

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

November  
December  
2023

## The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

I'm writing this in mid-October shortly after the war in Israel has erupted. I have no idea where things will stand by the time people read this. I know that I feel great grief and fear right now.

Like many things nowadays, it is nearly impossible to talk about what has happened without someone getting reactive. In these times when everything feels like the wrong thing to say I go back to some of the basics of Lutheran mission.

We accompany people. We are not in charge of fixing, converting, judging, or making people feel better. We meet people where they are and love them into where God is calling them. Christian community is not meant to be homogenous. We are gathered from the edges of the earth to witness to the world what walking with each other, what loving and forgiving, looks like.

I don't know what love looks like in the midst of so much carnage and injustice.

Yet, I do. It stands right in the middle of our worship space. Love looks like the cross.

Love refuses to join the cycle of violence and retaliation. At our most faithful we stand with Jesus with arms and hearts open even when that means releasing our lives. If we are going to call something a Christian response, then it needs to be faithful to what Jesus does on the cross.

But, here's where it gets a little messy in Lutheran theology. Luther talked about the two kingdoms. We live with the vision of shalom, the kingdom of God's eternal reign of love. And we live in the earthly kingdom where force is often needed as the least broken response to evil. It is the duty of the community to wrestle with how not to lose our souls in the earthly kingdom's love affair with violence. This is not easy or evident. Faithful people disagree while trying to be faithful.

Hard decisions that conflict with the love we see poured out on the cross are sometimes made. Bonhoeffer, who was a great theologian and pacifist, participated in the plot to assassinate Hitler as the least broken response to evil in that situation. BUT, he doesn't put the Jesus stamp on it.

That's part of what is lost in our wrestling. We have to make some decisions that oppose the love of the cross. It's sometimes just the least broken choice we can make when we are in bondage to sin, but we cannot claim that it is the Jesus thing to do.

I say all that so we may have some humility as we discuss and work out responses to evil. Force will always be the least creative and least faithful response to a difficult situation, but it is sometimes the least broken response to try and restore something that resembles justice and order.

We live in a time when the weapons we possess could destroy civilization multiple times. This is worthy of grief and fear. Yet, we are unable to have meaningful conversations about our epic responsibilities because people are angry and reactive. How can we as a community of faith model the accompaniment way? What are some concrete ways we can walk with a divided world in a way of love? How do we have conversations about when we kill and when we seek another way?

I don't know, but I do know we are also people who pray.

*Front page continued on page 4...*



## Faith Formation at SOV

There is a lot happening. We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey.

One of the gifts offered at SOV is the opportunity to participate in a small group. They provide many ways to be involved and grow in faith. Some are book studies; some are just “show up and chat.”

Following is the Sunday morning schedule:

### Sunday Schedule at SOV

- 8:30 am Men's Group gathers to check in about life. Sometimes there is breakfast.
- 9:30 am Worship. During the sermon, there is an attendant available to watch little ones in the nursery. Little ones do not have to leave during the sermon, but this is an option for parents who would like it.
- 10:30 am Coffee fellowship. Treats to share (sweets and more healthy options) are always welcome.
- 10:45 am Faith Formation for All Ages.

Thank you to our Sunday morning snack crew and our faith formation volunteers!

**Pre-readers** Talea Kellar and Michelle Weaver.

**Readers** Meagan Hinton and Lisa Wallace.

**Middle Schoolers** Glenn Mitchell and Mariel Odum.

**High Schoolers** Pastor Tari and Scott Hinton

**Adults** Scott Ranger and Katherine Andrew are filling in for Linda Landvik; please let Pastor Tari know if you're interested in helping on a Sunday too.

### Middle School Schedule

- November 5 Does God still create stuff today?
- November 12 Is the Holy Spirit a person or wind or fire or what?
- November 19 Mentoring
- November 24 We'll try to do a field trip to the sewage treatment plant.
- November 26 No Faith Formation



### Small Groups

**Monday Book Club** is taking a few weeks off and tentatively reconvening at Noon on November 13 with the book *If God is Love, Then Don't Be a Jerk* by John Pavlovitz.

