



LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

December
2021

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

7"For there is hope for a tree,
if it is cut down, that it will sprout again,
and that its shoots will not cease.
8Though its root grows old in the earth,
and its stump dies in the ground,
9yet at the scent of water it will bud
and put forth branches like a young plant. Job 14:7-9

I found a sour cherry tree in Oregon this summer and was instantly transported to my childhood. The tree was in a finely manicured yard with signs warning me to keep out, but everything inside me wanted to climb that tree and gorge myself with cherries until my stomach hurt and then give the rest to my grandma to make the finest pie in the world. My mouth still waters and I can even smell the kitchen filled with the incense of bubbling pie.

It was also the same day that I found Little Debbie oatmeal cream pies strewn randomly around town. I spent way too long wondering how that happened. Was it a scavenger hunt? An overturned truck? Gifts from heaven? That's a mystery I will never solve, but it was so weird.

December is the month of smells and tastes that transport us. Not to quote Buffy again, but I will anyway because I love this quote about why books are better than computers (and it's Giles not Buffy who says it):

Smell is the most powerful trigger to the memory there is. A certain flower, or a whiff of smoke can bring up experiences long forgotten. Books smell musty and-and-and rich. The knowledge gained from a computer is a - it, uh, it has no-no texture, no-no context. It's-it's there and then it's gone. If it's to last, then-then the getting of knowledge should be, uh, tangible, it should be, um, smelly.

If it's to last, then the getting of knowledge should be tangible. We celebrate and worship a God who is tangible, who comes in the flesh - in the babe, in the bread and wine, in you. There are many gifts of virtual church, but I do hope you have bread baking and candles burning even if you are home.

We are moving into more in-person activities because we know that our faith isn't about tidy messages on the computer, but it is learning how to live and breathe as a community. It is encountering God in the flesh of each other, in communion, in activities and meals. I encourage you to be smelly this season.

Fill your senses with sights, smells, and tastes you can savor and remember. Let that which feels real permeate your senses so at the whiff of a burning candle you may remember you are loved; at the taste of freshly baked bread you may know you are not alone; and at the sound of giggling children you may again be grounded in the eternal community of Christ's children.

Peace,
Pastor Tari



Faith Formation at SOV

(It doesn't just happen on Sunday.)

SOV Book Club

The Book Club will meet at 6:30 p.m., Friday, December 3 at Forbidden Peak. The book is *Etta and Otto and Russell and James* by Emma Hooper. Book description: Eighty-three-year-old Etta has never seen the ocean. So early one morning she takes a rifle, some chocolate, and her best boots and begins walking the 3,232 kilometers from rural Saskatchewan, Canada eastward to the sea. As Etta walks further toward the crashing waves, the lines among memory, illusion, and reality blur.

SOV Advent & Christmas Choir

All ages are welcome to sing with the choir! Choir rehearsals take place at 10:45 a.m., Sundays, November 28, December 5, 12, and 19. The choir will sing at Christmas Eve worship and hopefully on Sunday during Advent. Thank you to our accompanist, Missouri Smyth, for directing the choir.

Small Group Opportunities

We've got several small groups happening in December: small group devotions; Holden Evening Prayer on most Wednesdays; as well as opportunities that begin with Advent (see page 4). 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

Devotion groups meet different times during the week. Groups sometimes 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 December. 30-minute prayer service with beautiful music. There will be no Holden Evening Prayer on December 29.

Youth Faith Formation Classes & Activities

It's a joy to see smiling faces at Sunday morning Faith Formation. Please refer to page 5 for details about Sunday-morning Advent activities for ages Pre-school and older.

High School & Post-High Overnighter

On Wednesday, December 29 our high school and post-high youth are invited to an overnighter at the Jubilee Cabin. Stay tuned for details.

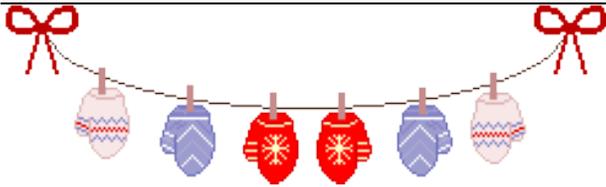
SOV's Covid Response

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.

