LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

March
April
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

I love Easter. I love the worships. I love that women are highlighted as the first ones on the scene at the empty tomb; women are the first preachers who get dismissed by men for telling an idle tale. In your face, I'm just saying, the male disciples missed some of the first moments because they blew off the witness of women.

Anyway, one of my favorite stories of Easter is about "out for pizza so missed Jesus appearing in the locked room and questioned whether the others were fibbing" Thomas. I refuse to call him "doubting Thomas" as he has been dubbed for a couple thousand years. Here's the story in John's Gospel, Mary Magdalene just announced to the disciples that she saw the risen lord, and mistook him for the gardener, but maybe she left that part out. She announces this news and the disciples lock themselves in a room out of fear, except for Thomas. Who knows what Thomas was doing; I like to imagine a pizza run. While they are locked in fear, Jesus appears and says, "Peace be with you". He shares the holy spirit, tells them to forgive sins and then Thomas returns after Jesus is gone. When the others say they saw Jesus, Thomas says, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

Give it a week, they are still in the room and Jesus shows up again, offers peace, and then says, "put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." This moment is a famous subject for many paintings and kind of gross. Caravaggio paints Thomas with his finger digging around in Jesus' side. Thomas proclaims him Lord and then Jesus says, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

It's a great story of peace, grace and courage that finally sends the disciples out to share the good news with the world. I really just tell you all this to get to the subject of epistemology, the study of knowing. I've been concerned about many things, but one is that Facebook community collective doesn't devolve into calling people nazis as much anymore. The arguments devolve into something like, "don't believe anything you see or hear."

In 2022, a handbook was published for journalists to know how to cover the rising of authoritarian regimes around the world. One quote stood out to me as a pastor:

These lies have two purposes: first, they are political weapons aimed at crippling opponents and shoring up key constituencies through invented false grievances. And second, they are smokescreens for power grabs and abuses, insulating authoritarians against accountability. Often this cover is indirect, through mass doubt and confusion. ***The goal is not always to sell a lie, but instead to undermine the notion that anything in particular is true.*** **Protect Democracy, The Authoritarian Playbook (June 2022).**

Continued on page 6...

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are so many opportunities to learn and connect with each other. Thank you to all those who are willing to lead. Classroom-style faith formation will continue until Lent.

General Sunday Schedule at SOV

8:30 am Men's Group.
9:30 am Worship.
10:30 am Coffee fellowship. Thank you to our Sunday morning snack crew! Please note, anyone can do dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:45 am Faith Formation classes for all ages.

Faith Formation During The Season of Lent

Join us following worship on Sunday, March 2 for the **Fat Follies** pancake feast (and balloon animals). We get all of our silliness out before the somber and reflective Season of Lent.

The Season of Lent begins on March 5 with Ash Wednesday. On Sundays through Lent, in lieu of regular faith formation classes, we will have **Devotions and Delights** for all ages. We'll have yummy baked goods and thirty minute devotions on prayer. Plan on joining us and grow in your relationship with God and each other. If you would like to help clean up or provide baked goods, please talk with Pastor Tari..

More details about Lent and Easter are on page 4 of the newsletter.

Small Groups (take place at SOV, unless otherwise noted)

Sunday Morning Men's Group—8:30 a.m. (before worship). The guys gather to catch up on life.

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

Parents and Caregivers as Sexual Educators—The next gathering is 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 18. If childcare is needed, please email the church. We will have a light dinner available.

Mom's Group—5:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 25. Time for moms of young ones to gather for dinner, a craft, and good conversation. Please email the church ahead of time if childcare is needed.

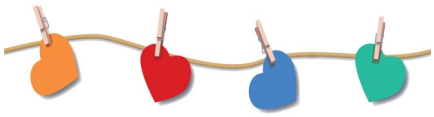
Discipleship Academy—The group will meet at 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 8. Everyone is welcome; the group usually meets two hours.