**SOV Choir** rehearses at 7 p.m. Mondays. Our choir will rehearse with a larger community choir that meets at SOV; Misuri Smyth will direct. All are welcome to sing.

**Holden Evening Prayer** at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom; most Wednesdays in November and December. The Zoom link can be found on the SOV website. [www.sovlutheran.org](http://www.sovlutheran.org)

**Friday Morning Devotions**—9 a.m. Fridays at SOV. Have coffee or tea and dig into a daily devotion.

**SOV Book Club** meets 6 p.m., Sunday, November 12 at Forbidden Peak. The book is *The Very Secret Society of Irregular Witches* by Sangu Mandanna.

**Discipleship Academy** meets 4-5:30 p.m., Thursday, November 16. No meetings in December.

**Young Adult Our Whole Lives Sexuality Class**—6 p.m., Sunday, November 5, 19, and 26 at the Kiessling's house. Stay tuned for December dates. All those between 18-25 are welcome. Meagan Hinton and Lily Larson will facilitate.

**Parents and Caregivers as Sexual Educators** will meet 6 p.m., Tuesday, November 28. We discuss how to raise our children and grandchildren to be healthy and faithful sexual beings. No meetings in December.



## Ways to Give & Celebrate in November & December

### Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook our monthly meal on Wednesday, November 15 and Wednesday, December 20. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

### All Saints' Day

All Hallows Eve is the evening before All Saints' Day. It was the beginning of the great festivities to celebrate the lives of those who have died and their continued presence in our lives. All Saints' Day is traditionally a day to light candles in memory of lights who have gone before us and also continue to shine in the community and in our lives. We will celebrate it on Sunday, November 5.

### Food Pantry

Thank you to everyone who supports this important ministry. The pantry is open for in-person visits from 9-10 a.m. on Saturdays; and on the last Saturday of the month we serve a free hot breakfast. Deliveries to folks who are homebound are available on Saturdays too. Call the pantry line at (907) 500-3588 for info.

### Family Promise Hosting Weeks in November

Thunder Mountain High School National Honor Society will host at SOV the week of 11/12-11/19 and we will host 11/19-11/26. This is a great way for families and friends to volunteer together. Keep an eye out for the opportunity to sign-up. We will need dinners provided, as well as evening and overnight hosts.

### Attic Art Auction for World Hunger

Details coming soon about this wonderful way to Christmas shop and raise money to help beat world hunger. We are having an online Attic Art Auction from November 22 to December 8. All bidding will happen online, but the items will be on display at SOV. Many lovely items have already been donated!

### Thanksgiving Eve Gathering

Join us for the annual Thanksgiving Eve *Soup and Songs* with our friends from Aldersgate and St. Brendan's. We'll gather at 5:30 pm, Wednesday, November 22 at SOV for soups and breads, sing some songs, and then finish up with pie. Watch for the soup and pie sign-up sheet.

### Glory Hall Tree in Sanctuary

Our traditional "warm clothing tree" for the Glory Hall will be set-up in the sanctuary after Thanksgiving. Stop by church and adorn the tree with warm socks, hats, mittens, gloves and scarves. Please have donations to church by December 17.



### Meals for AWARE at Thanksgiving & for Christmas

In November, watch for Tom Turkey on the bulletin board at church. In December, watch for the Christmas tree. You can help us provide meals at Thanksgiving and at Christmas for five AWARE Shelter families. We also provide gifts at Christmas. Details on how to help will be provided in the Sunday bulletin, weekly emails, and on the SOV website.

### Season of Advent

December 3 is the beginning of Advent and the beginning of the new year in the church. We will move from Matthew's Gospel into the Gospel of Mark.

