



LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
2021

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it. Matthew 7:13-14

I've often thought of these verses from Matthew as feeding into the idea that there is a hoop through which we have to jump to be acceptable to God, but then I remembered a scene from *City Slickers*. It's been a long time since I've seen that movie, but I still remember Billy Crystal asking the weathered cowboy the secret to life. Curly holds up one finger and says, "One thing. Just one thing. You stick to that and the rest don't matter (*he uses more colorful language*)."

The narrow gate, one thing, isn't about exclusion or hoops, but it is about what grounds our lives and keeps us from shattering into a million pieces in a million places. There is so much vying for our attention and energy that narrowness is actually a gift to help us be intentional and present for our lives instead of chasing after every wild goose.

I'm not sure the narrow gate works for me as an image, but I like playing with the image of anchor or lighthouse. An anchor can ground you in one place so you don't drift with every current, but it still gives you the freedom to explore that area, fish for halibut, or in my case, read a book without fear of crashing into the shore. A lighthouse is a central point that frees you to explore what is illuminated without stumbling or crashing in the dark.

September is going to be filled with opportunities to explore what is at our center. How do we talk about and trust God to anchor and illuminate our lives from the core? How do we live in that one thing of love and enter the world through that narrow gate?

Please make sure you have downloaded the SOV app because there will be daily devotions written by congregation members about what they believe and how they live that out. The devotions are also available on the website. There will be small group opportunities nearly every day of the week to reflect on faith and life.

We're going to be scattered for a while until it's safe to gather as a big group, and that makes it even more important to stay grounded and focused on the one thing that matters and gives shape to everything else in our lives. Please be patient with the church and each other as we continue to adapt and figure out ways to stay connected and to live out our faith in our daily lives.

Peace,
Pastor Tari



Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. We've got small group opportunities for adults, a book study, Holden Evening Prayer services, and plans for our youth.

SOV Book Club

The Book Club will meet at 5 p.m., Friday, October 1 at Forbidden Peaks. The book is big so start reading soon. *The Code Breaker* by Walter Isaacson - The bestselling author of *Leonardo da Vinci* and *Steve Jobs* returns with a gripping account of how Nobel Prize winner Jennifer Doudna and her colleagues launched a revolution that will allow us to cure diseases, fend off viruses, and have healthier babies.

Small Group Opportunities

We've got several small groups happening in September: three different days of devotions; Holden Evening Prayer on Wednesdays; and a Thursday evening Bible study. Everyone is invited to participate in one or more groups (if you are going with the crew to Ireland/Wales you are especially encouraged to participate as part of our community prep). The Zoom links are available on the website or in the weekly emails.

Bible Study: Meals in the Bible

Pastor Tari will lead a six-session study on Zoom at 5:30 p.m., Thursdays, September 9, 16, 23, 30, October 7 and 14. Each week the focus will be on a different meal in the Bible.

Week 1 - The Garden

Week 2 - Abraham and the Angels

Week 3 - Jacob and Esau

Week 4 - Joseph

Week 5 - Passover

Week 6 - Manna & Quails

Small Group Devotions

Devotion groups meet three different times during the week. Groups will talk about the meals in the Bible (see above schedule), as well as whatever each group wants to discuss.

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

5:30 p.m. Tuesdays in-person at SOV (Zoom possible too). Leader Kristina Abbott.

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

Holden Evening Prayer (Zoom)

5:30 p.m. Wednesdays in September. 30-minute prayer service with beautiful music.

Sunday Worship

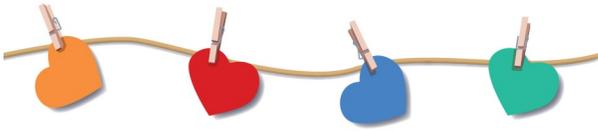
Join us at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. The Zoom invitations for Sunday worship are published in the SOV Weekly email. Sunday Worship is both in-person and on Zoom. Folks who worship in person need to wear a mask. While we miss having little ones around, it's still not safe for us to have small children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

Youth Faith Formation Classes & Activities

Faith Formation begins on Sunday, September 12. Please refer to page 5 of the newsletter for details about classes and other activities for ages Pre-school to Post-Highschool.

SOV's Covid Response

We continue to monitor the City & Borough of Juneau's Covid guidelines and will be flexible with how to proceed with gatherings and activities happening at SOV. Please plan to wear a mask at all in-person gatherings. Feel free to contact the church office with any questions or concerns.



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 reflection, time, money, food, or prayers. Prayers are appreciated for any and all of our ministries.

Living Faith Daily Devotions

Beginning soon, we will share daily devotions written by those of us at SOV (that means you too). 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 new devotions. Everyone is encouraged to send their response to the following reflection about vocation and faith. It's not too late to email your response to the church office at sovjuneau@gmail.com. *What do you believe about God and how does that get lived out in your daily life?*

Financial Notes

Thank you for your continued faithful giving to the mission of God lived out at SOV. We are still doing okay financially. We invested \$9000 last school year (in addition to the COVID funds received) to help open the church for kids to safely study.

