

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

January
2021

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

Be perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect. Luke 6:36

Be merciful as your Father in heaven is merciful. Matthew 5:48

We all have stock phrases and I find myself responding to texts regularly with “perfect.” Whatever you said or did is perfect.

That’s truly my response to most things especially when someone offers up a gift, or a vulnerable part of themselves, or time. It might not be what I imagined or even what I wanted, but it’s perfect.

Yes, perfect may mean “flawless or ideal” but it also means “finished, complete, made whole.” There is nothing in my life that is flawless so I ignore that meaning, but there is much that is made complete even in their flaws.

2020 was a little rough so I’m betting that 2021 will be perfect in many ways. It will still be rough, but as a community of faith we will continue to offer gifts, be vulnerable, and give our time. There will be relationships, experiences, and ministries that will help make us whole. We will continue to pray, love, and struggle and that will all be perfect.

I struggled when I was taught to “be perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect.” The idea of glowing brilliance without flaws seemed like a ridiculous goal. But Luke’s Gospel gives us the same command, translated slightly different, so we know what perfection truly is. “Be merciful as your Father in heaven is merciful.”

Perfection is found in mercy and compassion. It’s found when we engage with life without disguising or hiding our flaws, but offering the mercy given to us to others.

I pray for a perfect year knowing that doesn’t mean smooth sailing and an escape from pandemics, politics, and natural disasters, but it is a perfection that seeks to remain merciful and compassionate through all this year throws our way.

Peace,
Pastor Tari



Faith Formation at SOV

Faith Formation opportunities for all ages are offered via Zoom and in-person. We hope you will join us as part of your faith journey.

Preschool - 5th Grade

Stay tuned for faith formation plans through the winter. We hope to begin on January 10.

6th-8th Grade (Confirmation)

We will continue to meet via Zoom at 10:45 a.m. on Sundays. Zoom invites will be sent to individuals via email. We will continue to meet with mentors once a month (Walk & Talk Sunday is a good time to meet). In addition, we will meet for our Wednesday Walks at 1:30 p.m., Wednesdays, January 13 and 27. Be sure to wear your mask.

9th-12th Grade+

Meet via Zoom with Mark Kiessling to discuss life at 10:45 a.m. on Sundays. Zoom invites will be sent to individuals via email.

Wednesday Time Together: We will meet in person to walk and talk about life at 2:30 p.m., Wednesdays, January 6 and 20. Plan on wearing your mask.

Small Group Devotions on Tuesday Evenings; and Thursday & Sunday Mornings

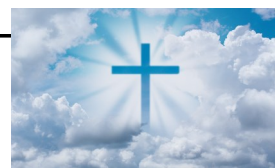
There are lots of opportunities for adults through the variety of small groups. There is a Tuesday evening group at 6 p.m., Thursday morning at 9 a.m., and Sunday morning at 8:30 a.m. Attend devotions as often as you would like to do so. You can register for these Zoom events on the SOV website. Go to the website and click on "events." The website is www.sovlutheran.org.

Walk & Talk Sunday for ALL AGES on January 24

All ages are welcome to participate in "Walk & Talk Sunday" on January 24. Gather at the church at 10:45 a.m., and Pastor Tari will pair participants to walk toward the glacier on the paved path, while chatting about specific questions and sharing points. This will happen regardless of weather. Once again, it is open to all ages, and is a good chance for families to get a break and for all of us to safely "socialize" with folks we don't get to see in person very often.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The last Sunday of January is reserved for our Annual Meeting of the Congregation. Please plan to join us at 10:30 a.m., Sunday, January 31 on Zoom. More details on page 5 of the newsletter.



Prayer & Worship at SOV

Holden Evening Prayer

5:30 p.m. Wednesdays in January. This is a lovely and reflective 30-minute prayer service. You can register for the Zoom link on the website.

Sunday Worship via Zoom

Join us from your home at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. The Zoom invitations for Sunday worship are published in the weekly church emails.

Worship in the Fellowship Hall

We are taking a break from this in-person worship service until further notice.

SOV Book Club



The SOV Book Club will meet at 6 p.m., Thursday, January 21 via Zoom. The book for January is *A Gentleman in Moscow*. This book is full of humor, grace, and beauty.