We will take a break from regular faith formation for Intergenerational Advent Brunch and Activities following worship. Pastor Tari will lead the devotion, but we will need volunteers to provide the main brunch dish and others to help with crafts. We're thinking pancakes, egg casserole, French toast and fruit. If you are interested in helping organize, please talk with Pastor Tari.

The Christmas play is open to all ages. We're going to try and make it hybrid (zoom and in-person). We will pass out parts on December 3. Play will be presented at 930 a.m. on December 24.

Our Advent theme this year is "Stories of Ornaments." We will make a different ornament each week. The devotions for Advent are also focused on ornaments. Please take a picture of your favorite ornament and share a story about it. We ask that all pictures and stories be submitted by November 27.

***Continued from front page...***

Below is the *Prayer of Mothers for Life and Peace* by Rabbi Tamar Elad Appelbaum and Sheikha Ibtisam Maḥameed (2014)

*God of Life  
Who heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds  
May it be your will to hear the prayer of mothers  
For you did not create us to kill each other  
Nor to live in fear, anger or hatred in your world  
But rather you have created us so we can grant permission to one another to sanctify  
Your name of Life, your name of Peace in this world.  
For these things I weep, my eye, my eye runs down with water  
For our children crying at nights,  
For parents holding their children with despair and darkness in their hearts  
For a gate that is closing, and who will open it before the day has ended?  
And with my tears and prayers which I pray  
And with the tears of all women who deeply feel the pain of these difficult days  
I raise my hands to you please God have mercy on us  
Hear our voice that we shall not despair  
That we shall see life in each other,  
That we shall have mercy for each other,  
That we shall have pity on each other,  
That we shall hope for each other  
And we shall write our lives in the book of Life  
For your sake God of Life  
Let us choose Life.  
For you are Peace, your world is Peace and all that is yours is Peace,  
And so shall be your will and let us say Amen.*

Peace,  
Pastor Tari



## Life Coaches at SOV

“Life Coaching” is an uncomfortable term for something wonderful. There are times in life when we feel stuck or worry about making the wrong choice. The answer is not someone telling you what you should do, but someone asking better questions so you can name what you need to do. That’s what coaching is all about. It is sitting with someone who isn’t judging you or trying to live your life for you, but they ask questions to help you see what is possible and hold you accountable.

We have the gift of many Level 1 life coaches who have finished the initial training and more who have completed the initial grief coaching. Please help us continue our training by letting us walk with you. Coaching may be in person or over the phone. Working with a coach is a formal agreement. None of our coaches are charging fees for their time, but there may come a time that they do.

Here is the process:

1. Go to [sovlutheran.org/ministries](http://sovlutheran.org/ministries) and fill out an interest form or call the church. Pastor Tari will connect you with one of the coaches
2. Talk together to work through a coach agreement so you know where you are starting and when you are finished. This may be the time you realize it isn’t a good match and no feelings will be hurt.
3. Arrange regular sessions and honor that commitment.

The following have completed the initial training to be coaches: Kristina Abbott, Willie Anderson, Becky Corson, Kristin Larson, Glenn Mitchell, Sharon Mitchell, Teresa Kissel, and Joy Will. Please call the church office or contact any of them directly.

# Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in November and December

## November Birthdays

3 DiAndrea Andrews  
4 Keely Reilly  
4 Matt Fishel  
7 Katherine Andrews  
7 Lindsay Birk  
7 Adella Dihle  
7 Gen Nestler  
8 Nick Andrews  
8 Finn Larsen  
9 Keith Andrews  
9 Chuck Orsborn  
12 Christy Wallace  
20 Philis Beran  
20 Ryan Marx  
20 Erik Thompson  
21 Marsha Buck  
21 Richard (Ike) Stage  
22 Dan Corson  
22 Lori Fredenberg  
23 Paula Hubert  
25 Tyler Sorum-Birk  
26 Macey Fredenberg  
30 Kayleigh Newport