An overhaul of the sound system for Zoom and in-person is in the works. Keith Giles from Rozwick and Giles is working with us to improve the sound, while also making the equipment less intrusive. This will be a commitment of finances, but it looks like hybrid worship will be part of our future. We'll keep everyone posted as we explore ways to worship together.

As you look at your personal budget for the next year, please consider your intentional giving to SOV. You may sign up for automatic withdrawals through VANCO (Simply Giving) or you may easily and securely sign up through tithe.ly on our website. Automatic giving has helped us remain stable. Let us know if you have questions.

Giving Via the Website

If you would like to give financially to a specific ministry, there are a whole bunch of them from which to choose on our website. Go to www.sovlutheran.org, click on "Give" and when you get to the drop down menu, choose your ministry. You can set up recurrent giving or give a one-time donation.

SOV Service Opportunities—Worship Servants and More

It's working! For the last few months, based on a volunteer survey we took last winter, we've scheduled worship servants and food pantry volunteers an entire month at a time. Emails go out to everyone who has been plugged into a volunteer position and those folks simply take a moment to confirm that they are (or are not) available at the scheduled time. It's easy and efficient and we appreciate folks giving it a try!

If you are one of the many who completed the online survey, please note you are able to let us know which days you are NOT available to volunteer through your SOV account at sovlutheran.elvanto.net. And if you would like to be on the roster to volunteer for worship as a reader or lay assistant, or for the food pantry as a bagger or driver, let us know in the church office.

Glory Hole Meatloaf

We will cook our traditional meatloaf meal on Wednesday, September 15. Keep an eye out for the online sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

Food Pantry Operations

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 operator on duty will answer their questions.



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 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.

Giving to Our Wider Community ELCA Disaster Response

Currently, Lutheran Disaster Response is on the ground helping victims of the earthquake in Haiti, refugees in the Middle East, as well as hurricane victims in the United States. It's easy to find them online. Just search in your internet browser for ELCA Disaster Response.

From their website:

Lutheran Disaster Response brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

Your gifts make it possible to provide fast and effective support to communities in need, whenever and wherever a disaster may strike. You may choose to designate your gift to a specific disaster or give where the need is greatest; make your choice known at the time of your donation. If you decide to give to a specific disaster, your gift will be used 100 percent for that disaster unless more funds are received than what is needed to fully fund a specific disaster response. If this happens, your gift will be used to address a similar effort.

Family Promise Lasagna Fundraiser

Tickets will be available soon for a take away lasagna dinner on Sunday, October 3 to help support Family Promise. That is also our next week to host (provide meals), so please stay tuned.

Property Update

A huge thanks to the Tveten's for the donation of a new shed. Our old one is a little rough and on the property line.

Thank you to Steve Landvik and Jim Wilson for working on a land swap with our neighbors. SOV would give some land for bigger backyards for the new homes, and we would be given land with access to Keegan Street in case we ever decide to move our driveway. They have also been working on drainage so some of our lake in the back has disappeared.

Columbarium

The columbarium committee is excited to announce that we have paid a deposit on a structure and people will be able to order niches soon. A single niche will be \$600 and a double will be \$1000. We want to keep niches affordable, but the groundwork needed in the spring will be around \$8000. Donations will be accepted and appreciated for that work.

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 special wording you want included.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16 (NRSV)



Faith Formation Classes Begin September 12

We look forward to a Holy-Spirit-filled year of faith formation and learning together. Check out the following plans for September and October, and be sure to call the church office with any questions.

Toddlers to 3rd Grade

Meet in-person at 10:45 a.m.

Pastor Tari and a helper will read a story and do an activity from the Holy Moly curriculum. Adults can hang out with each other in the back of the room and chat.

4th-5th Graders

Meet at 10:45 a.m. The middle school students will lead a lesson for 4th and 4th grade students.

Middle School Students (Confirmation)

It's going to be an exciting and fun year of learning and mentoring (both being mentored and as a mentor).

Leading time: On Sundays from 10:45-11:15 a.m. you will be partnered with a 4th or 5th grader and work on a project together. Just like each of you have a mentor, this is your time to BE a mentor.

Learning time: On Sundays from 11:15-11:45 a.m. you will meet with Pastor Tari & Glenn for class time.

Schedule for September & October:

September 5-6 Overnight at Camping Cove - need to be vaccinated or have negative covid test

September 12—Blessing at worship and classes begin

September 19—Adam & Eve

September 26—Meet mentors

October 3—Noah

October 10—Abraham & Sarah

October 17—Jacob

October 24—Joseph

October 31—Meet with mentors

High School

The high school students will meet in person at the church.