The website Goodreads describes it as: *the story of Count Alexander Rostov, who is sentenced to live out the rest of his life on "house arrest" in the Metropol hotel, following his "conviction" by a Bolshevik tribunal. He was convicted of being an unrepentant aristocrat and is stripped of his wealth by the new Bolshevik regime.*

Pilgrimage of Healing—Submitted by Pastor Tari

As a church group, we have taken some incredible pilgrimages to some spiritual, delightful places. Here is our initial plan for our June 2022 Pilgrimage of Healing. Please carefully read through the plan and prayerfully consider if you would like to go. I'd like to hear from interested folks by January 11.

PLAN

June 6 or 7 Fly on Aer Lingus to Dublin

June 7—June 10 Zanzibar Locke in Dublin (Explore area around Dublin)

<https://www.lockeliving.com/en/dublin/zanzibar-locke>

June 10 Train to Rosslare, Ireland. Ferry to either Fishguard or Pembroke, Wales. Rent vans to drive to housing (near St. David's).

June 10—June 17 Rhos y Cribed in Wales (rent entire housing). [https:// www.rhosycribed.com](https://www.rhosycribed.com)

June 17—June 20 Zanzibar Locke in Dublin

COST FOR GROUP OF 28

Zanzibar Locke 6 nights £6300/28 = \$302 per person

Flights \$1100-\$1500 per person

Rhos y Cribed £4168/28 = \$200 per person

Transportation (train, ferry, vans) ~\$200 per person

Food for 13 days ~\$450

Total estimate for trip \$2652 (high end for flight)



Some things to know and expect, as this is not a vacation or tourist trip.

1. Preference will be given to those actively involved in church life.
2. There will be small group work beforehand and that will involve vulnerable sharing and accountability.
3. Children and youth are welcome, but they need to be able to participate in small groups and fundraisers.
4. There will be a good amount of walking.
5. I'm not a tourist guide or guardian. People need to be able to take care of themselves.
6. There is a lot of down time, worship, and small group time. There will also be adventures, but nobody will entertain you.
7. We all take turns cooking and cleaning up. I'll also need people who are comfortable driving in Wales.
8. There is no whining. Things will go wrong, but we always manage to have a good time.

There are only 28 spots available. I can't fudge on that number so here is a survey to figure out the most compatible group. Everyone (even youth) are expected to answer the following questions. Please return by January 11.

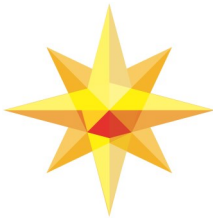
Why would you like to go on this pilgrimage of healing?

What do you think you offer to the group?

What challenges do you think you bring?

Are you willing to be a (check all that apply to you): Small Group Leader _____ Driver _____

Fundraiser Coordinator _____ Devotion Writer _____ Food Coordinator _____



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 10) 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 by January 3. There will be a form available on the website. We expect members to be actively engaged in the mission of the church and the small groups are a great way to connect with others, but there are no requirements.

Virtual Epiphany House Blessing - Epiphany is the traditional time to bless homes (like the Magi blessed Mary and Joseph's home). We will do a virtual house blessing as part of worship on Sunday, January 17. There will be a part of worship where we will invite those who want to tour us virtually around their home, so we can bless those spaces.

*"I thank my God every time
I remember you ..."*

Philippians 1:3, NRSV



Remembering Pastor Larry Rorem

Pastor Larry Rorem passed away on December 22, surrounded by family. His leadership at SOV for sixteen years and in the community was a gift to many and his willingness to speak out for the most vulnerable helped support many lives. He will be greatly missed. The family would like to get through the holidays before thinking about a memorial. According to Pastor Karen at Resurrection Lutheran, no meals are needed, but financial donations to help with burial costs would be appreciated. Cards may be sent to Laura Rorem, 11435 Glacier Hwy 1C, Juneau, 99801. Please keep Laura and family in your prayers.

january Things to Know

Thank You from Nigeria!

Thank you from our friends in Nigeria for the medical supplies. They arrived safely and will be incredibly helpful during challenging times.