## November

### Baptismal Birthdays

1 Virgil Fredenberg  
3 Cherie Oliver  
5 Steve Landvik  
20 Ryan Marx  
22 Bob Williams  
27 Ben Nestler  
28 Marsha Buck  
29 Kyle Sielbach  
30 Willie Anderson

## December Birthdays

1 Amy Witt  
2 Nicole Fenumiai  
2 Judy Gustafson  
2 Mac Oliver  
3 Scott Ranger  
4 Ben Hinchman  
5 Bob Wright  
14 Al Fenumiai  
15 Sandra DeLong  
16 MJ Hinman  
17 Annette Ranger  
18 Jacob Carls  
18 Dani Witt  
22 Joelle Newport  
23 Loren Rasmussen  
24 Caleb Abbott  
27 Cameron Marx  
27 Karsun Newport  
29 Logan Balstad  
29 Brittany Fenumiai

## December

### Baptismal Birthdays

1 Gen Nestler  
1 Bob Varness  
10 Macey Fredenberg  
13 Tyler Weldon  
16 Bobbi Meek  
21 Aaron Doten-Ferguson  
24 Nicole Fenumiai  
25 Savona Kiessling  
26 Nadine Marx  
29 MJ Hinman  
29 Arlo Hinton  
29 Jack Pegues  
29 Morgan Pegues  
29 Rylan Pegues

## Revisiting the Strategic Plan

We still have work to do, but it is exciting to see the progress.

Last October, we met with Timi Tullis to discuss our values and goals. Our values:

We are centered on Christ.

The community around Christ can be messy.

We are beloved children of God who fall short of the glory of God and gather in communion for healing, mercy, and renewal.

We gather to praise God and to explore together God's will for our lives as revealed in Holy Scriptures and inspired by the Holy Spirit.

We are sent into the world to use the gifts God has given us.

There were two action items:

1. Expand feeding ministries
2. Develop Master Facility Plan

1. We have added a monthly breakfast as part of food pantry and we are in the final stages for a grant from ELCA domestic hunger for \$10,000 for a cooperative ministry with all the churches on Mendenhall Loop to serve a hot meal once a week in Chinook apartments. This has been an exciting process where all the congregations, besides Glacier Valley Baptist, have agreed to take a week. Salvation Army will allow us to use their food truck. We will begin in March and Gail Fenumiai is the coordinator.

2. The Master Facility Team has worked hard over this last year. Thank you to Jeff Jenkins, Steve Landvik, Theresa Ross, Chuck Orsborn, Elfrida Nord, and Linda Thompson, who have worked with Monique Anderson, the landscape architect, in developing a comprehensive plan for our property. The driveway change should be finalized and we should be able to purchase our first significant piece for the playground by the end of October.



DECEMBER 2023						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30
31 New Year's Eve						





## Food Pantry Hours

9-10 am on Saturdays (in person)

Deliveries available Saturday morning to homebound folks in the Valley and Lemon Creek. Call the food pantry direct line for information or fill out the form on the home page of our website: [www.sovlutheran.org](http://www.sovlutheran.org)

