LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

General Sunday Schedule at SOV

8:30 am Men's Group.
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Thank you to our Sunday morning snack crew! Please note, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
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9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

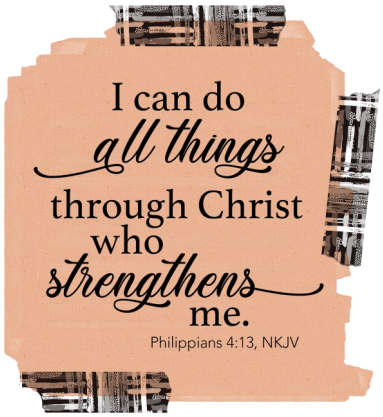
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Return Service Requested

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Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 issue.

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.
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

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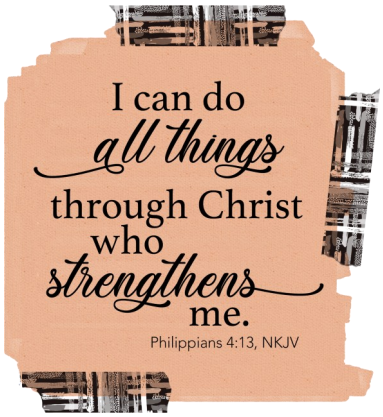
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Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
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One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
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What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 12 to 19 - - - -						
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Alan & Shirley Tolles
4517 Trafalgar Ave.
Juneau, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

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What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

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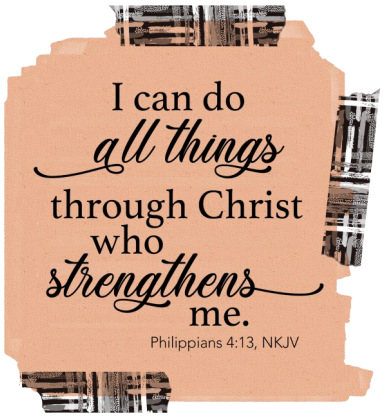
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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
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A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

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Master Facility Update

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AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
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Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
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Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
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Lisa Wallace
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Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

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She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

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Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





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4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
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10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
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27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
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5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
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16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



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2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
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28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

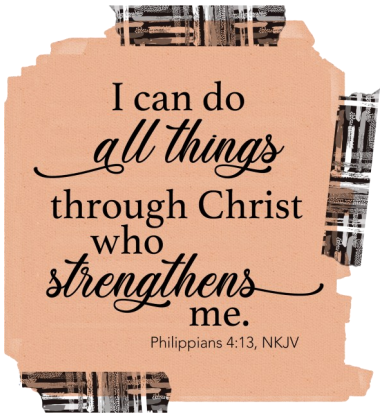
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

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We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

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Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

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8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

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9-10 am on Saturdays (in person)

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November 2025

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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, AK 99803



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

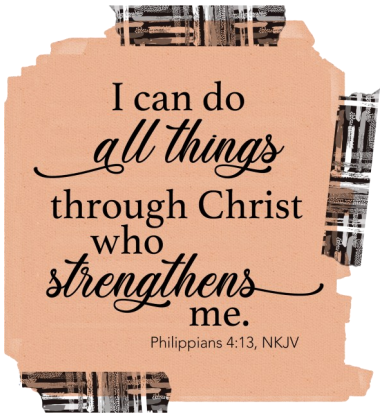
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
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27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
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www.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
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Mailing Address: PO Box 34859, Juneau, AK 99803
Email: sovjuneau@gmail.com Office: (907) 789-4093
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Web: www.sovlutheran.org Like us on Facebook

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Sequim, WA 98382-8920



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 issue.

SOV
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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
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The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

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So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
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We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

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Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

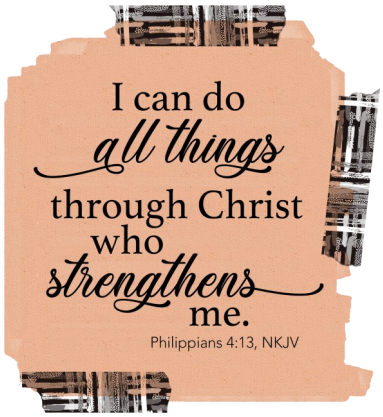
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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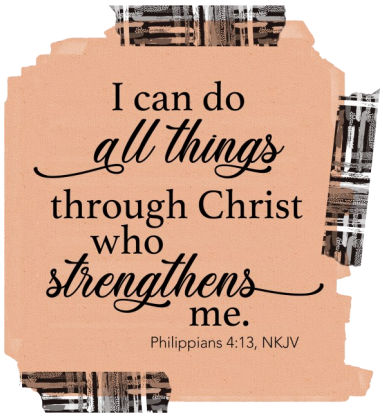
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Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Glide, OR 97443



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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.
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

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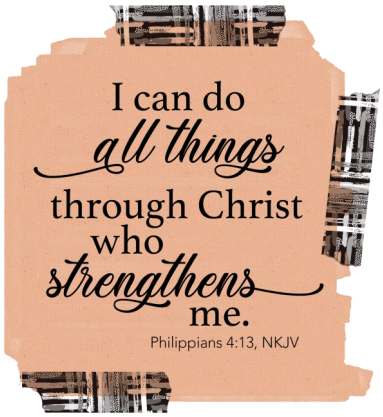
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Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

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Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

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Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

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Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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			1 4 pm Aotearoa Zoom Meeting 630 pm OWL	2	3 9 am Devotions	4 9 –10 am Pantry
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 12 to 19 - - - -						
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Anita Evans
4030 C Delta Drive
Juneau, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

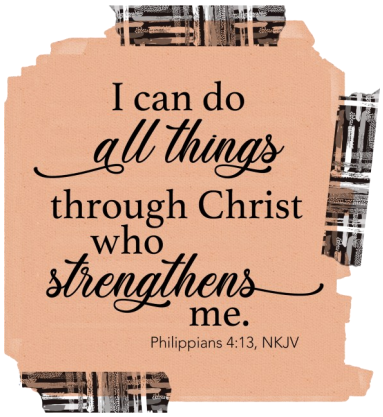
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
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Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

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Duvall Family
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Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

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She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
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She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

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Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





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4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
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28 Trish Dihle
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October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
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2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



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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.

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October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



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9-10 am on Saturdays (in person)

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Ann & Russ Griffin
PO Box 32191
Juneau, AK 99803



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

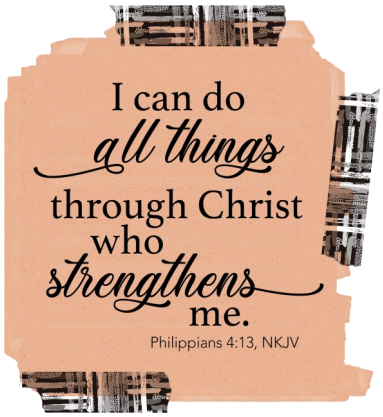
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
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www.a-printable-calendar.com

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			1 4 pm Aotearoa Zoom Meeting 630 pm OWL	2	3 9 am Devotions	4 9 –10 am Pantry
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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Aunt Jan & Uncle Ed Fisher
4533 Windsor Court E
Bradenton, FL 34203



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 issue.

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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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.
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

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

September
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The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

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I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

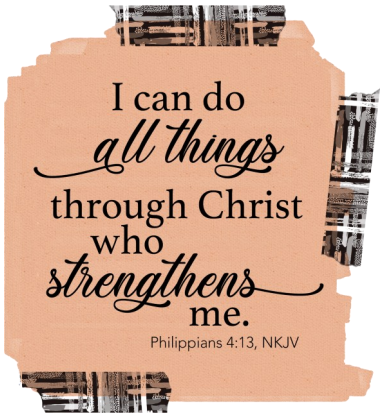
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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

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August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
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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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
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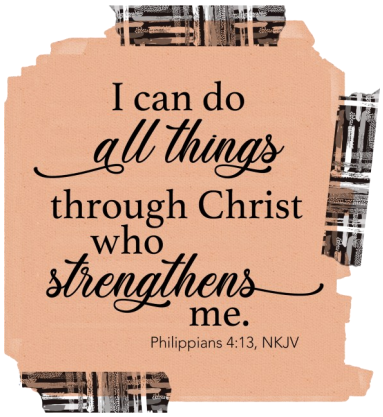
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With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Becky Weimer
PO Box 32072
Juneau, AK 99803



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

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Ways to Give

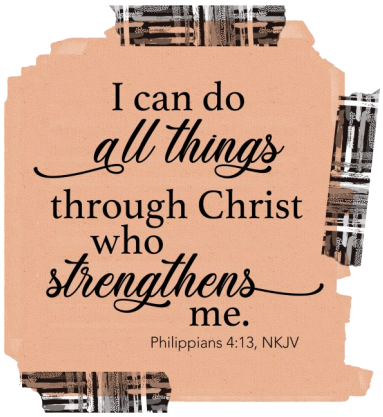
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With Grateful Hearts

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Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
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A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

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First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 12 to 19 - - - -						
19 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	20	21 Noon Lunch with Love	22 630 pm OWL	23 530 pm Parents & Caregivers	24 9 am Devotions Family Retreat at Shrine	25 9 –10 am Pantry
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

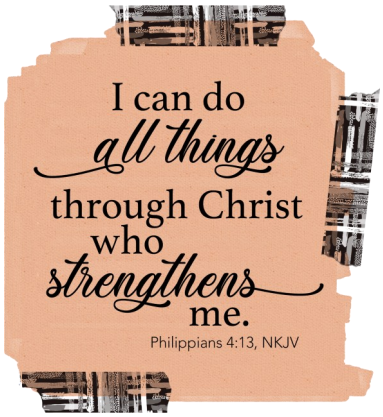
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
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A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

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PSEA
Global Credit
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Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
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Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

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Other things to know from Linda

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She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

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Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





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9-10 am on Saturdays (in person)

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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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Ben Nestler
8757 Dudley Street
Juneau, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

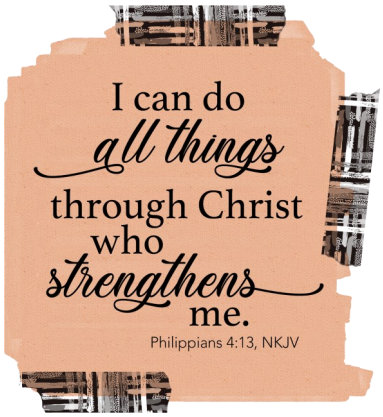
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

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November 2025

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30						

www.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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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.

