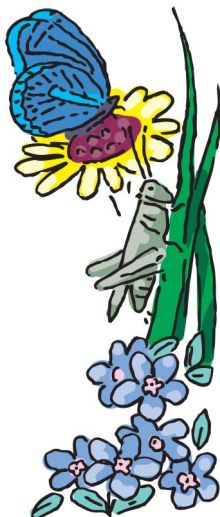
1. Stanley Hauerwas' essay *Abortion and Normative Ethics*. He doesn't talk about rights, but he asks for Christians to look for the idols in the conversation. What are we clinging to as ultimate reality and is it consistent with the good news we see in Jesus?
2. The ELCA Statement on Abortion can be found on the website elca.org.

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good News and Celebrations in April

Baptismal Birthdays

April 1	Kristina Abbott Caleb Abbott Emily Abbott Erik Abbott Debbi Howard
April 8	Adrienne Boyd Allison Walton Lauri Walton
April 16	Elfrida Nord
April 20	Cheryl Jebe Janalynn Doten-Ferguson Rachel Sielbach Nyah Martin Kiley Stevens
April 21	June Morgen Jack Morgen Gene Morgen Lily Dietz Finn Larson
April 22	Nick Andrews
April 23	Eileen Hosey
April 24	Mark Peterson Dylan Miller
April 30	Cameron Marx



Birthdays

3 Mark Carls
3 Steve Carls
3 Marianne Jacobs
4 Doug Larsen
7 Paul Beran
9 Rosemary Kiessling
10 Gayle Trivette
12 Linda Shaw
14 Ollie Odum
17 Gail Fenumiai
24 Marie Kanan
27 Deb Etheridge

You're Not Alone.

Please reach out by phone or through the link on the website to schedule a visit with the pastor or any of our life coaches. We have six life coaches who are trained to walk with people during stagnant times when they are trying to figure out what happens next, overwhelming times, or even to check in during normal times.

Newsletter Sponsorship

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 wording you want included.



A Moment for Prayer

Faithful God, you care for us day by day, and with you as our companion we are never alone. Grant to each one of your children fulfillment in life, confidence in your steadfast love, and support in the community of your people; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen. *From Lutheran Book of Worship published by Augsburg Publishing House, 1978*

Keep in your prayers Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Shelley Wickstrom; and ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

www.a-printable-calendar.com



Food Pantry Hours

9-10 am on Saturdays (in person only)

Food Pantry Direct Line: 907-500-3588

Deliveries available Wednesday evenings to homebound folks. Food pantry details on page 3.

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Looking Ahead to May May 1 Confirmation Sunday and High School Graduate Recognition Last day of Faith Formation classes May 7 Spring Cleaning at Church (morning) Potluck with Breakthrough (evening) May 8 Mother's Day Brunch May 14 Rummage Sale for Ukraine and Ireland/Wales Pilgrimage (we'd love your gently used items to sell in the sale...stay tuned for details about when you can bring rummage sale donations to church).					1 9 am Devos	2 9-10 am Pantry
3 830 am Devos 930 am Worship 1045 am Faith Formation (pg 2) FPJ Halibut Dinner	4	5	6 11 am Yoga 530 pm Holden	7	8 9 am Devos 6 pm Book Club	9 9-10 am Pantry
10 Palm Sunday 830 am Devos 930 am Worship 1045 am Faith Formation (pg 2)	11	12	13 11 am Yoga 5 pm AWARE food donations due to SOV 530 pm Holden	14 Maundy Thursday 6 pm Worship	15 Good Friday 9 am Devos 7 pm Worship 8 pm Prayer Vigil Begins	16 9-10 am Pantry 3-5 pm Middle School Youth prep Easter breakfast 5 pm Vigil Ends
17 Easter Sunday 630 am Sunrise 930 am Worship 1030 am Breakfast 1045 am Egg Hunt 530 pm Potluck	18	19	20 SOV at the Glory Hall 7 pm Council Meeting	21	22 9 am Devos	23 9-10 am Pantry
24 830 am Devos 930 am Worship 1045 am Faith Formation (pg 2)	25	26	27	28 6 pm Discussion on abortion (see pg. 5)	29 9 am Devos	30 9-10 am Pantry

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

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JUNEAU, ALASKA

PERMIT NO. 11

Return Service Requested

Holy Week Begins

April 10 with Palm Sunday



Easter Sunday is April 17

(see page 4 for details)



SOV

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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.

In-Person Food Pantry: 9-10 am Saturdays

Food Pantry Direct Line (call with questions): 907-500-3588

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