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

Attic Art Auction for World Hunger

Our online Attic Art Auction for World Hunger goes live on Monday, November 29 and ends Monday, December 13. Watch for the link to the auction in our weekly church emails and on the SOV Facebook page. Thank you to everyone who donated art to the auction. All money raised goes to ELCA World Hunger.

Glory Hole Meatloaf

We will cook our traditional meatloaf meal on Wednesday, December 15. Watch for the online sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

Glory Hall Tree in Sanctuary

Our traditional "warm clothing tree" for the Glory Hall will be set-up in the sanctuary. Stop by church and adorn the tree with warm socks, hats, mittens, gloves and scarves. If possible, please have your donations to church by December 14, so we can deliver them when we cook and serve on December 15.

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 of our new devotions (and we've posted several lovely ones). Soon we will begin posting devotions for the Seasons of Advent and Christmas.

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 - Thanksgiving and Christmas

Thank you to everyone who purchased food for the Thanksgiving meal boxes for AWARE families. Stay tuned for news about adopting families for Christmas.



A Moment for Prayer

We pray for God's peace, guidance, and protection for...people around the world living in areas of violence and unrest; visitors to our food pantry and other people struggling to make ends meet; and people rebuilding after natural disasters.

We also keep in our prayers Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey, Alaska Synod Bishop Shelley Wickstrom, and ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

We are accepting orders for columbarium niches. Single niches are \$750; companion niches are \$1250. Please note these prices will go up on January 1, 2022. If you would like a photo of the layout of the columbarium, let us know in the church office and we will email it to you.

Shepherd of the Valley
PO Box 34859
4212 Mendenhall Loop
Juneau, AK 99803



Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey
789-4093
sov@alaska.net

COLUMBARIUM AGREEMENT FORM

Date: _____

Name of Applicant: _____

Address: _____ City _____, State _____

Zip _____ Phone: _____ E-Mail _____

Next of Kin: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail _____

Names of those to be interred is a separate form

I, the above named APPLICANT(S), do hereby tender payment in full for the reservation of:

_____ Single Niche Spaces (\$750) or

_____ Companion Niche Spaces (\$1250)

I have received and have read the Policies of the Columbarium of Shepherd of the Valley. In consideration of the review and acceptance of my APPLICATION by the Columbarium Committee of *Shepherd of the Valley*, I agree to abide by all the aforesaid policies as the same exist now and as they may be amended from time to time.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE: _____

Requested location in COLUMBARIUM (See attached): _____

Shepherd of the Valley seeks to keep the columbarium an affordable option. Most niches in town are \$2500+. Donations are appreciated to help with the site work, regular maintenance and financial aid.

Donation amount: _____ Payment for niches: _____

Enclosed check made payable to and mail to:

SOV (Columbarium in memo)
PO Box 34859
Juneau, AK 99803

NICHE NUMBER ASSIGNED _____ (Office Use)

After January 1, a single niche will be \$1000 and a companion niche will be \$1500

Season of Advent Begins November 28



Advent is the beginning of the new year in the church. We will move from Mark's gospel into Luke's. We have many meaningful ways to mark this season of waiting and preparation together.

Devotions

Daily devotions written by different people throughout the Alaska synod (Lutherans are separated geographically by synods) available on the app and on the website.

Advent Devotions on Zoom

Advent devotions on Zoom follow Sunday worship beginning November 28. We will use the ELCA World Hunger Advent Study Guide which can be found at <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/ELCA-World-Hunger/Advent-Resources>.

Advent Activities

Advent Activity stations for all ages in-person follow Sunday worship beginning November 28. We will begin together in the sanctuary for a devotion, then take part in that day's activities.

Activities on November 28 - Advent Countdown

- Virgil & Lori will lead an Advent "wreath" activity.
- Michelle Weaver will lead ornament making.
- Shaelyn Newport will lead making giant snowflakes.
- Coloring station.

We need shoeboxes for the craft on December 4th.

Plans for Christmas

Virtual Christmas Play

We are inviting households to be in the play this year. You can record your part at home and share it with us on YouTube. We'll put all the parts together for the play on December 19. Let us know in the church office if you'd like to take part in the play.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Bonfire Worship

5:30 p.m. will be a short, in-person worship outside around a bonfire (weather permitting; we will head indoors if the weather is nasty).

Traditional Candlelight Worship

7 p.m. will be a traditional worship with candle lighting. Plan on wearing a mask if you attend in person. You also have the option to participate on Zoom.