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Faith Formation for All Ages: See inside for details.
In-Person Food Pantry: 9-10 am Saturdays
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Loved by God; Loving Others.
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Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

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I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

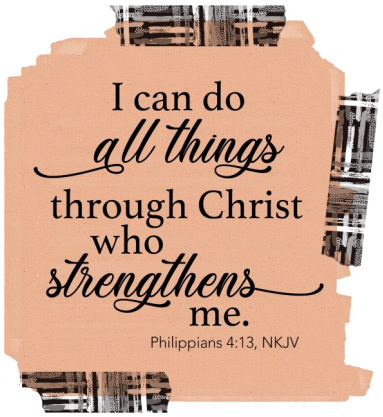
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



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During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

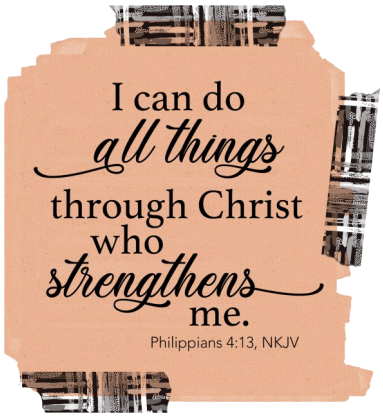
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Betty Jo Svensson
8149 Keegan Street
Juneau, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

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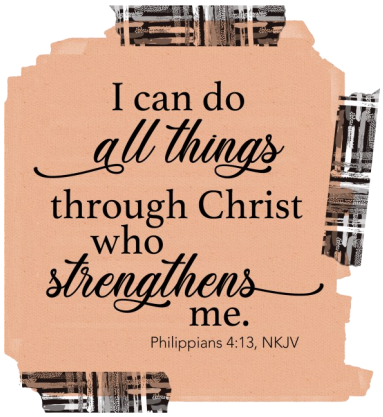
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Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
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A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

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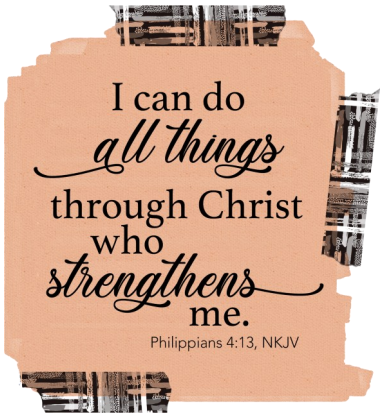
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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
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A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

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Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

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Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
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Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

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Other things to know from Linda

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She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

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Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





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15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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4143 Aspen Ave.
Juneau, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

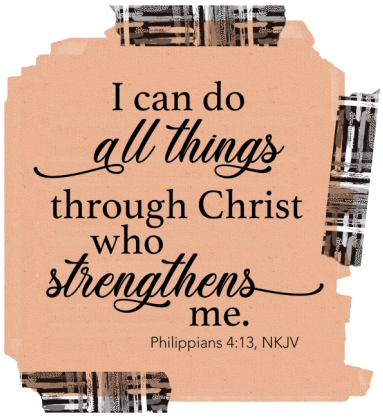
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

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Elks 420
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Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

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Submitted by Pastor Tari

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13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

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Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

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November 2025

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www.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Bill Hanson
PO Box 240128
Douglas, AK 99824



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 issue.

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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

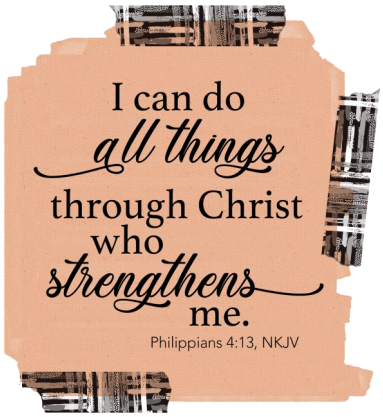
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
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Mailing Address: PO Box 34859, Juneau, AK 99803
Email: sovjuneau@gmail.com Office: (907) 789-4093
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Web: www.sovlutheran.org Like us on Facebook

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Bob and Connie Williams
2618 John Street
Juneau, AK 99801



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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.

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LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

Loved by God; Loving Others.
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September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

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There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

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So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

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Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

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Peace,
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Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

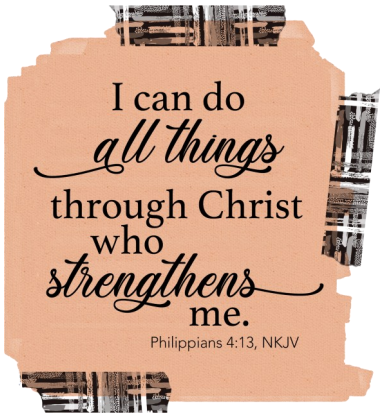
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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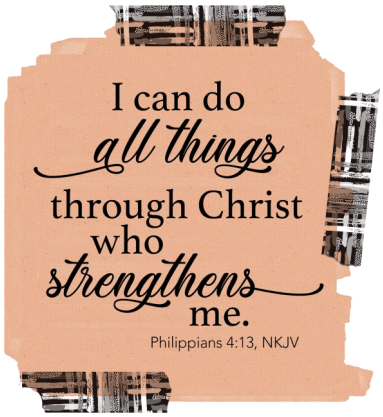
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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Brevig Mission, AK 99785



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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.
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

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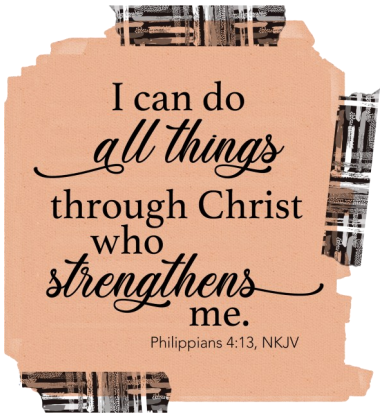
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Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

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Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
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Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

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Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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			1 4 pm Aotearoa Zoom Meeting 630 pm OWL	2	3 9 am Devotions	4 9 –10 am Pantry
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 12 to 19 - - - -						
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

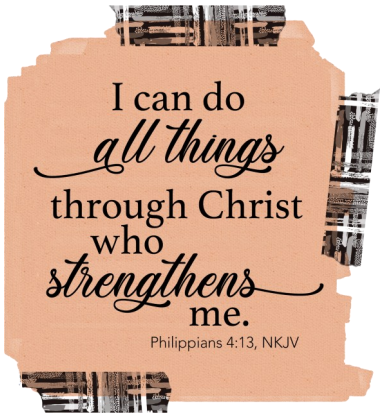
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
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Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

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She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

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Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





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4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
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28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



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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

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Anchorage, AK 99501



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

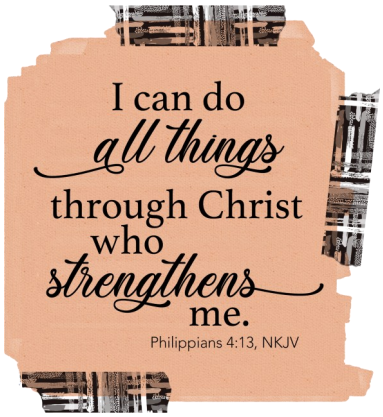
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
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www.a-printable-calendar.com

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			1 4 pm Aotearoa Zoom Meeting 630 pm OWL	2	3 9 am Devotions	4 9 –10 am Pantry
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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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It is the September/October 2025 issue.

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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.
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
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The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

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I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

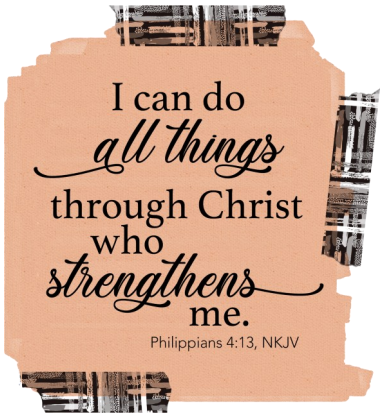
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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

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August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
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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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
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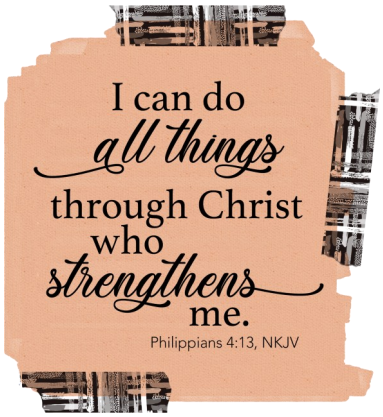
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With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Douglas, Alaska 99824



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

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Ways to Give

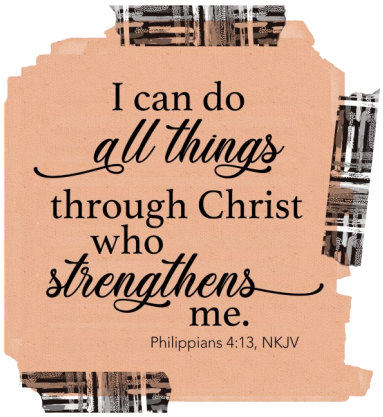
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With Grateful Hearts

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Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
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A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

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Elfrida Nord
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First Bank
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Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 12 to 19 - - - -						
19 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	20	21 Noon Lunch with Love	22 630 pm OWL	23 530 pm Parents & Caregivers	24 9 am Devotions Family Retreat at Shrine	25 9 –10 am Pantry
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

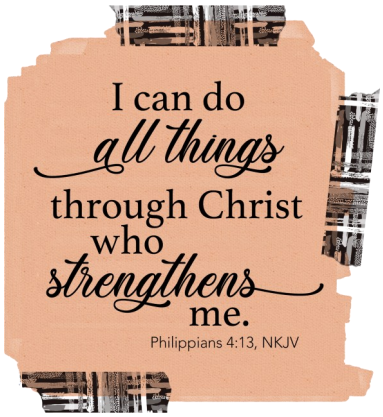
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
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A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

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Memory of Hank
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Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

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Other things to know from Linda

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She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

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Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





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9-10 am on Saturdays (in person)

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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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Soldotna, AK 99669



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

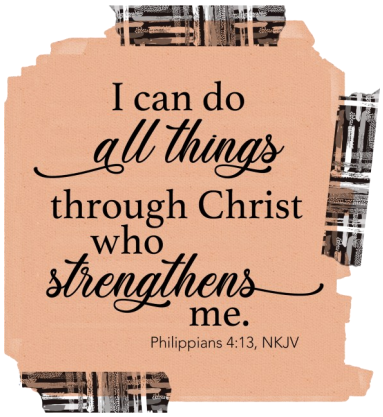
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

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November 2025

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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

www.a-printable-calendar.com

October

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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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.