LORD my God, I called to you for help, and you healed me. Psalm 30:2

Service of Healing on April 6

On April 6, we will have a service of healing as part of the regular Sunday worship. Our prayer book describes it like this, "The Order for Healing may be used in a variety of circumstances in the church's ministry of care. Those who sense the need for God's healing in any aspect of their lives may receive the gifts of prayer and of the laying on of hands, which may be accompanied by anointing with oil. These signs, first given in baptism, tell us again that we are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked forever with the cross of Christ, who is health and salvation for the whole world.

In its ministry of healing, the church does not replace the gifts of God that come through the scientific community, nor does it promise a cure. The church offers and celebrates gifts such as these: God's presence with strength and comfort in time of suffering, God's promise of wholeness and peace, and God's love embodied in the community of faith."



Ways to Serve in March & April

Lenten Special Offering

During Lent, we will collect diapers for the AEYC Diaper Bank. Read the flyer to the right for more information; and check out page 4 for details about Lenten activities and the special offering.

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, March 19 and April 16. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

Thank you to everyone who has taken part in this remarkable ministry. This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. Talk to Gail Fenumiai if interested.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open 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.

Shelter Training

We are finishing the last steps to become a Red Cross shelter in case of disaster. It would be great to have in-house volunteers in addition to the Red Cross volunteers. Training happens in March (see flyer to the right). If you are willing to be trained, please talk to Pastor Tari or Theresa Ross.

Delicious Pork Dinner Fundraiser for New Zealand/Aotearoa Pilgrimage

Forty people aged 6 to over 80 are planning on a pilgrimage of friendship in January 2026. We'll explore friendship in scriptures and J.R.R. Tolkien

Please support this crew by purchasing a ticket for the April 6 "take away" pork dinner. Each dinner has a pulled pork sandwich, coleslaw, baked beans and a chocolate covered Oreo for a suggested donation of $10. Pick up is between 4:30-6:30 pm.

You may also donate a meal for the food pantry for $10 and we will bag up the supplies to make a dinner that is similar.

Purchase a ticket from one of the participants or online https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/6991400.

The Season of Lent Begins March 5

Lent is preparation for Easter. It is 40 days (not including Sundays) of fasting, prayer, and confession. Purple is the color for Lent as a sign of penance, as we enter into the darkness of our sin; and it is a sign of royalty, recognizing Christ's lordship even over death and sin.

Our annual event **Fat Follies** happens after worship on March 2. This is our pre-Lent pancake feast and time for silliness; our time to recognize the tradition of clearing out fatty foods before the religious obligations and fasting associated with Lent.

Ash Wednesday is March 5. Join us for worship at 5:30 p.m.

Lenten Devotions and Delights for all ages will follow worship through Lent. We'll have baked goods and thirty minute devotions on prayer. Plan on joining us and grow in your relationship with God and each other. If you would like to help clean up or provide baked goods, please talk with Pastor Tari.

Lenten Devotions are available on the SOV website and app. Written by members and friends of the congregation, the devotions are thoughts about Bible stories that reflect Subversive Spirituality - how God undermines power. Thank you to everyone who wrote. Make sure you are signed up to receive the notifications on the app (we send notifications through the office, so you won't receive any random ones).

Special Offering for Lent—Helping the AEYC Diaper Bank
See the flyer on page 3 for more info. Bring the following sizes of diapers on the corresponding Sunday.

March 9	Infant size	March 16	Size 1	March 23	Size 2
March 30	Size 3	April 6	Size 4	April 13	Size 5

Interested in Baptism or Becoming a Member of SOV
Easter (April 20) is a wonderful time to celebrate baptisms and affirmation of baptisms (welcome new members). If you are interested in being baptized or becoming a member, please talk to Pastor Tari.

Holy Week & Easter in April

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on April 13.

The Triduum (three-day worship) begins with **Maundy Thursday on April 17.** Maundy means the commandment and it refers to the commandment that Jesus gives the disciples after he washes their feet to "love one another as he has loved them." Shepherd of the Valley will take a photographic journey through images of what love looks like and share a potluck and worship at 6:00 pm. We will need readers and photos. If you are interested, please talk to Pastor Tari.