Worship with Lessons and Carols

On Sunday, December 26 we will enjoy a worship service with our favorite Christmas readings and carols.



¹⁰ *But the angel said to them,
"Do not be afraid; for see—I am
bringing you good news of
great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to
you is born this day in the city
of David a Savior, who is the
Messiah, ^[a] the Lord.
Luke 2:10-11*

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in November & 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
 26 Keegan Kanan
 27 Cameron Marx
 27 Karsun Newport
 29 Logan Balstad
 29 Brittany Fenumiai

Baptismal Birthdays

November

1 Virgil Fredenberg
 5 Steve Landvik
 22 Bob Williams
 27 Ben Nestler
 28 Marsha Buck
 29 Kyle Sielbach
 30 Willie Anderson

December

1 Gen Nestler
 1 Bob Varness
 5 Laura Rorem
 10 Macey Fredenberg
 13 Tyler Weldon
 16 Bobbi Meek
 21 Aaron Doten-Ferguson
 24 Brittany Fenumiai
 24 Nicole Fenumiai
 25 Savona Kiessling
 26 Nadine Marx
 29 MJ Hinman

*⁹I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous;
 do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your
 God is with you wherever you go.
 Joshua 1:9*

Family Promise of Juneau Update

SOV is scheduled to provide meals to families hosted from December 5-12 (watch the weekly emails for details). Family Promise is not currently sheltering a family, but prevention services have been busy.

Since Day 1 on April 30, 2017:

84 Households Served.

37 Families in Transition: Utilizing shelter services, 80% of families in transition graduated to long-term permanent housing.

48 Households in Prevention Services: With \$69,000 distributed and case management provided, 95% of households in prevention services remained housed.

Adults Served: 89

Children Served: 110

Hospitality Nights Provide: 8,889

Meals Served: 26,667

Average Length of Stay: 68 Days

Active Volunteers: 483

Active Hosting Supports: 16

January 2022

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					



Food Pantry Order Pick-Up:

4-6 pm Wednesdays

9-10 am on Saturdays

Food Pantry Direct Line: 500-3588

Food pantry details on page 3.

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>28 (Nov) 1st Sunday -Advent 830 am Devos 930 am Worship 1045 am Advent Activities (see pg 5) 1045 am Choir</p>	<p>29 (Nov) <i>Bidding begins for online Attic Art Auction</i></p>	<p>30 (Nov)</p>	<p>1 4-6 pm Pantry 530 pm Holden</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 9 am Zoom Devos 630 pm Book Club at Forbidden Peak</p>	<p>4 9-10 am Pantry 5 pm Ireland Meeting</p>
<p>5 2nd Sunday -Advent 830 am Devos 930 am Worship 1045 am Advent Activities (see pg 5) 1045 am Choir</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 4-6 pm Pantry 530 pm Holden</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 9 am Zoom Devos</p>	<p>11 9-10 am Pantry</p>
<p>12 3rd Sunday -Advent 830 am Devos 930 am Worship 1045 am Advent Activities (see pg 5) 1045 am Choir</p>	<p>13 <i>Bidding Ends for online Attic Art Auction</i></p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 <i>SOV Meal at Glory Hall</i> 4-6 pm Pantry 530 pm Holden</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 9 am Zoom Devos</p>	<p>18 9-10 am Pantry</p>
<p>19 4th Sunday -Advent 830 am Devos 930 am Worship with Christmas Play 1045 am Advent Activities (see pg 5) 1045 am Choir</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 4-6 pm Pantry 530 pm Holden</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 9 am Zoom Devos Christmas Eve 530 pm Bonfire Worship 7 pm Traditional Worship</p>	<p>25 Merry Christmas </p>
<p>26 930 am Worship with Lessons & Carols</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 High School & Post-High Cabin Overnighter 4-6 pm Pantry</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 9 am Zoom Devos Have a safe and happy New Year's Eve!</p>	<p>1 (Jan) Happy New Year</p>

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

4212 Mendenhall Loop Road

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

Food Pantry Direct: (907) 500-3588

Web: www.sovlutheran.org Like us on Facebook

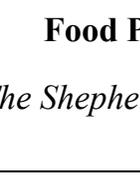
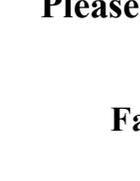
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Return Service Requested



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