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Faith Formation for All Ages: See inside for details.
In-Person Food Pantry: 9-10 am Saturdays
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

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Loved by God; Loving Others.
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The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

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I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

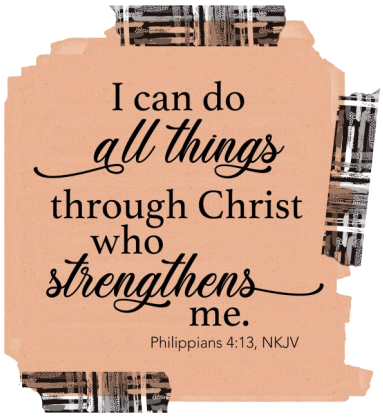
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



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Email: sovjuneau@gmail.com Office: (907) 789-4093
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Web: www.sovlutheran.org Like us on Facebook

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SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

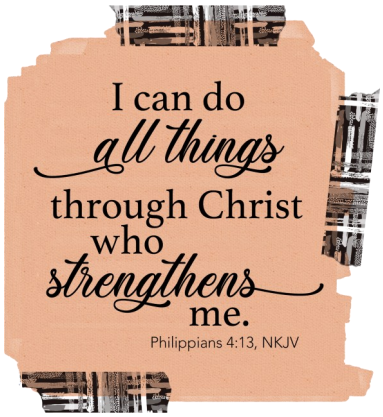
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Cindy Spanyers & Ed Flanagan
15360 Glacier Hwy
Juneau, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

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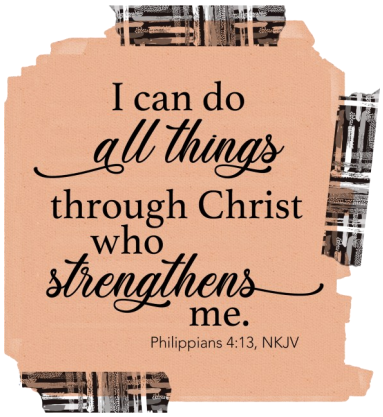
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Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
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A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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2512 Teslin St.
Juneau, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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.
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

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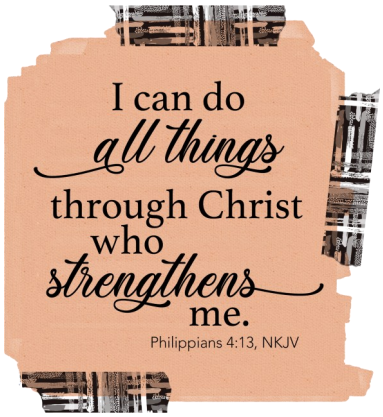
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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
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Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

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Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
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Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

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Other things to know from Linda

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She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
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Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





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13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Corbin & Jackie Corson
PO Box 104
Starbuck, MN 56381



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 issue.

SOV
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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

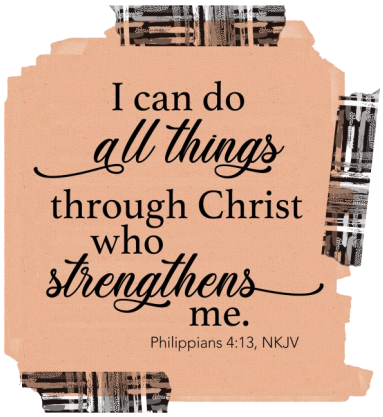
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

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Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

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Submitted by Pastor Tari

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13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

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October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



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9-10 am on Saturdays (in person)

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November 2025

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www.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

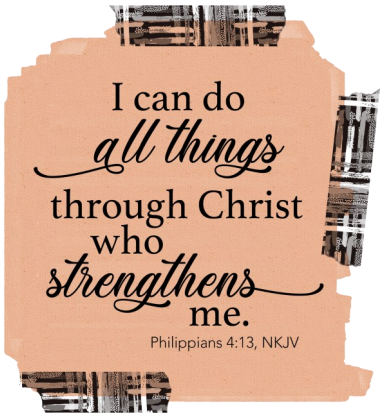
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
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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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St. Ignace, MI 49781



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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

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So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

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Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

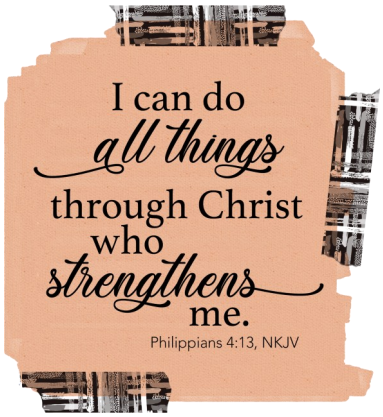
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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, AK 99801



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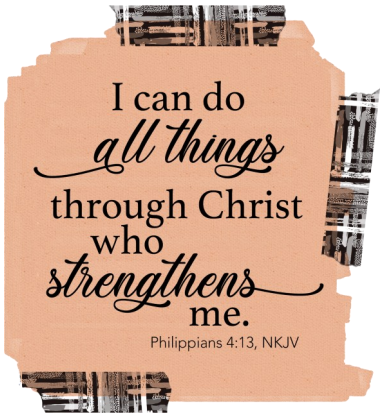
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Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Debbie Parsons
9951 Stephen Richards Memorial Dr. Spc. 24
Juneau, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

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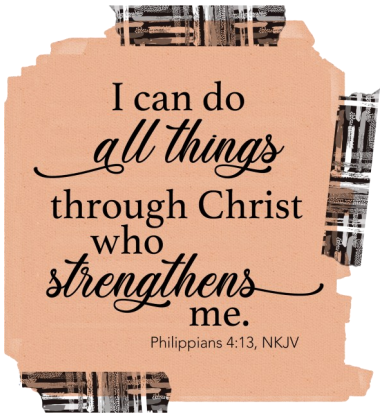
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Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

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Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

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Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

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Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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			1 4 pm Aotearoa Zoom Meeting 630 pm OWL	2	3 9 am Devotions	4 9 –10 am Pantry
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 12 to 19 - - - -						
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Deb Etheridge
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Juneau, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

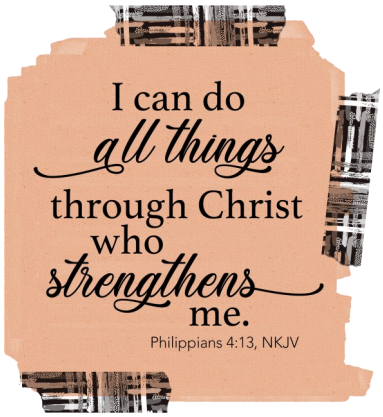
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
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A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

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Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

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Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

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She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

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Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





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4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
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October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
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13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
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9-10 am on Saturdays (in person)

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Dennis & Virginia Iverson
3715 Darrow Ave. SE
Delano, MN 55328



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

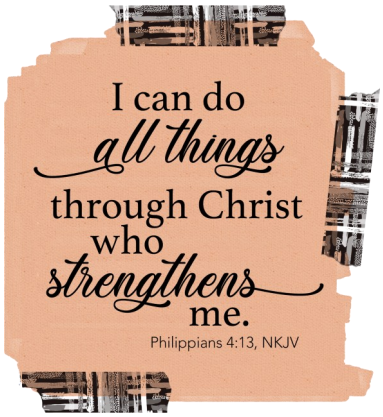
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

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Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
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www.a-printable-calendar.com

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			1 4 pm Aotearoa Zoom Meeting 630 pm OWL	2	3 9 am Devotions	4 9 –10 am Pantry
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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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.
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

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

September
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2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

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I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

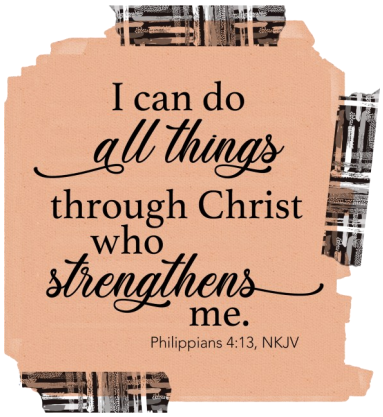
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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

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August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
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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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

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General Sunday Schedule at SOV

8:30 am Men's Group.
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Thank you to our Sunday morning snack crew! Please note, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
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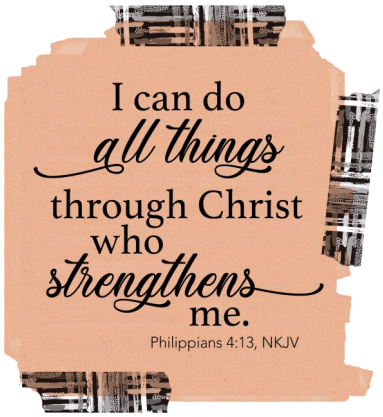
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With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Doug and Wendy Larsen
16005 Point Lena Way
Juneau, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 issue.

SOV
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
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

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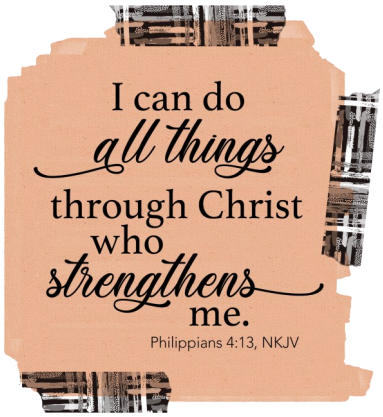
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With Grateful Hearts

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Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
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One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

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First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 12 to 19 - - - -						
19 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	20	21 Noon Lunch with Love	22 630 pm OWL	23 530 pm Parents & Caregivers	24 9 am Devotions Family Retreat at Shrine	25 9 –10 am Pantry
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

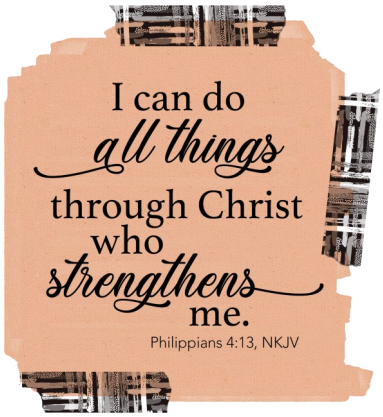
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
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A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

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Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

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Other things to know from Linda

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She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
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Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





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9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
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9-10 am on Saturdays (in person)

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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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

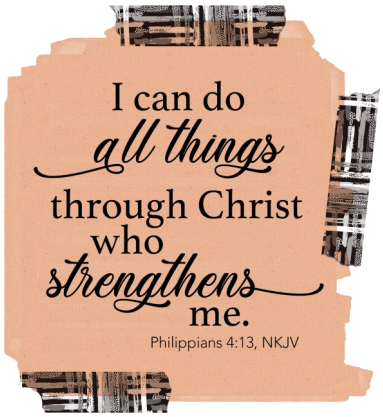
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

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November 2025

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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

www.a-printable-calendar.com

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9-10 am on Saturdays (in person)

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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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
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

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Loved by God; Loving Others.
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The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

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I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

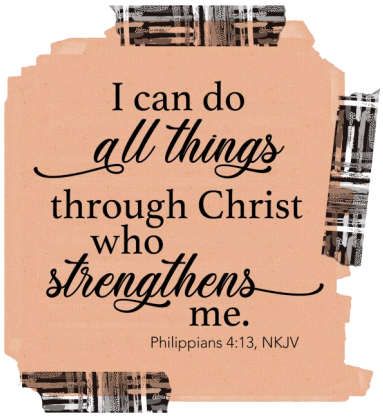
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



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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

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SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

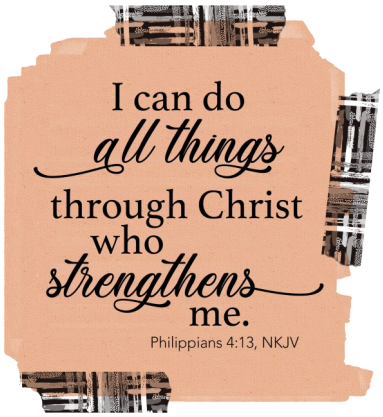
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

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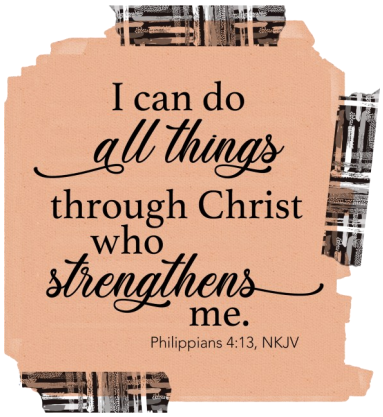
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Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
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Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Fairbanks, AK 99701



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 issue.

