



LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

August  
2022

## The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

I was terrified to jump off the cliffs in Wales. I'm not afraid of heights, but churning water where I feel like I have no control paralyzes me. I didn't do the highest jump because they told me I couldn't plug my nose. I know it's a little weird, but I feel like I have a wee bit of control when I can plug my nose.

Every church should jump off cliffs. Coming to the communion table resembles the jump in some ways. It's a releasing of control; you receive the gifts instead of taking them. If the bread is yucky or sometimes with a surprising garlic kick we still receive it with thanks.

I'm learning to let go of more and more control. I request money and put basic staff in place for summer lunch and camp, but I've tried (and sometimes failed) to let the rest go. I don't need to fix things or know things; I can simply show up at 12:30 p.m. with the rest of the kids for a plate of yumminess. This takes a significant amount of self-control for me. I can see what all is happening out my window, I have an idea of how I want things to run in my brain, and it's hard not to jump out of my chair and fix whatever may be happening. It's wonderful to keep my booty in the chair and see someone else come along and resolve whatever is happening or ignore it when it doesn't look like a priority to them. It's wonderful and it's really hard.

For the first time in nearly nine years, I will not be in charge of Family Promise of Juneau. It's an appropriate time where resources and leadership are in a stable place. I'm incredibly thankful for the new board chair who is gracious, wise, and has healthy boundaries. She was so lovely after I overstepped on a decision in reminding me that it's been my baby and it has to be hard to let go. I realized it's much like sending kids off to school. I laid a foundation and now they are free to fail and flourish.

I'm thrilled to let go, don't get me wrong. Starting a non-profit has felt like a second full-time job. It's like the thrill of jumping off the cliff into churning water. This is terrifying and terrific.

As we approach the end of summer and return to the school year, there will be lots of letting go. As we approach returning as a community to in-person worship and faith formation classes, there will be letting go. It's a gift of life and faith to keep loving and learning how to release control and give thanks for the thrill and the terror.

Peace,  
Pastor Tari

*Speaking of Family Promise, it's SOV's turn to "host" from August 7 to 14. We need folks to provide dinners; evening volunteer hours; and two overnights.*

*Also, there's a Family Promise BBQ Birthday Bash on August 21 at Sandy Beach. Pastor Tari will receive a legislative citation at the event.*

*See page 2 for Family Promise details.*



### SOV Family Promise Hosting Week

We are “hosting” from August 7-14. The family will be housed at Emmanuel Baptist Church, 10490 Glacier Hwy. Our hosting responsibilities will be to provide nightly dinners at 6 p.m.; evening hosts every night from 6-9 p.m.; and overnight hosts on just two of the nights (Sunday, August 7 and Saturday, August 13). Family Promise staff will cover overnights Monday-Friday. There is currently a family of six so please plan on volunteering when the sign-up sheet goes live (watch for the link in the weekly church email).

### BBQ Birthday Bash

4-5:30 p.m., Sunday, August 21

Sandy Beach Shelter Area

Everyone is welcome to join the celebration! Pastor Tari will receive a legislative citation at the event. And if you like to bake let us know in the office. SOV is supposed to bring two-dozen chocolate chip cookies to the event.



### Blessing of the Backpacks

Heading into a new school year is an exciting and often stressful time for students and school staff. We want to send everyone back to school with hearts full of blessings.

Most Juneau School District students go back to school on Tuesday, August 16. **We will do the blessing of backpacks, as well as of students, teachers, and staff on Sunday, August 14 during worship.**

### A Prayer for Our Youth

God of all good gifts, your Son gathered children into his arms and blessed them. Help us to understand our youth as they grow in years and in knowledge of your world. Give us compassion when they face temptations and experience failures. Teach us to encourage their search for truth and value in their lives. Help us to appreciate their ideals and sympathize with their frustrations; that with them we may look for a better world than either we or they have known; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 4:6-7

**Family Promise** **BBQ Birthday Bash**

**Sunday, August 21 4:00-5:30 PM**  
**Sandy Beach Shelter Area**

**450 FREE BBQ PORK MEALS**  
 (4:00-5:00 PM)

**LIVE AUCTION**  
 starting at 5:00 PM

- Two Alaska Airline Tickets
- New Kids Playhouse
- Weekend in a Cabin with Boat Trip
- Other Great Experiences

Additional Silent Auction

Donations will be accepted.  
 Everyone will get a chance to hear an update on how  
 Family Promise of Juneau is  
 "building community to end childhood homelessness in Juneau."