**Food Pantry Direct Line:** 907-500-3588

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Pop-Up Clothes Closet</b> 5-7 p.m., Friday, November 3 and 8 a.m. to Noon, Saturday, November 4 at SOV. Stop by and shop 'til you drop for clothing and apparel. We will also have delicious pulled pork sandwiches for \$5. Proceeds will help the intergenerational pilgrims headed to Greece.			<i>1</i>  530 pm Holden	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> 9 am Devos  5-7 pm POP UP Clothes Closet	<i>4</i> 8-Noon POP UP Clothes Closet 9-10 am Pantry  Fall Back One Hour Before Bedtime
<i>5</i> All Saints' Sunday 830 am Men's Group 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1045 am FF Classes  6 pm YA OWL at Kiessling's	<i>6</i> No Monday Book Club  7 pm Choir	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>  530 pm Holden	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> 9 am Devos	<i>11</i> 9-10 am Pantry
<i>12</i> 830 am Men's Group 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1045 am FF Classes  6 pm SOV Book Club at ForbiddenPk	<i>13</i> Noon Monday Book Club (tentative)  7 pm Choir	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> SOV at Glory Hall  530 pm Holden	<i>16</i>  4 pm Discipleship Academy	<i>17</i> 9 am Devos	<i>18</i> 9-10 am Pantry
<i>19</i> 830 am Men's Group 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1045 am FF Classes  6 pm YA OWL at Kiessling's	<i>20</i> Noon Monday Book Club  7 pm Choir	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> Attic Art Auction Bidding Begins  530 pm Soup & Songs at SOV	<i>23</i>  <b>Happy Thanksgiving</b>	<i>24</i> 9 am Devos  Middle School Field Trip to Sewage Treatment Plant (tentative)	<i>25</i> 9-10 am Pantry
<i>26</i> 830 am Men's Group 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1045 am No Classes  6 pm YA OWL at Kiessling's	<i>27</i> Noon Monday Book Club  7 pm Choir	<i>28</i>  6 pm Parents & Caregivers	<i>29</i>  530 pm Holden	<i>30</i>	<b>Newsletter Sponsorship</b> If you are interested in sponsoring a 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.	

JANUARY 2024						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	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			

Holidays and Observances: 1: New Year's Day, 15: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Wkly Calendar

# 7 DECEMBER



## Food Pantry Hours

9-10 am on Saturdays (in person)

Deliveries available Saturday morning to homebound folks in the Valley and Lemon Creek. Call the food pantry direct line for information or fill out the form on the home page of our website: [www.sovlutheran.org](http://www.sovlutheran.org)

**Food Pantry Direct Line: 907-500-3588**

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



## Christmas Eve Luminaries

Sponsoring a luminary is a lovely way to honor or remember loved ones at Christmas. The luminaries will be decorated by folks at SOV and adorn the walkway on Christmas Eve. The suggested donation will be \$10 per luminary. Sign-up with the form on the SOV website or in-person at church.

					1 9 am Devos	2 9-10 am Pantry
3 830 am Men's Group 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1045 am Advent Brunch	4 Noon Monday Book Club 7 pm Choir	5	6 530 pm Holden	7	8 9 am Devos <i>Attic Art Auction Bidding Ends</i>	9 9-10 am Pantry <i>Attic Art Pick Up Times TBA</i>
10 830 am Men's Group 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1045 am Advent Brunch	11 Noon Monday Book Club 7 pm Choir	12	13 530 pm Holden	14	15 9 am Devos	16 9-10 am Pantry
17 830 am Men's Group 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1045 am Advent Brunch	18 Noon Monday Book Club 7 pm Choir	19	20 SOV at Glory Hall 530 pm Holden	21	22 9 am Devos	23 9-10 am Pantry
24 830 am Men's Group 930 am Worship w/Play <b>Christmas Eve</b> 530 pm Bonfire Worship 7 pm Traditional Candlelight Worship	25  <b>Merry Christmas</b>	26	27 530 pm Holden	28	29 9 am Devos	30 9-10 am Pantry
31 830 am Men's Group 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee  Have a safe and enjoyable New Year's Eve!	<b>Moment for Prayer</b> Gracious God, during this season of giving thanks, and of peace and joy, we keep in our prayers those who are lost, lonely, poor, broken-hearted, hungry, and grieving. Help us to remind them of your unconditional love. May you fill them with your peace during times of grief and sadness. Amen.  We also keep in our prayers Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Shelley Wickstrom; and ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.					

## Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

New Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street

Mailing Address: PO Box 34859, Juneau, AK 99803

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Food Pantry Direct: (907) 500-3588

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**SAVE THIS NEWSLETTER!  
IT'S THE NOVEMBER AND  
DECEMBER ISSUE!**



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 inside for details.

**In-Person Food Pantry:** 9-10 am Saturdays

Deliveries available Saturday mornings to homebound folks. Call the pantry direct line for information.

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

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