SOV
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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

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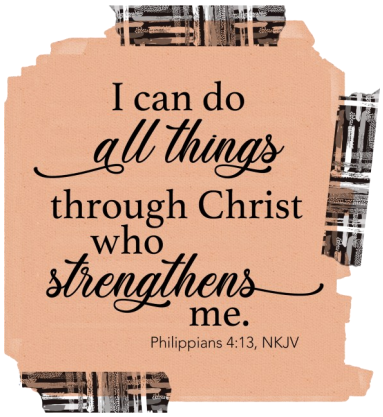
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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
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Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

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Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
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Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

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Other things to know from Linda

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Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

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Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





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13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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3465 Tongass Blvd 4
Juneau, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

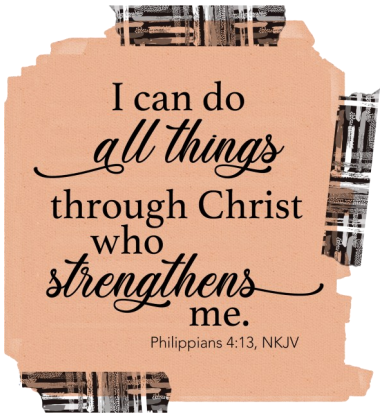
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

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Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

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13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

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9-10 am on Saturdays (in person)

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November 2025

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www.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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PO Box 951
Delta Junction, AK 99737



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

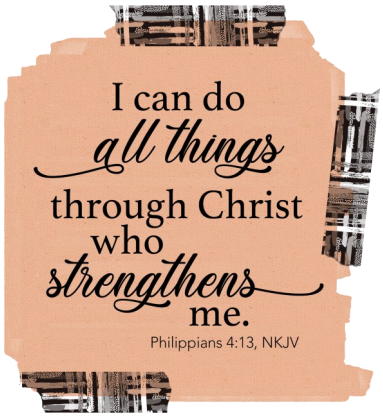
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
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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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LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

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So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

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Peace,
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Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

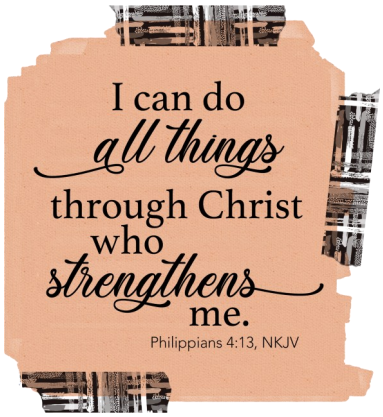
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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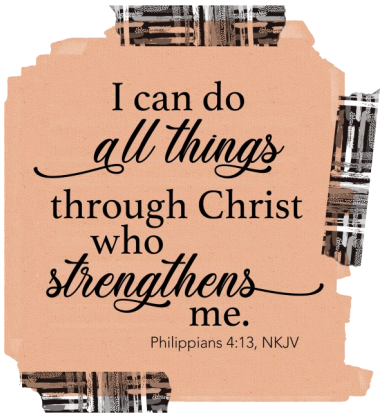
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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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9401 Long Run Drive
Juneau, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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.
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

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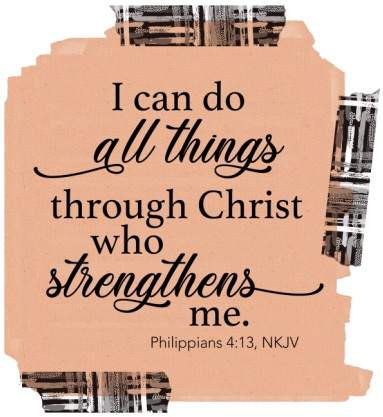
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Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

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Elfrida Nord
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First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
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Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

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Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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5 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 1130 am Aotearoa In-Person Meeting	6	7 Noon Lunch with Love	8 630 pm OWL	9	10 9 am Devotions	11 9 –10 am Pantry
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 12 to 19 - - - -						
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

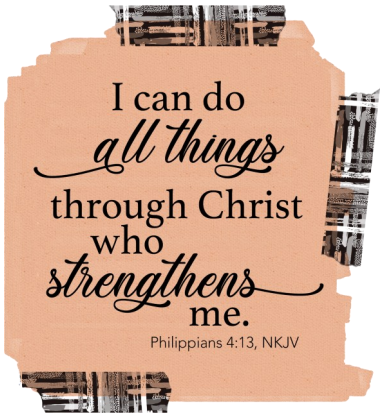
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
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Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

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Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

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Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





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4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
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October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
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13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



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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

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Mesquite, NV 89027



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

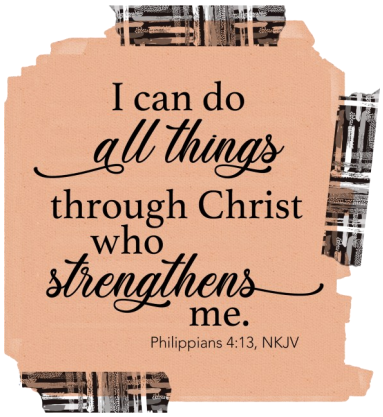
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

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www.a-printable-calendar.com

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			1 4 pm Aotearoa Zoom Meeting 630 pm OWL	2	3 9 am Devotions	4 9 –10 am Pantry
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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 issue.

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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.
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
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The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

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I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

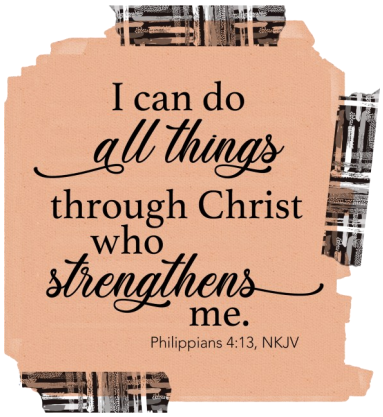
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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

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August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
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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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
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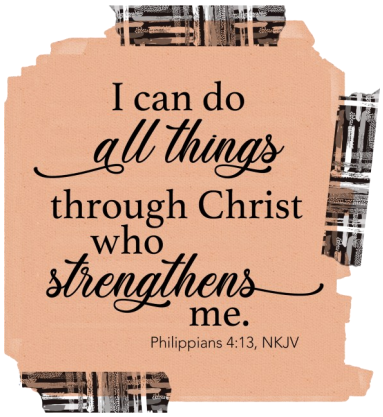
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With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 issue.

SOV
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
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

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Ways to Give

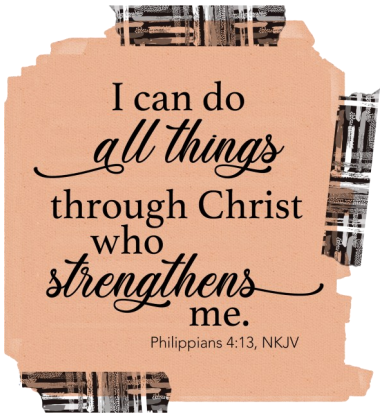
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With Grateful Hearts

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Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
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A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

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Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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5 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 1130 am Aotearoa In-Person Meeting	6	7 Noon Lunch with Love	8 630 pm OWL	9	10 9 am Devotions	11 9 –10 am Pantry
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 12 to 19 - - - -						
19 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	20	21 Noon Lunch with Love	22 630 pm OWL	23 530 pm Parents & Caregivers	24 9 am Devotions Family Retreat at Shrine	25 9 –10 am Pantry
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 issue.

SOV
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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

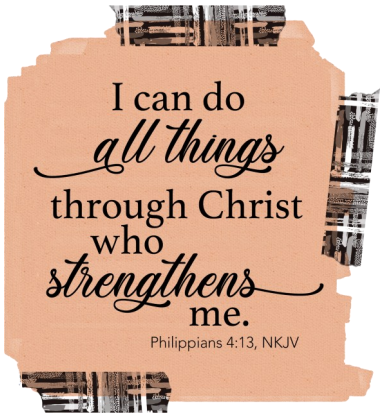
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





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Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
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Stage Family
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Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
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Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

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Other things to know from Linda

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She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

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Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





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4 Sharon Mitchell
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9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
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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

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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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Good Shepherd Lutheran
501 Bogard Rd.
Wasilla, AK 99687



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

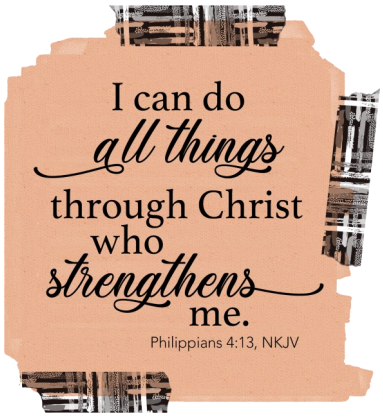
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

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November 2025

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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

www.a-printable-calendar.com

October

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9-10 am on Saturdays (in person)

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Grandpaw & Grandma J Harvey
5011 Big Run Rd.
Grove City, OH 43123



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It is the September/October 2025 issue.

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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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.

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Faith Formation for All Ages: See inside for details.
In-Person Food Pantry: 9-10 am Saturdays
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

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Loved by God; Loving Others.
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The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

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I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

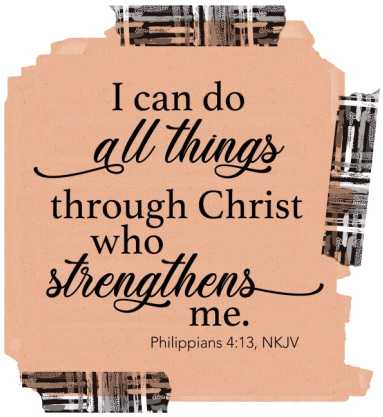
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



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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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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

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During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

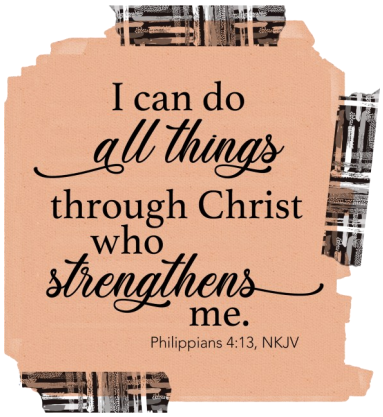
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Douglas, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

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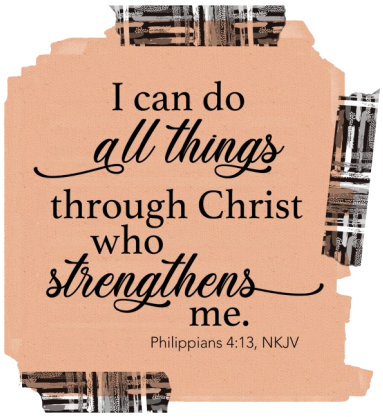
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Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
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Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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PO Box 2358
Wrangell, AK 99929



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 issue.