**MUSIC and BIRTHDAY SWAG!**

## Faith Formation—Looking to September

We hope you will join us as part of our faith journey!



### OWL Training

*Submitted by Pastor Tari*

There is a lot going on in peoples' lives right now and many times leaders (like myself) feel unprepared to help guide. Several years ago when people were approaching me with questions around sexuality, I realized the church needs more resources to have faithful discussions and discernment with people.

*Our Whole Lives (OWL)* is a series of age appropriate programs for ages 4-99+. Alaska Synod invited trainers to work with a group of volunteer facilitators to start a program for middle and/or high school students. Scott Hinton, Macey Fredenberg, and I participated in the weekend training. We are currently holding the small group "Parents and Caregivers as Sexual Educators" and will expand to a second small group in the fall to meet demand.

In regards to youth and in conversation with council, our goal is for Scott and I to start a high school program on September 11 following worship. There will be parent meetings beforehand and youth are expected to commit to participating in as many of the 26 sessions they can. Yes, 26 sessions are a huge commitment, but this is a comprehensive program and it takes that long. Macey will hopefully be able to facilitate a shorter post-high program via Zoom with the 18-25 year-olds.

What I love about this program is it places values in the center and helps participants discern values based on reliable information. Please stay posted to learn more and don't freak out. We want our youth to develop their values in their faith community and not on the internet, so that is going to take some courage and discomfort on our part.

### Possible Plans for Sunday Morning Faith Formation

**High School OWL** - Scott Hinton and Pastor Tari in the Tower of Babel on Sundays at 10:45 a.m.. A parent orientation will be scheduled in August.

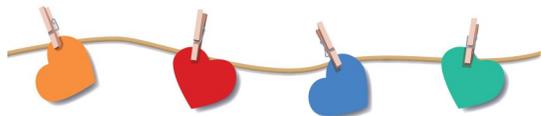
**Middle School Confirmation** - Glenn Mitchell and a partner will lead 6th-8th graders on Sunday mornings at 10:45 a.m. beginning September 11. This is the year of discipleship and a letter will go out in August with a plan.

**All Other Ages** - We will have a meeting at 6 p.m., Wednesday, August 31 to discuss what faith formation looks like for everyone else (including adults). Please send to the church office any ideas and how you are willing to help or participate.



### Faith and Fish at Glacier Bible Camp

Thanks so much to our campers, counselors, and camp staff for a wonderful week out at camp! Our theme this year was FISH (an appropriate theme for a slightly soggy week). We had a blast playing games, singing songs, and getting to witness some of the awesome ways that God is working in our world.



## 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.

#### Intended Giving

Everyone who has given money to Shepherd of the Valley in 2022 should have received a mid-year statement by email. There is also a link in that email and in the weekly emails for intended giving and service for the next year. It takes one minute to fill out and this helps us plan our upcoming budget and services. Please prayerfully consider how you will be involved.

You may also mark if you are willing to offer 10% of the PFD to the winter fund. Our costs increase significantly in the winter and this helps us cover costs. There are paper copies of the Intended Giving form in the back of church as well, for folks to fill out and put in the offering plate.

#### SOV Service Opportunities—Worship Servants

If you're not currently on our rotation roster of worship servants, but are interested in serving as a lay assistant, reader, or greeter at Sunday morning worship, please either let us know on the Intended Giving form or tell us in the church office.

#### Glory Hole Meatloaf

We will cook and serve our traditional meatloaf meal on Wednesday, August 17. 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 deliveries to homebound folks only on Wednesdays; and open in-person 9-10 a.m. Saturdays. If you know folks who need a food delivery, please have them call the direct line to the food pantry (907) 500-3588. You can also call the direct line if you would like to help bag and/or deliver groceries on Wednesday afternoons or staff in-person pantry on Saturday mornings.