We continue the journey to **Good Friday on April 18.** Good Friday worship is at 7 p.m. at SOV.

We continue with an overnight prayer vigil from 8 p.m. Friday night until 5 p.m. Saturday night. Please sign-up for a prayer slot on the front door.

Middle school youth will meet from 3-5 p.m., Saturday, April 19 for pizza and egg cracking (breakfast prep) and egg filling (egg hunt prep).

Sunday morning (April 20) completes the three-day worship at **6:30 a.m. at Skater's Cabin** with sunrise service. We worship with Aldersgate and St. Brendan's. We will have also worship at **Shepherd of the Valley at 9:30 a.m.**

Easter breakfast is served by the Fellowship Committee and middle school youth from **10-11:30 a.m.** There will be an **Easter Egg Hunt at 11 a.m.** for the little ones. We would also like to take photos so we can update the photo board.

Easter dinner is a potluck on Sunday night at 5 pm. Pastor Tari will provide lamb and ham. Feel free to bring a side or dessert to share.

Our 50th Wedding Anniversary!

Annette & Scott Ranger

March 22, 1975

Join us for a party at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

March 16, 2025 5:00 pm

With 50 years together, we don't want any gifts! So please come and

Spam our anniversary

with some food for SOV's food pantry. Spam is a favorite along with canned meat dishes that don't require cooking.

Our reception is catered by V's Cellar Door so please RSVP by March 10 by texting your name and number to Annette at 770-639-8465

March & April Events

Soup & Worship on Wednesdays
A variety of Juneau congregations are hosting soup & worship through the Season of Lent in honor or the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicea. Details on the flyer to the right.

Virtual SE Alaska Cluster Gathering
SE Alaska Synod churches are welcome to virtually gather for check-ins, reflection, and planning. At 11:30 a.m., Sunday, March 16 folks in Juneau will gather in the SOV sanctuary to Zoom with our out-of-town friends. Pizza is provided and there will be a servant event. Bring your phone so we can share pictures and ideas with our friends across Southeast.

Alaska Synod Assembly
Alaska Lutheran churches will gather in Anchorage for synod assembly April 25-27. Teresa Kissel and Katherine Andrews are our delegates.

Soup & Worship

Every Wednesday starting March 12 at 5:30

In honor of the 1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, Juneau congregations will reflect on the triune love and call to unity affirmed by the church in 325 AD. During Lent (the 40 days leading up to Easter) we will share evening prayer in each unique location and style and a simple soup and bread dinner.

March 12 - Cathedral of the Nativity, 416 5th St
March 19 - St. Brendan's Episcopal, 4207 Mendenhall Loop Rd
March 26 - Salvation Army, 439 W Willoughby Ave
April 2 - Church of the Nazarene, 3220 Mendenhall Loop Rd
April 9 - First Baptist Church on Twin Lakes, 4625 Glacier Hwy

Meals provided by Salvation Army, St. Brendan's & Holy Trinity, First Baptist Church, Church of the Nazarene, Shepherd of the Valley & Resurrection Lutheran

Pastor Tari continued from front page…

Part of the foundation for building the beloved community is trust and truth. The witness to what truth looks like takes a lot of different perspectives to get a sense of what is going on behind the smokescreen. That requires listening and trusting the stories people tell knowing they are not the whole story. It takes time of exploring, asking questions, digging deeper. Things are not made true because we say them louder and more often. Things may be pronounced true after gathering information from a variety of sources, considering the validity of each, examining our own desires about what we want to be true, and then living as if it is true while being open to the possibility that new evidence may challenge that truth.

So the call is to get out of your locked room. If you are only getting news and information from sources that feed the same line, then make some new friends. If you are jaded and cynical enough to think nothing can be believed, then spend time with a puppy or child. If you have dismissed those who disagree and feel confident you are totally right, then maybe let a little humility sneak in to imagine you might not have the universe figured out.