Updated Food Pantry Operations

As usual, our pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. Saturdays. We are now using a tool for pantries called Smartchoice. Smartchoice is software that allows folks to order food ahead of time from SOV's available stock. If you need food assistance, call the dedicated SOV food pantry telephone number 500-3588 or visit the website www.smartchoice.life/sov. If you are an elder or struggle with transportation, you may get food delivered on Wednesdays. However, if at all possible, we encourage folks to pick up food on Saturday mornings (you can also just show up on Saturdays and get groceries).

Columbarium & Memorial Garden

We have a great committee working on a sacred place to put ashes. The next meeting is at 6 p.m., Thursday, January 14 to review plans from the columbarium company and from Steve Landvik. There will also be a short presentation as part of the annual meeting on January 31.



Technology Update

Thank you for your patience as we update and integrate the website, app, database and giving.

We will continue to send out daily prayers/devotions through the app. If you haven't downloaded it yet, go to the website and click on the button that says "download the app"

The website will continue to be the main place to access Zoom links, news, and events. All the sign up sheets can be accessed through the website and app.

We plan to begin sending weekly emails (the Peeks) through the database, once it is completely updated. We hoped to send them through the website (you may have noticed a place to register to receive them), but this isn't going to work for us. Our goal is to have an on-line directory available by the annual meeting.

If you would like to transfer your automatic giving from Simply Giving to Elvanto/tithely.ly then please do that by January 3. You do not have to switch over, but it is a little easier and the giving statements will automatically update. Of course, you are still welcome to give by check.



Treasurer's Update

Our mortgage is down to \$32,573.74 and we will start the year with some carryover. There were years not long ago where we struggled to meet our mortgage payment and support the larger church. We have been blessed and been able to continue doing both faithfully.

This support does not happen magically. Automatic giving has helped stabilize our budget as well as intentional pledges.

We invite you to sign up for automatic giving. Either through the new platform Tithely or continue with Simply Giving. We are encouraging the Tithely model because it will help track contributions in a more automated method. Contributing through Tithely can be done either through a checking or savings account (with lower transaction fees) or by credit card (with higher transaction fees). For example, a \$50 contribution done through a bank has a fee of \$0.50. A \$100 contribution done via credit card has a fee of \$2.65. The Tithely link is on our website at: <https://sovlutheran.org/give>. If you are not comfortable with the automatic deduction, then please take a moment and fill out the pledge sheet that will be available before the annual meeting. We seek to live faithfully within our budget.

The proposed budget for 2021 is \$200,913. This includes over \$20,000 in benevolence (money we give away) as well as staff, building and ministry supplies. Thank you for participating in the mission lived out here.



Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The annual meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m., Sunday, January 31 via Zoom in accordance with Alaska laws governing virtual meetings. Annual meeting committee reports are due to the church office by January 13. The completed report needs to be sent out to the congregation on January 17. Here is a list of the reports due and who is responsible for writing them:

Pastor's Report—Pastor Tari

Council President—Mindy Birk

Treasurer—Gail Fenumiai

Stewardship—Gail Fenumiai

Scholarship – Jim Wilson

Worship and Music/Altar Guild—Pastor Tari

Fellowship—Mindy Birk

Parish Education—Amy Witt

Property Mgmt—Steve Landvik & Theresa Ross

Social Concerns—Kristina Abbott & Becky Corson

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations!



Birthdays

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

Baptismal Birthdays

- 9 Teresa Kissel
- 12 Brittany Fenumiai
- 19 Mac Oliver

Anniversaries

- 3 Dean Rasmussen
& Nancy Davis

Newsletter Sponsor

Thank you to our January newsletter sponsors, Susan and Drew Sielbach. Prior to their move to Montana, Susan and Drew were long-time, active members of SOV. They still have strong family connections in Juneau and still receive the newsletter! Blessings, Susan and Drew!

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.

Prayer Shawls

Do you knit or crochet? Would you be willing to make a shawl for SOV's prayer shawl ministry? We like to have a variety of shawls available to give to loved ones who are going through a transition in their lives. For any situation where your loved one might need an extra hug—you are invited to choose a shawl and prayer card from the selection at church and give it as a gift.