## News and Events in August

#### Columbarium Update

Thank you to everyone who worked on the columbarium committee. It is here and installed! We will be able to start doing services in August. Please talk to Pastor Tari if you would like to schedule one.

There are still niches available. We will continue to sell them at \$1250 for a double and \$750 for a single. Order forms are available in the back of church or on-line.

#### Potluck with our Breakthrough Friends

5 p.m., Saturday, August 6 at SOV. Our friends at Breakthrough Church would love to share a potluck dinner with us. They worship in our building on Saturday evenings.

The name "Breakthrough" stems from their belief everyone has potential to make an impact in helping, serving, relationships, or anything else. They want to see people breakthrough into more than they thought was possible.

#### SOV Book Club

Feel free to join us at Forbidden Peak at 6 p.m., Tuesday, August 30. Our book for August is *The Keeper of Lost Things*. Kirkus Review writes, "Readers looking for some undemanding, old-fashioned storytelling with a sprinkling of magic will find it here." That's what we were looking for as our final book of summer.





## Wrapping Up Summer Lunch

### From Teresa: Love. Laugh. Feed.

Summer Lunch: Heaven on Earth is a happening place five days a week June through the first week of August. This program is a big commitment to our neighborhood youth, and with thanks to God, 37+ volunteers have helped prep, cook, serve, wash dishes, recycle, garden, and manage a few light bike repairs. We'd like to send a special shout out to volunteers from Florida, Anchorage, and the National Honor Society who came during times when many of our regular volunteers traveled for the Pilgrimage of Healing in June and went to Glacier Bible Camp in July. And, in addition to our own garden plot's produce, a shout out to the Community Garden for sharing some of their bountiful produce. YUM!

Thank you...Amy, Annette, Bess, Braden, Carrie, Cheryl, Corinne, Cynthia, David, Eileen, Jasmine, Jim, Joel, Josette, Kelly, Kim, Kristin, Lacie, Leslie, Linda, Lisa, Liz, Lucas, Mackenzie, Mark, Meadow, Michael, Missy, MJ, Nadine, Pat, Roger, Shelby, Stacy, Theresa, Trish, Willie and anyone inadvertently missed. Whether you came once or twice, once a week, or most of the 44 days, you encouraged caring and supportive relationships during the summer gap in a safe place for almost 150 kids. Thank you for your faithfulness in following Jesus' command to "feed his sheep".

**From Hannah:** This year at summer lunch we have served meals to 147 total kids hosting between 25-50 everyday! Things are definitely picking back up after the pandemic years and we have been so grateful to have such an amazing staff to help keep the program running. We employed 10 different teenage guides during this period and it has been wonderful to watch them take on a new role of responsibility in the program that many of them participated in themselves as kids. We also have an incredible supervisory staff directing the program this year with Teresa as our Volunteer Coordinator, Annette as our Server Supervisor, and Rosemary as the Activities Supervisor. They are responsible for the behind-the-scenes big picture stuff that makes Summer Lunch what it is and we could not do it without them! With all of the extra support from our awesome staff, I have been able to focus on interacting with the kids who come through our program and each day provides a witness to the beauty and challenges of God's Kingdom lived out on earth.

## ELCA Churchwide Assembly

Prayers of thanks and safe travels for Glenn and Sharon Mitchell as they travel to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Glenn is a voting member and Sharon is going for moral support.

The 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will be held in Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 8-12, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. We gather under the theme *Embody the Word*. There's an importance in the double meaning of the two words:

- Embody, meaning both the incarnation of Jesus Christ and the life of the church emerging from a pandemic.
- Word, meaning Jesus Christ and scripture.

Luke 24:45 states, "Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures." We embody the Word, both Jesus and the scripture, by speaking it and proclaiming it. In 1522, Martin Luther's translation of the New Testament made the Word accessible to the people and revolutionized the Christian movement worldwide. 500 years later, the call to make Jesus accessible to the people still exists today and as we look to the future of this church.

The ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the primary decision-making body of the church, is a process of communal spiritual discernment. When the ELCA Churchwide Assembly convenes, its voting members meet with confidence in God's grace around word and water, wine and bread, to carry on their work on behalf of the entire church. Over the course of the assembly, voting members:

- Hear reports and review the work of churchwide officers, leaders and units;
- Receive and consider proposals from synod assemblies;
- Elect officers, board members and other leaders as specified by the constitution or bylaws;
- Establish ELCA churchwide policy;
- Worship together;
- Adopt a budget; and
- Conduct other business related to the ELCA churchwide organization.

## Let the Blessings Overflow

### Good News and Celebrations in August



#### *August Birthdays*

1 Kael Swanson  
 2 Pam Mueller-Guy  
 4 Elijah Harvey  
 4 Lena Rasmussen  
 4 Lauren Stichert  
 7 Allison Walton  
 8 Ilya Wallace  
 9 Fred Howard  
 9 Tom Pegues  
 12 Sue Trivette  
 15 Glen Oliver  
 15 Kristina Abbott  
 16 Erin Wallace  
 17 Linda Landvik  
 17 Bekah Peterson  
 18 Kay Smith  
 22 Ben Nestler  
 23 Dane Hubert  
 23 Karen Stumpf  
 29 Kristin Wright  
 30 Jessica Oliver

#### *August Baptismal Birthdays*

2 Pam Mueller-Guy  
 3 Elijah Harvey  
 17 Parker Abbott  
 17 Hannah Harvey  
 17 Sophia Harvey  
 17 Freyja Weaver  
 18 Simon Smith  
 30 Jessica Oliver  
 30 Dean Rasmussen

#### *August Wedding Anniversaries*

1 Nick & DiAndrea Andrews  
 11 Allison & Logan Balstad  
 15 Philis & Paul Beran  
 24 Kirt & Tari Stage-Harvey



*You're my place of quiet retreat; I wait for your Word to renew me.  
 Psalm 119:114 (The Message)*



## A Moment for Prayer

Give us grateful hearts, O God, for all your mercies, and make us mindful of the needs of others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

### **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.

### **Sunday Worship**

Join us at 9:30 a.m. The Zoom invite for worship is published in the weekly church email. Sunday Worship is in-person and on Zoom. Masks are encouraged, but currently not required.

### **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.

# SEPTEMBER 2022



## Food Pantry Hours

9-10 am on Saturdays (in person only)  
 Deliveries available Wednesday evenings  
 to homebound folks. Call the food pantry  
 direct line for information.

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

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	

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2	3 <i>Pantry Deliveries</i>	4	5 <i>Last day Summer Lunch</i>	6 9-10 am Pantry  5 pm Potluck with Breakthrough
7 830 am Small Group Devos 930 am Worship	8  ←————SOV's Family Promise Hosting Week (August 7-14) at Emmanuel Baptist————→	9  6 pm OWL with Parents/Caregivers	10  <i>Pantry Deliveries</i>	11	12	13 9-10 am Pantry
14 830 am Small Group Devos 930 am Worship with Blessing of the Backpacks	15	16 <i>Primary &amp; Special General Election</i>  <i>1st day of school for most JSD students</i>  6 pm OWL with Parents/Caregivers	17 <i>SOV at Glory Hall</i>  <i>Pantry Deliveries</i>  Council Meeting	18	19	20 9-10 am Pantry
21 830 am Small Group Devos 930 am Worship  4 pm Family Promise BBQ at Sandy Beach	22	23	24  <i>Pantry Deliveries</i>	25	26	27 9-10 am Pantry
28 830 am Small Group Devos 930 am Worship	29	30  6 pm Book Club at Forbidden Peak	31  <i>Pantry Deliveries</i>  6 pm Faith Formation Meeting	1 (September)	2  Abortion Discussion (time tba)	3 9-10 am Pantry

## Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

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August



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 3 of newsletter for details.

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

Deliveries available Wednesday evenings 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