I love this season because it is a time of opening our eyes and our hearts to witness the truth of eternal love.

Peace,

Pastor Tari

Generous Gifts

Loose Offering

All loose offering gathered on Sundays goes towards a designated ministry. In March, the loose offering goes to the Mobile Integrated Health Team. In April, it goes to help our friends in Nigeria. Thank you for your generosity in supporting these ministries.

Designated Offerings

Most of our general fund giving happens online with automatic giving. If you are interested in knowing more about automatic giving, talk with Gail Fenumiai.

Ways to Give

*Place checks or cash in the offering plate.

*Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give.

*Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

News You Can Use

Door Code Change - The old door code will no longer work as of March 1. Please contact the church office if you would like the new one. There is a form to fill out.

Daylight Savings Time begins March 9. Don't forget to set your clocks forward one hour before bedtime on March 8.

The **community playground build** is tentatively set for May 16-18. We still have a **$10,000 match** on the table from Elfrida to cover the final costs (we've raised $6500 toward the match so far).

40th birthday party for Shepherd of the Valley will be combined with the **bike rodeo/block party** on June 1 (and the blessing of the new playground).

Emergency Plan Update - Scott Hinton has summarized the duties for each of the different worship leaders in case of an emergency. Please watch your emails and review this plan. We'll have CPR training, volunteer training, and a fire drill at some point.

Summer lunch staff - We will hire 10 teens at $16 an hour for 12 hours a week. Applications will be out soon.

Let the Blessings Overflow

March Birthdays

6 Laurie Balstad
6 Xandor Beck
6 Arlo Hinton
7 Peggy Corazza
9 Liz Balstad
15 Mark Peterson
18 Adam Doten-Ferguson
20 Theresa Ross
22 Haeden Newport
23 Maya Ross
28 Dominick Boerem
29 Dawson Menz
29 Amos Kissel
30 Hannah Harvey
31 Nadine Marx

March Baptismal Birthdays

6 Roger Birk
10 Brianne Ragno
12 Josephine Orr
18 Nancy Hixson
21 Aaron Landvik
24 Amber Marshall
24 Bob Wright
31 Nadine Marx
31 Sharon Mitchell
31 Julie Orsborn

April Baptismal Birthdays

1 Kristina Abbott
1 Caleb Abbott
1 Emily Abbott
1 Erik Abbott
1 Debbi Howard
8 Adrienne Boyd
8 Allison Walton
8 Lauri Walton
16 Elfrida Nord
17 Lauren Stichert
17 Lisa Wallace
20 Cheryl Jebe
20 Janalynn Doten-Ferguson
20 Rachel Sielbach
20 Nyah Martin
20 Kiley Stevens
21 Lily Dietz
21 Finn Larson
22 Nick Andrews
23 Eileen Hosey
24 Mark Peterson
24 Dylan Miller
30 Cameron Marx

April Birthdays

3 Mark Carls
3 Steve Carls
3 Marianne Jacobs
4 Doug Larsen
7 Paul Beran
9 Rosemary Kiessling
10 Gayle Trivette
12 Linda Shaw
14 Ollie Odum
17 Gail Fenumiai
24 Marie Parfitt
27 Deb Etheridge

Thanks to Our Church Council

The council will gather at Little Flower cabin from 3-7 p.m., Sunday, March 2. We'll spend time reviewing the constitution, Lutheran theology, leadership and priorities for this next year. Please keep this crew in your prayers:
Helen Mehrkens
Sue Trivette
Lisa Wallace
Chuck Orsborn
Dan Corson
Scott Hinton
Gail Fenumiai
Katherine Andrews

Thank You to Our March/April Newsletter Sponsor

This issue of *The Shepherd's Voice* is sponsored by dear friends of SOV, Cynthia and Ron Plantz. While they haven't lived in Juneau for several years, they're good at keeping in touch with us. Thank you for keeping us in your thoughts, Cynthia and Ron, and for sponsoring the newsletter.