SOV
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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

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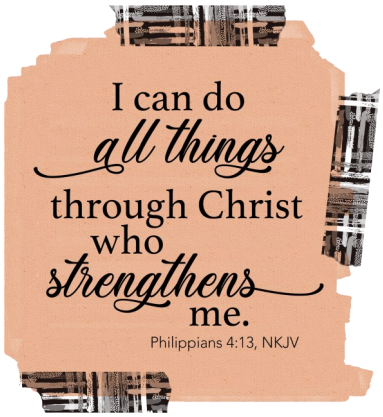
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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
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Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

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Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

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Other things to know from Linda

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She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
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Good news and celebrations in September and October





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2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
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28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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James Wilson
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Juneau, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

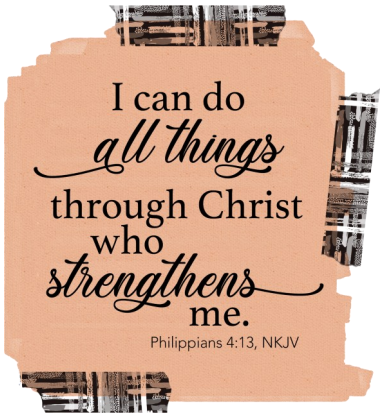
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

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Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

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Submitted by Pastor Tari

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I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

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30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

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September

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9-10 am on Saturdays (in person)

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November 2025

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www.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Jennifer & Steve Jozwiak
2905 Jackson Rd.
Juneau, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

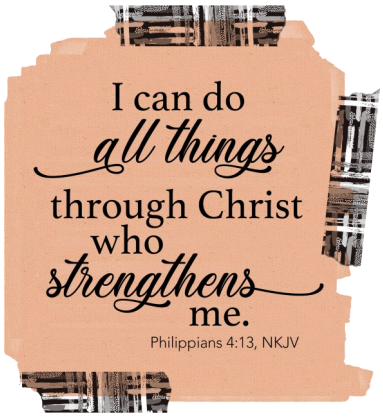
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
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Web: www.sovlutheran.org Like us on Facebook

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Allendale, MI 49401



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It is the September/October 2025 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.
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

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

September
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The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

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So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
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We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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8:30 am Men's Group.
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Thank you to our Sunday morning snack crew! Please note, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
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Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

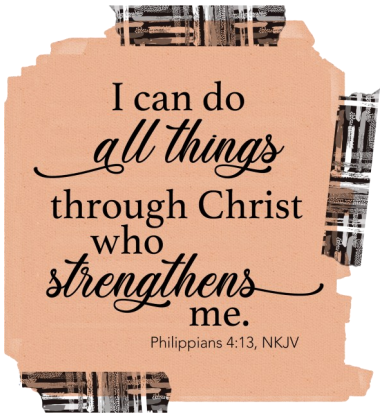
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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5 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 1130 am Aotearoa In-Person Meeting	6	7 Noon Lunch with Love	8 630 pm OWL	9	10 9 am Devotions	11 9 –10 am Pantry
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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

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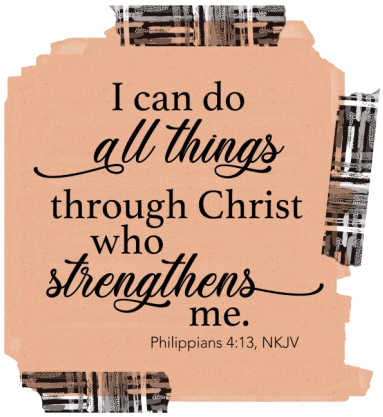
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Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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.
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

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2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

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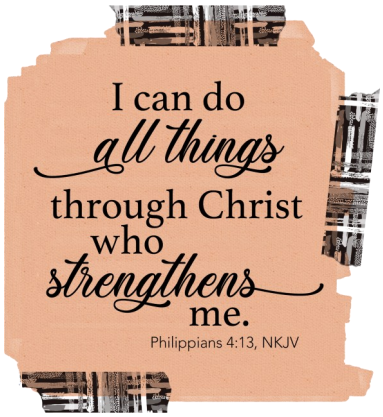
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Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

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Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

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Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

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Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

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Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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			1 4 pm Aotearoa Zoom Meeting 630 pm OWL	2	3 9 am Devotions	4 9 –10 am Pantry
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 12 to 19 - - - -						
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Reno, NV 89506



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

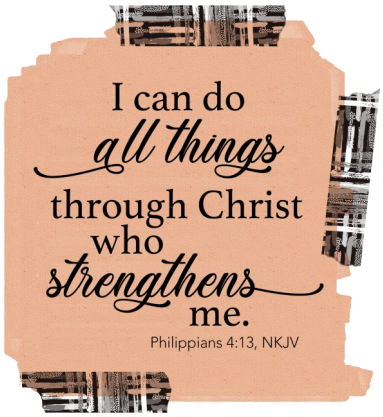
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
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A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

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Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

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Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
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Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

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Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

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Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





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4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
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October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
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13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



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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

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Eagle River, AK 99577



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

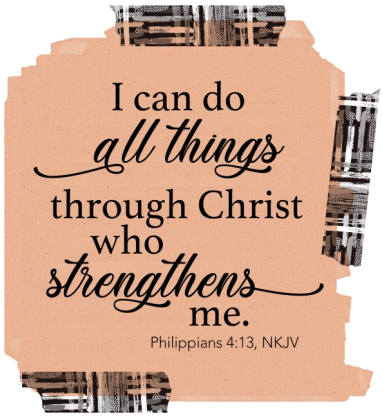
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
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www.a-printable-calendar.com

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			1 4 pm Aotearoa Zoom Meeting 630 pm OWL	2	3 9 am Devotions	4 9 –10 am Pantry
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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 issue.

SOV
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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
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The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

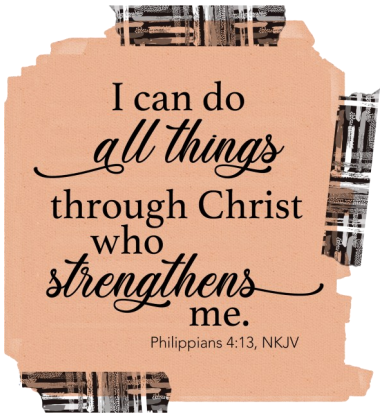
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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

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August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
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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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Juneau, AK 99801



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Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

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General Sunday Schedule at SOV

8:30 am Men's Group.
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Thank you to our Sunday morning snack crew! Please note, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
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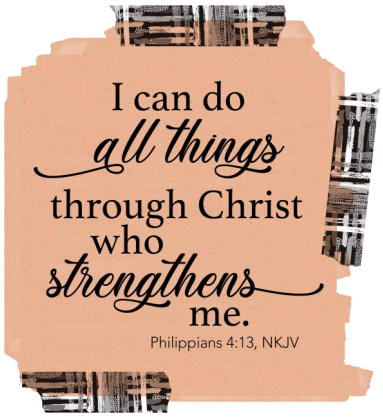
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With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
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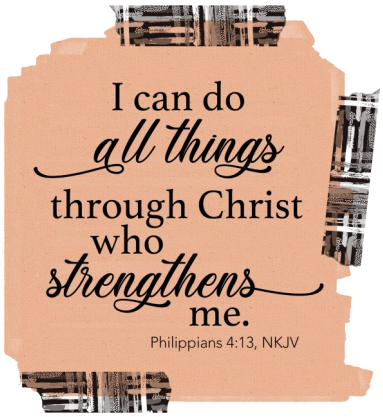
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With Grateful Hearts

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Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
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A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

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Elfrida Nord
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First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 12 to 19 - - - -						
19 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	20	21 Noon Lunch with Love	22 630 pm OWL	23 530 pm Parents & Caregivers	24 9 am Devotions Family Retreat at Shrine	25 9 –10 am Pantry
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

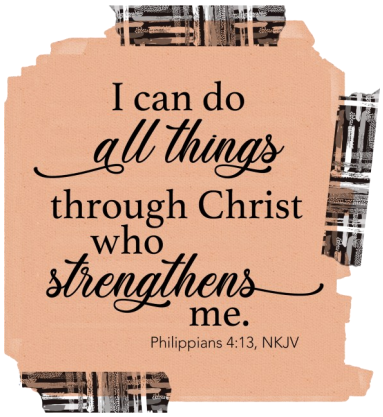
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
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A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

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PSEA
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Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
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Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
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Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

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Other things to know from Linda

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She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





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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

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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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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, AK 99803



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

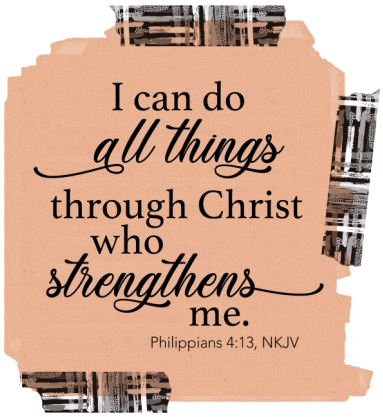
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

www.a-printable-calendar.com

October

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Orient, OH 43146



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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.