September 12

Meet at 10:30 a.m. to walk & talk.

September 19

Meet at 10:30 a.m. to play guitar.

Meet at 4 p.m. to cook and for Bible study.

September 26

Meet at 10:30 a.m. to pick up trash

October 3

Meet at 10:30 a.m. to walk & talk.

Meet at 4 p.m. to cook and for Bible study.

October 10

Meet at 10:30 a.m. to play guitar.

October 17

Meet at 10:30 a.m. to walk & talk.

Thursday, October 21-Friday, October 22

Overnight—high ropes course and Methodist Camp service event.

October 24

Meet at 10:30 a.m. to play games.

October 31

Make candy bags to pass out to neighbors.

Post-High School Youth

Let's check in with each other on Zoom at 4:30 p.m. (Alaska Time), Thursday, September 23. Zoom link will be sent soon.



Let the Blessings Overflow

Celebrations in September

Birthdays

- 1 Talitha Hammond
- 2 Beverly Loveid
- 4 Jack Davis
- 4 Sharon Mitchell
- 5 Amanda Swanson
- 8 Amanda Duvall
- 8 Deb Tempel
- 9 Scott Hinton
- 9 Lene Kiester
- 10 Norman Carls
- 13 Braden Jenkins
- 13 Joy Will
- 14 Philip Fenumiai
- 15 Corinne Orsborne
- 16 Sue Nielsen
- 19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
- 20 Sam Kiessling
- 21 Mariel Odum
- 24 Robert Varness



Anniversaries

- 10 Glen & Cherie Oliver
- 21 Julie & Jeff Jenkins

Baptismal Birthdays

- 12 Karen Stumpf
- 26 Calen Jenkins
- 27 Lena Rasmussen

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A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that these folks find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Shelley Wickstrom; and ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

Answers

Answers to prayers come in various ways, sometimes in minutes, sometimes in days. And some take years to fully unfold the harvest of love and blessings they hold.

Answers to prayers come in various forms, sometimes in sunlight, sometimes through storms. Some blossom early, and some blossom late, but each one will flower – have faith and wait!

—Helen Inwood, *His Mysterious Ways*

Puzzle!

Complete this Bible passage by adding the missing vowels.



F_r by gr_c_ y_ _ h_v_
 b_ _n s_v_d thr_ _gh
 f_ _th, _nd th_s_s n_t
 y_ _r _wn d_ _ng; _t_s
 th_ g_ft _f G_d — n_t th_
 r_s_lt _f w_rks, s_ th_t
 n_ _n_ m_y b_ _st.

_ph_s_ _ns 2:8-9, NRSV



Answer: For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8-9, NRSV

4-6 pm Wednesdays

9-10 am on Saturdays

Food Pantry Direct Line: 500-3588

Food pantry details on page 3.

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						



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>SOV's Covid Response We continue to monitor the City & Borough of Juneau's Covid guidelines and will be flexible with how to proceed with gatherings and activities happening at SOV. Please plan to wear a mask at all in-person gatherings. Feel free to contact the church office with any questions or concerns.</p>			<p>1 4-6 pm Pantry</p>	<p>2 9 am Devos on Zoom</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 9-10 am Pantry</p>
<p>5 830 am Devos 930 am Worship Middle School Overnight at Camping Cove</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 530 pm Devos</p>	<p>8 4-6 pm Pantry 530 pm Holden on Zoom</p>	<p>9 9 am Devos on Zoom 530 pm Bible Study on Zoom</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 9-10 am Pantry</p>
<p>12 830 am Devos 930 am Worship 1030 am Highschool 1045 am Faith Formation (see page 5)</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 530 pm Devos</p>	<p>15 SOV Preps Meal for Glory Hall 4-6 pm Pantry 530 pm Holden on Zoom</p>	<p>16 9 am Devos on Zoom 530 pm Bible Study on Zoom</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 9-10 am Pantry</p>
<p>19 830 am Devos 930 am Worship 1030 am Highschool 1045 am Faith Formation (see page 5) 1 pm Council 4 pm Highschool</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 530 pm Devos</p>	<p>22 4-6 pm Pantry 530 pm Holden on Zoom</p>	<p>23 9 am Devos on Zoom 430 pm Post-High on Zoom 530 pm Bible Study on Zoom</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 9-10 am Pantry</p>
<p>26 830 am Devos 930 am Worship 1030 am Highschool 1045 am Faith Formation (see page 5)</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 530 pm Devos</p>	<p>29 4-6 pm Pantry 530 pm Holden on Zoom</p>	<p>30 9 am Devos on Zoom 530 pm Bible Study on Zoom</p>	<p>Oct 1 5 pm Book Club at Forbidden Peaks</p>	<p>Oct 2 9-10 am Pantry</p>

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

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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.

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