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.

2025 APRIL

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			

www.calendar-to-print.com

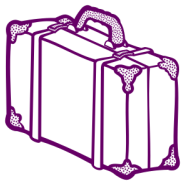
March

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

Food Pantry Direct Line: 907-500-3588

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	**Travel Blessings**—Prayers to the SOV travelers headed to Bethel this month to visit friends at Table of Grace Lutheran and attend the Cama-i Dance Festival. Speaking of travel, please note that in 2025 we will not be able to visit our friends in Whitehorse, due to unpredictable and expensive ferry scheduling.					*1* 9-10 am Pantry
2 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Follies 1130 am NZ Mtg 3-7 pm Council Retreat	*3*	*4*	*5* **Ash Wednesday** 530 pm Worship	*6*	*7* 9-10 am Devos	*8* 9-10 am Pantry
9 Spring Forward 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Delights	*10*	*11*	*12* 530 pm Soup & Worship at Cathedral	*13*	*14* 9-10 am Devos	*15* 9-10 am Pantry
16 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Delights 1130 am Virtual Cluster 5 pm Ranger Party 630 pm Book Club	*17*	*18* 530 pm Parents & Caregivers	*19* SOV at the Glory Hall 530 pm Soup & Worship at St. Brendan's	*20*	*21* 9-10 am Devos	*22* 9-10 am Pantry
23 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Delights	*24*	*25* 530 pm Mom's Group	*26* 530 pm Soup & Worship at Salvation Army	*27*	*28* 9-10 am Devos	*29* 9-10 am Pantry with Hot Breakfast
30 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Delights **Crew from SOV travels to Bethel**	*31*					

Glacier Bible Camp 2025

It's never too early to start thinking about summer camp. This year we will be at Boy Scout Camp July 21-26. Youth going into 5th-12th grade are welcome to join us. Cost is $100 for those living in Juneau and $50 for those outside Juneau. We will need counselors and other staff; mark your calendars and plan to join us. Registration: https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/9690195

2025 MAY

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

www.calendar-to-print.com

April

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

Food Pantry Direct Line: 907-500-3588

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 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 life coaches who are trained to walk with people during overwhelming times, or even to check in during "normal" times. If you're curious, feel free to ask Pastor Tari more about it.	*2* 530 pm Soup & Worship at Church of Nazarene	*3*	*4* 9-10 am Devos	*5* 9-10 am Pantry
6 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship with Service of Healing 1030 am Delights 430-630 pm Take Away Pork Dinner Fundraiser	*7*	*8*	*9* 530 pm Soup & Worship at First Baptist	*10*	*11* 9-10 am Devos	*12* 9-10 am Pantry
13 **Palm Sunday** 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Delights	*14*	*15*	*16* SOV at the Glory Hall 7 pm Council	*17* **Maundy Thursday** 6 pm Potluck and Worship	*18* **Good Friday** 9-10 am Devos 7 pm Worship 8 pm Overnight Prayer Vigil Begins	*19* 9-10 am Pantry 3-5 pm Breakfast Prep
20 **Easter Sunday** 630 am Sunrise Svs 930 am Worship 10-1130 am Breakfast 11 am Egg Hunt 5 pm Potluck	*21*	*22*	*23* 530 pm NZ Zoom option mtg	*24* **Synod Assembly in Anchorage**	*25* 9-10 am Devos	*26* 9-10 am Pantry with Hot Breakfast
27 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee Fellowship 1045 am Classes 1130 am NZ Mtg	*28*	*29*	*30*	**A Moment for Prayer**—Please keep in your prayers Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; and ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. We also pray for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners. Our partner for March is Shishmaref Lutheran Church in Shishmaref, AK and April is River of Life Lutheran Church in Chugiak, AK.		

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
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SAVE THIS NEWSLETTER!
IT'S THE MARCH AND APRIL ISSUE.

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 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