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Faith Formation for All Ages: See inside for details.
In-Person Food Pantry: 9-10 am Saturdays
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

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Loved by God; Loving Others.
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Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

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I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

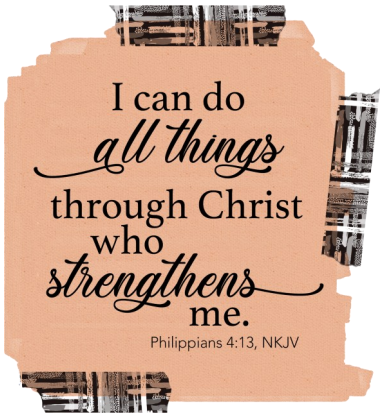
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



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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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7516 Majestic Wood Drive
Linden, MI 48451



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SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

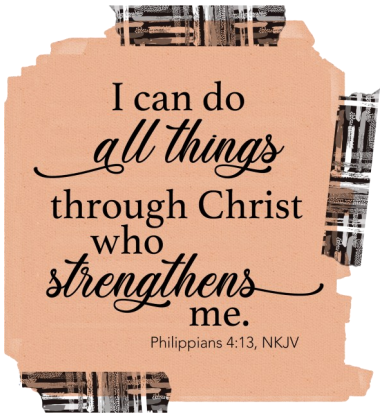
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Katherine Andrews
12175 Glacier Hwy #A206
Juneau, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

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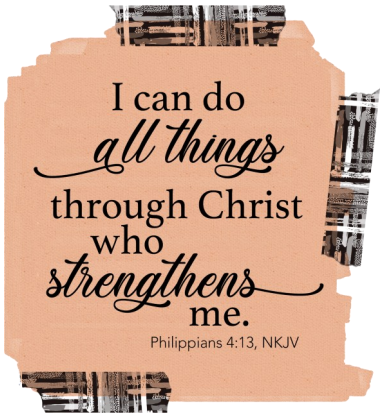
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Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
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Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Katherine Buss
2659 SW Spring Garden St.
Portland, OR 97219



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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.
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

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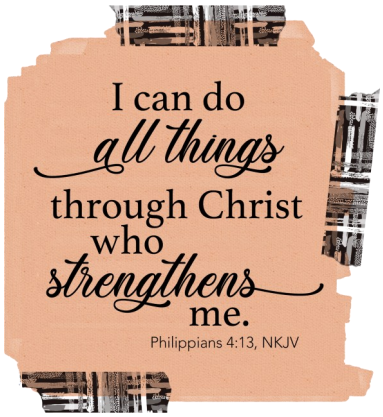
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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
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Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

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Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
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McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
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Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

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Other things to know from Linda

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She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

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Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





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13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Auke Bay, AK 99821



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

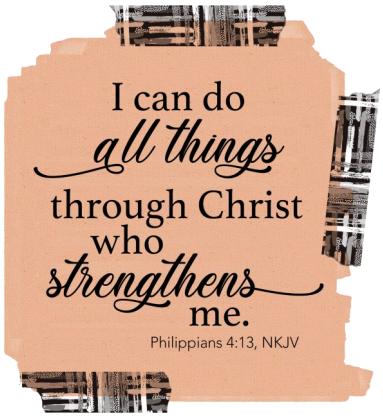
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

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Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

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Submitted by Pastor Tari

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13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

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9-10 am on Saturdays (in person)

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November 2025

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30						

www.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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13300 Bothell Everett Hwy PMB 690
Mill Creek, WA 98012



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

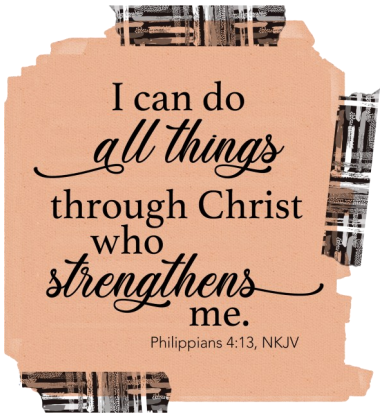
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
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2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
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www.a-printable-calendar.com

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Email: sovjuneau@gmail.com Office: (907) 789-4093
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Web: www.sovlutheran.org Like us on Facebook

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Keira Jenkins
8137 Keegan Street
Juneau, AK 99801



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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

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So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

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We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

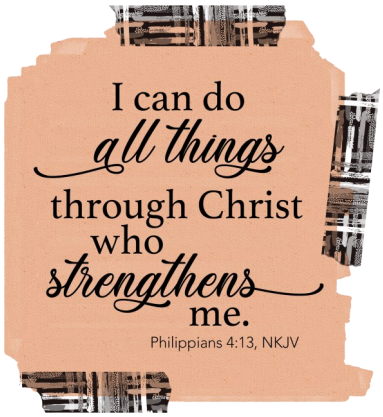
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Eagle Mountain, UT 84005



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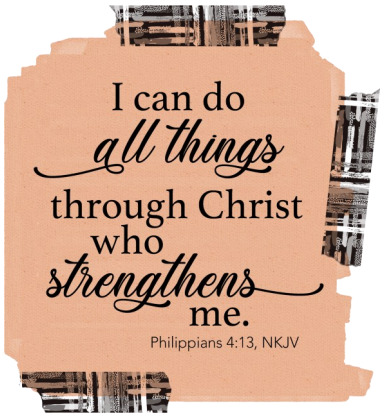
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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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3721 169th St NE Apt 112
Arlington, WA 98223



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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.
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

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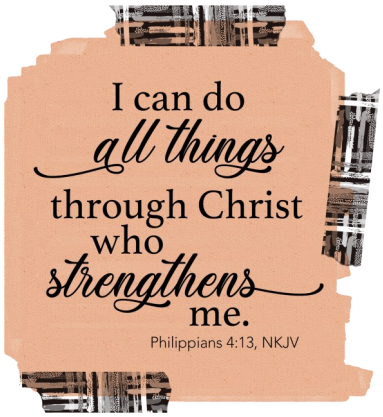
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Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

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Elfrida Nord
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First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
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Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

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Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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			1 4 pm Aotearoa Zoom Meeting 630 pm OWL	2	3 9 am Devotions	4 9 –10 am Pantry
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 12 to 19 - - - -						
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

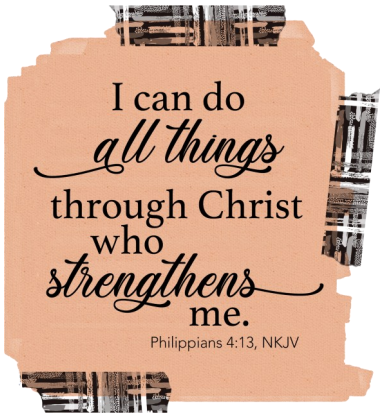
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
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Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

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She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

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Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





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4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
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28 Erik Abbott
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28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



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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.

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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

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

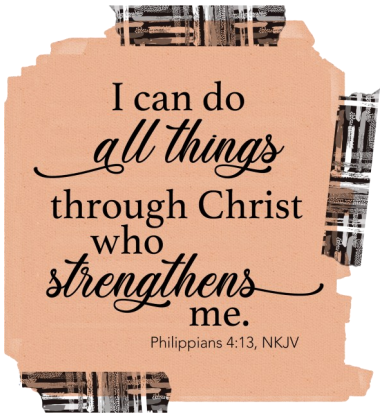
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
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www.a-printable-calendar.com

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			1 4 pm Aotearoa Zoom Meeting 630 pm OWL	2	3 9 am Devotions	4 9 –10 am Pantry
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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Kim & Joe Oxner
19331 Valley View Lane
Belle Fourche, SD 57717



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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.
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
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The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

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I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

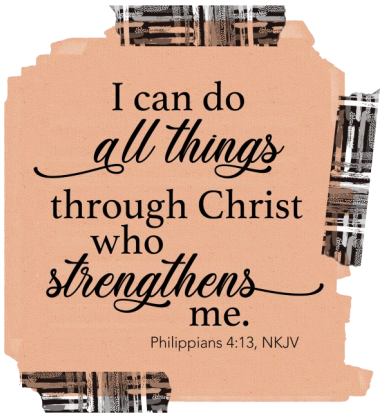
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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

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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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

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Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
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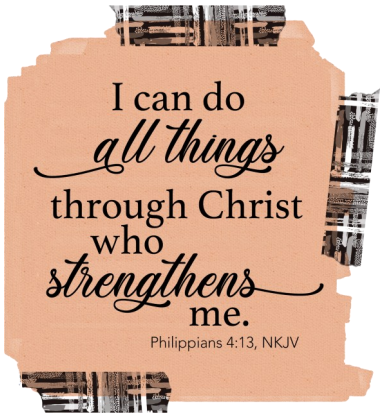
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With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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2407 Dysart Rd.
University Heights, OH 44118



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

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Ways to Give

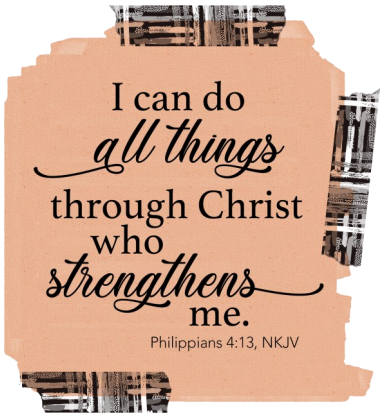
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With Grateful Hearts

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Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

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Elfrida Nord
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Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 12 to 19 - - - -						
19 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	20	21 Noon Lunch with Love	22 630 pm OWL	23 530 pm Parents & Caregivers	24 9 am Devotions Family Retreat at Shrine	25 9 –10 am Pantry
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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16125 Point Lena Way
JUNEAU, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

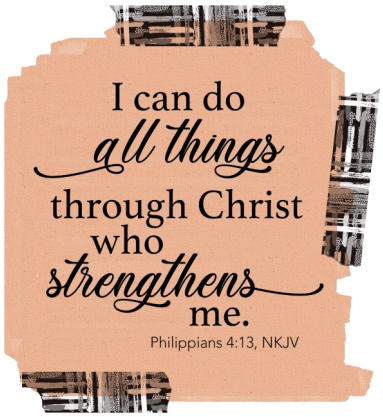
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
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A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

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Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

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She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

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Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





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13 Joy Will
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Food Pantry Hours

9-10 am on Saturdays (in person)

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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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Kristin Larson
2203 KaSeeAn Drive
Juneau, Alaska 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 issue.

SOV
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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

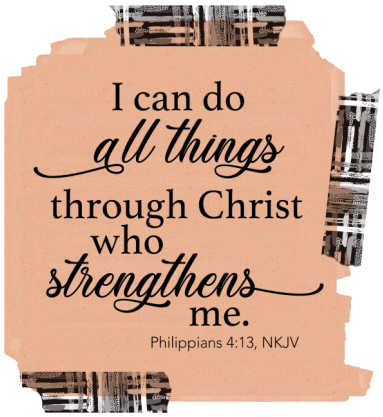
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

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November 2025

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						1
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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www.a-printable-calendar.com

October

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9-10 am on Saturdays (in person)

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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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.