If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, ask Alice Gates (she has some patterns and can answer questions).

Share Your God Moments with SOV

Email us your God moments! Use your imagination about what to send: photos, quotes, prayers, and thoughts. Anywhere and how you saw God at work on any particular day. Send them to sovjuneau@gmail.com and we will use them on the app and in the newsletter.

¹May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us. Psalm 67:1



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, teachers, and school staff as they head back to school, both in-person and virtually. Also, keep in your prayers Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Shelley Wickstrom; and ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

FEBRUARY 2021						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Valentine's Day	15 President's Day	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

Download & Print Free Calendars From [Wiki-Calendar.com](http://www.Wiki-Calendar.com)

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Food Pantry Hours



Saturdays 9-10 am

SOV Food Pantry Direct

Call 500-3599 with pantry questions
or to place a food order

Pastor Tari's Office Hours

10 am—2 pm Tues/Wed/Fri

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Virtual or In-Person? Most meetings and small group gatherings are virtual, and the registrations for these virtual gatherings (on Zoom) can be found under “Events” on our website. www.sovlutheran.org If you have questions, feel free to call the office at 789-4093 or email sovjuneau@gmail.com .					1 <i>Happy New Year</i>	2 9-10 am Pantry
3 Via Zoom: 830 am Devos 930 am Worship	4	5	6 <i>Epiphany</i> 230 pm High School Walk 530 pm Holden Evening Prayer	7 730 am-1230 pm Safe Space for School	8 730 am-1230 pm Safe Space for School	9 9-10 am Pantry
10 <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i> Via Zoom: 830 am Devos 930 am Worship with baptisms *** 1045 am Faith Formation (see pg. 2)	11 730 am-1230 pm Safe Space for School	12 730 am-1230 pm Safe Space for School	13 130 pm Middle School Walk 530 pm Holden Evening Prayer 6 pm Council Committee Reports Due	14 730 am-1230 pm Safe Space for School 6 pm Columbarium Meeting	15 730 am-1230 pm Safe Space for School	16 9-10 am Pantry
17 Via Zoom: 830 am Devos 930 am Worship *** 1045 am Faith Formation (see pg. 2)	18 <i>Martin Luther King Jr Day</i> (NO SSFS)	19 730 am-1230 pm Safe Space for School	20 230 pm High School Walk 530 pm Holden Evening Prayer 7 pm Mom's Group	21 730 am-1230 pm Safe Space for School 6 pm Book Club	22 730 am-1230 pm Safe Space for School	23 9-10 am Pantry
24 Via Zoom: 830 am Devos 930 am Worship with House Blessings *** 1045 am Walk and Talk at Church	25 730 am-1230 pm Safe Space for School	26 730 am-1230 pm Safe Space for School	27 130 pm Middle School Walk 530 pm Holden Evening Prayer	28 730 am-1230 pm Safe Space for School	29 730 am-1230 pm Safe Space for School	30 9-10 am Pantry
31 Via Zoom: 830 am Devos 930 am Worship 1030 am Annual Meeting	 Safe Space for Schooling (Update) The school district invited us to continue Safe Space for Schooling while the schools slowly open up to in-person learning. We will resume on Thursday, January 7. Please note the time change: the program will happen from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (no afternoon hours). For more information call the church at 789-4093 or email sovjuneau@gmail.com . Thank you to our incredible staff! There may come a time when we need volunteers, but for now we are doing our best to keep the bubble small. 					

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

4212 Mendenhall Loop Road

Mailing Address: PO Box 34859, Juneau, AK 99803

Email: sovjuneau@gmail.com Office: (907) 789-4093

Food Pantry Direct: (907) 500-3588

Web: www.sovlutheran.org Like us on Facebook

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JUNEAU, ALASKA

PERMIT NO. 11

Return Service Requested



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

Our regular worship services and faith formation classes are suspended for now. Please see inside the newsletter for the many ways we are connecting remotely.

Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m. (via Zoom)

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

Pastor Tari's Office Hours: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tues, Wed, and Fri.

Food Pantry Hours: 9 to 10 a.m. Saturdays

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