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Faith Formation for All Ages: See inside for details.
In-Person Food Pantry: 9-10 am Saturdays
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

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Loved by God; Loving Others.
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The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

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I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

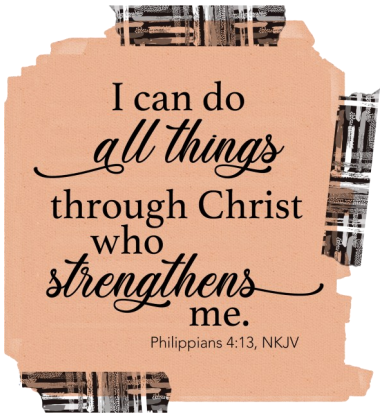
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



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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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Rev. Tari Stage-Harvey, Pastor

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During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

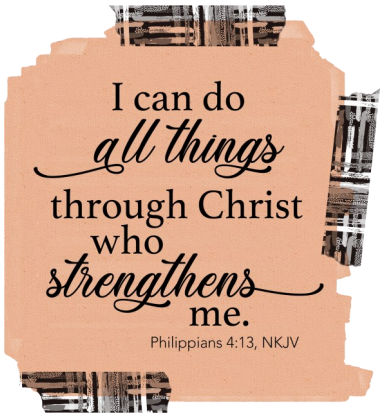
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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11435 Glacier Hwy. Apt. 1C
Juneau, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

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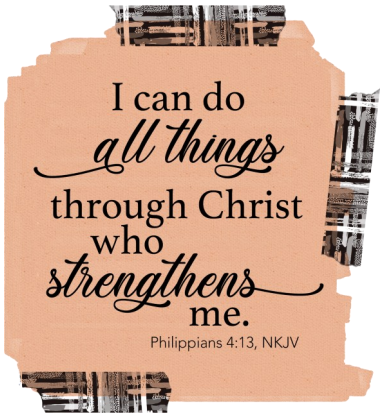
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Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
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A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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9230 Emily Way
Juneau, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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.
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

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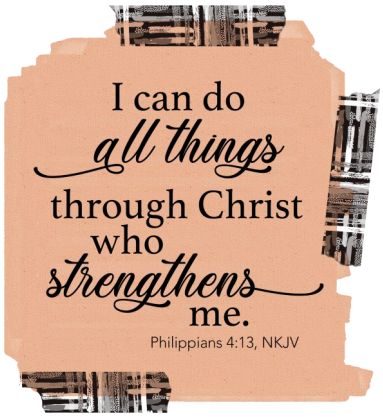
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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
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Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

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Other things to know from Linda

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Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
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Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





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15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

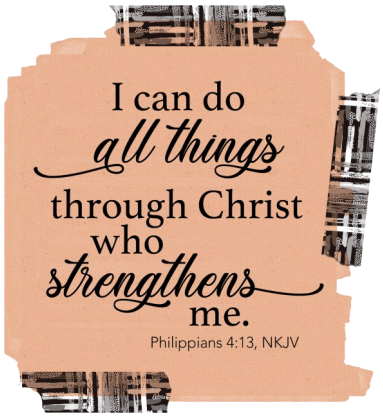
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

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Elks 420
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Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

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13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

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9-10 am on Saturdays (in person)

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November 2025

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www.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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340 West 76th Ave Unit H
Anchorage, AK 99518



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

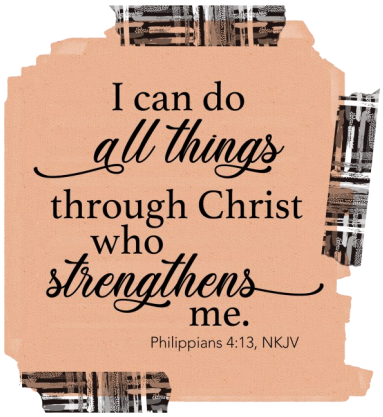
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
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www.a-printable-calendar.com

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Web: www.sovlutheran.org Like us on Facebook

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Linda Land-Closson
8730 W 34th Ave
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033



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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

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So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

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We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

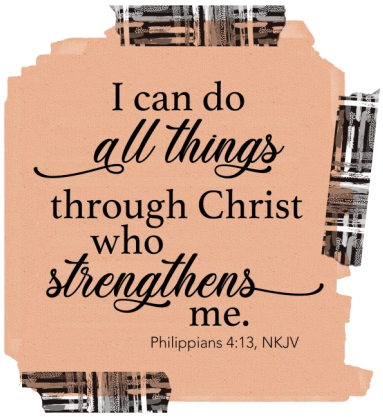
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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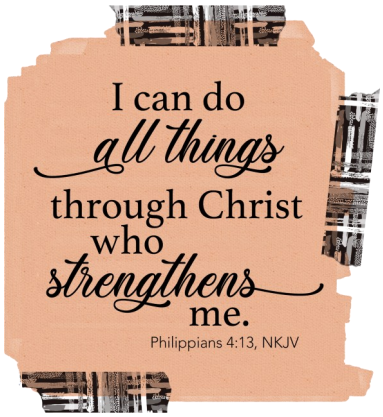
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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Lord of Life
1005 Saint Nicholas Drive
North Pole, AK 99705



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 issue.

SOV
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.
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

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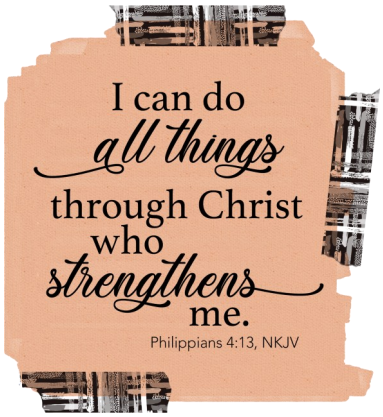
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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

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Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

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Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

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Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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5 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 1130 am Aotearoa In-Person Meeting	6	7 Noon Lunch with Love	8 630 pm OWL	9	10 9 am Devotions	11 9 –10 am Pantry
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 12 to 19 - - - -						
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Lori & Virgil Fredenberg
470 North 4th Street
Cheney, WA 99004



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 issue.

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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

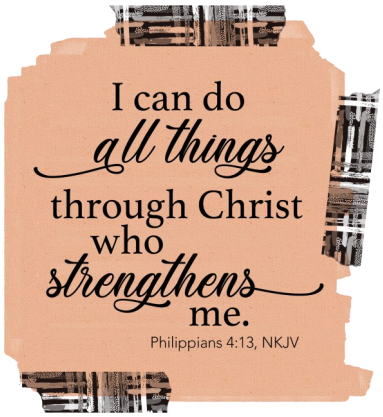
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
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Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

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She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

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Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





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4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
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October Baptismal Birthdays
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2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
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15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



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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

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Return Service Requested

Lutheran Church of Hope
1847 W. Northern Lights Blvd.
Anchorage, AK 99517



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 issue.

SOV
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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

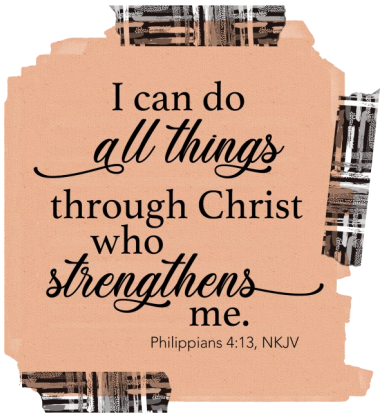
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

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Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
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www.a-printable-calendar.com

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			1 4 pm Aotearoa Zoom Meeting 630 pm OWL	2	3 9 am Devotions	4 9 –10 am Pantry
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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Lynette and Nils Dihle
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Juneau, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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.
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
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The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

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I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

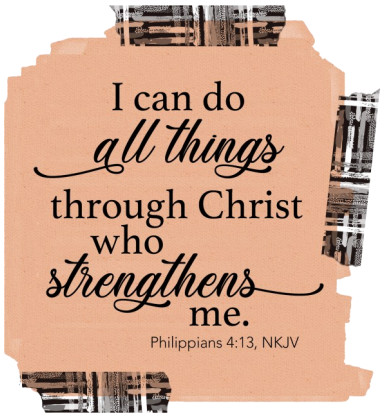
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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

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August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
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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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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SOV
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Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

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Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
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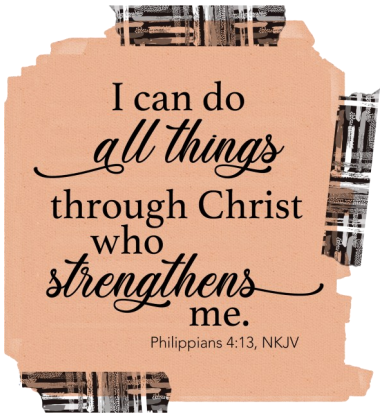
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With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Auke Bay, AK 99821



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 issue.

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
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

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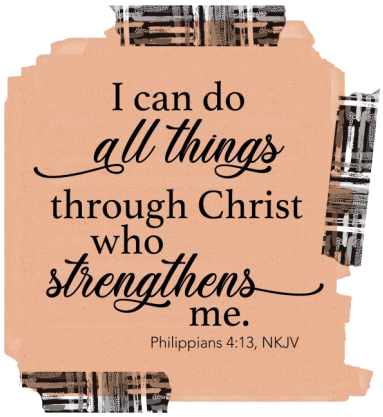
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With Grateful Hearts

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Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
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A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

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Elfrida Nord
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First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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5 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 1130 am Aotearoa In-Person Meeting	6	7 Noon Lunch with Love	8 630 pm OWL	9	10 9 am Devotions	11 9 –10 am Pantry
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 12 to 19 - - - -						
19 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	20	21 Noon Lunch with Love	22 630 pm OWL	23 530 pm Parents & Caregivers	24 9 am Devotions Family Retreat at Shrine	25 9 –10 am Pantry
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

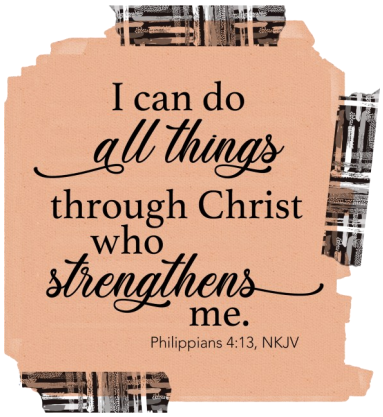
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
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A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

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PSEA
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Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
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Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

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Other things to know from Linda

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She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

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Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





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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

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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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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969 New Meadows Loop
Sequim, WA 98382



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

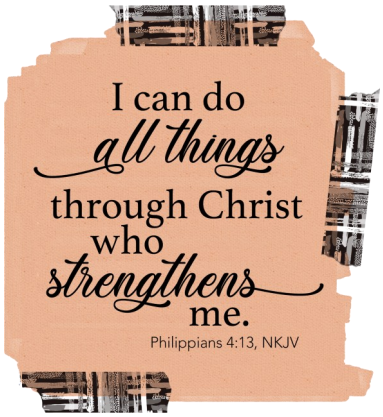
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

www.a-printable-calendar.com

October

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9-10 am on Saturdays (in person)

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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4549 Kanata Street
Juneau, AK 99801



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SOV
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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.

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Faith Formation for All Ages: See inside for details.
In-Person Food Pantry: 9-10 am Saturdays
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

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Loved by God; Loving Others.
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The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

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I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

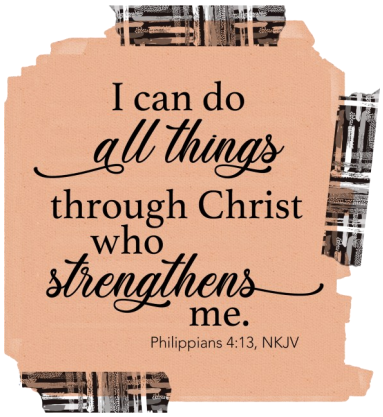
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



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Email: sovjuneau@gmail.com Office: (907) 789-4093
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Web: www.sovlutheran.org Like us on Facebook

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Rev. Tari Stage-Harvey, Pastor

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SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

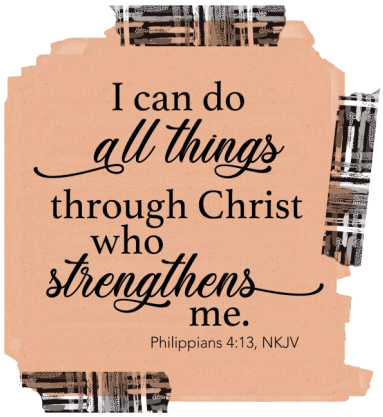
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Sedro Woolley, WA 98284



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

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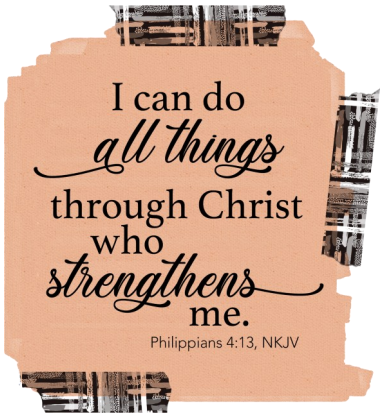
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Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
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Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Mark & Sarah Halvorsen
773 S. State St.
St. Ignace, MI 49781



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 issue.

SOV
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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

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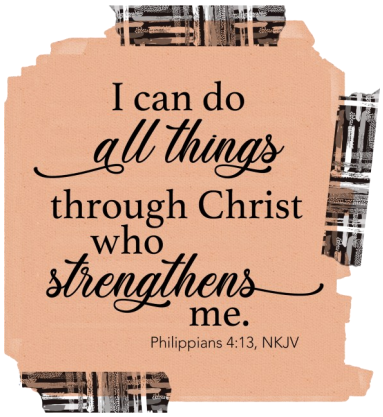
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Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

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Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
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Schmidt Family
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Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

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Other things to know from Linda

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She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

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Good news and celebrations in September and October





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2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
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28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Marsha Buck
PO Box 192
Columbus, WI 53925



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

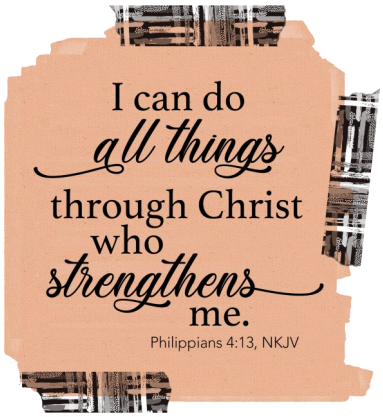
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

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Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

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Submitted by Pastor Tari

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30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

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September

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9-10 am on Saturdays (in person)

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November 2025

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www.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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3335 Meander Way
Juneau, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

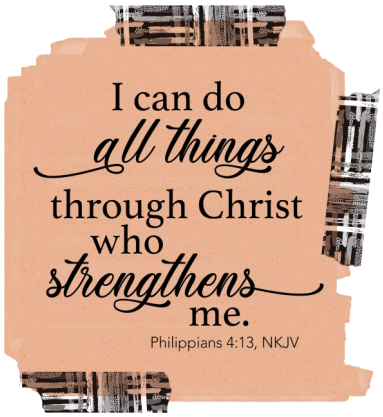
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
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Web: www.sovlutheran.org Like us on Facebook

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It is the September/October 2025 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.
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

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

September
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The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

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So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
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We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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8:30 am Men's Group.
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10:30 am Coffee fellowship.
Thank you to our Sunday morning snack crew! Please note, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
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Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

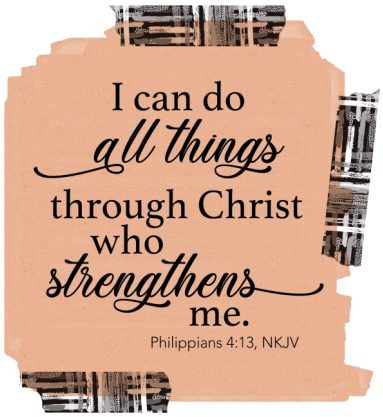
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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5 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 1130 am Aotearoa In-Person Meeting	6	7 Noon Lunch with Love	8 630 pm OWL	9	10 9 am Devotions	11 9 –10 am Pantry
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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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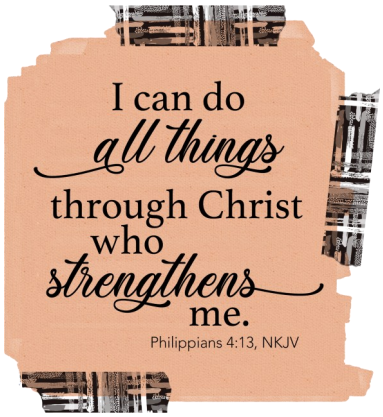
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Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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.
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

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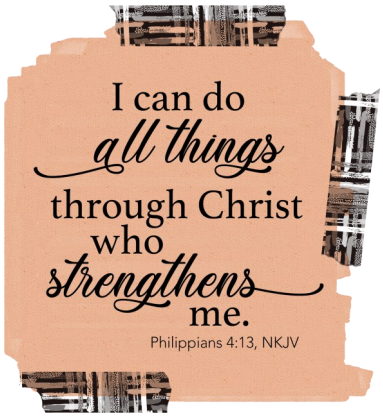
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Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

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Elfrida Nord
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First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
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Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

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Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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5 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 1130 am Aotearoa In-Person Meeting	6	7 Noon Lunch with Love	8 630 pm OWL	9	10 9 am Devotions	11 9 –10 am Pantry
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 12 to 19 - - - -						
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

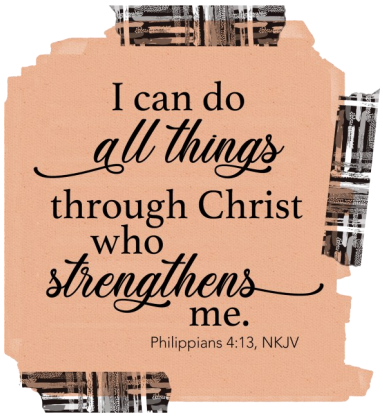
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
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Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

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She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

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Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





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4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
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28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
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2 Megan Sheufelt
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13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



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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

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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MJ Hinman
32557 County Road 30
Laporte, MN 56461



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

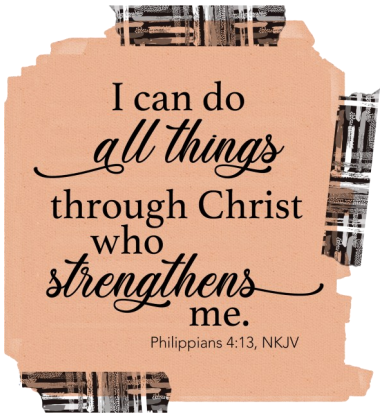
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
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www.a-printable-calendar.com

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			1 4 pm Aotearoa Zoom Meeting 630 pm OWL	2	3 9 am Devotions	4 9 –10 am Pantry
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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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.
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Deliveries available Saturday mornings to homebound folks. Call the pantry direct line for information.
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
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The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

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I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

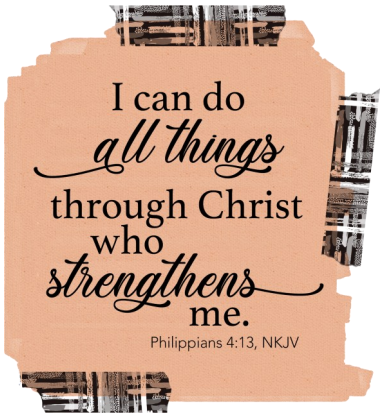
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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

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August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
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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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

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Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
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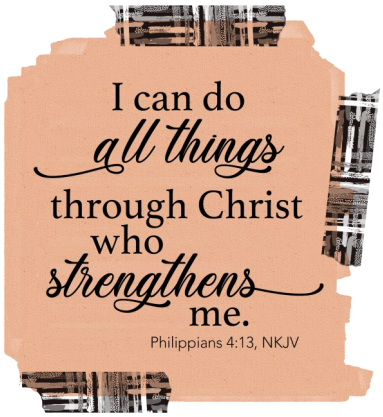
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With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Troy, OH 45373



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 issue.

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
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

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Ways to Give

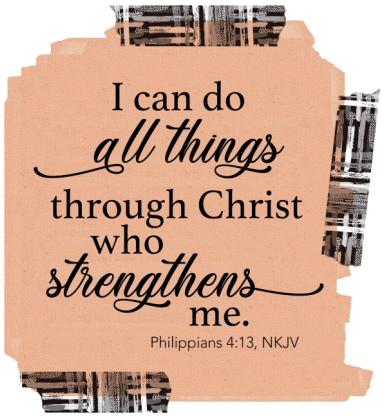
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With Grateful Hearts

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Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
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A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

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Elfrida Nord
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First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 12 to 19 - - - -						
19 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	20	21 Noon Lunch with Love	22 630 pm OWL	23 530 pm Parents & Caregivers	24 9 am Devotions Family Retreat at Shrine	25 9 –10 am Pantry
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Grove City, OH 43123



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

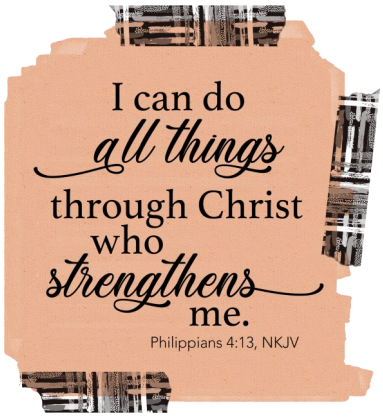
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
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A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

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Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
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Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
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Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

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She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

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Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





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9-10 am on Saturdays (in person)

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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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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4317 Hoover Rd.
Grove City, OH 43123



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 issue.

SOV
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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

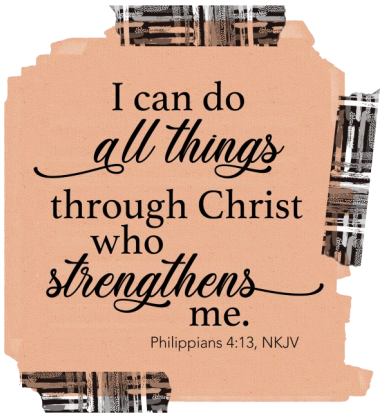
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

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November 2025

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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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www.a-printable-calendar.com

October

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9-10 am on Saturdays (in person)

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Palm Springs, CA 92262



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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.

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Faith Formation for All Ages: See inside for details.
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Loved by God; Loving Others.
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The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

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I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

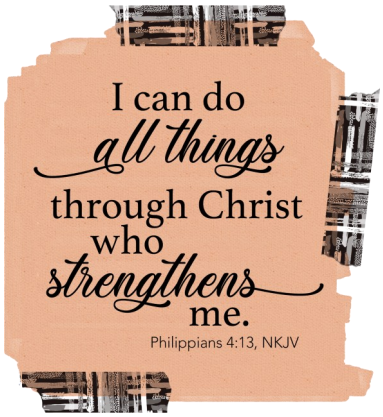
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



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SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

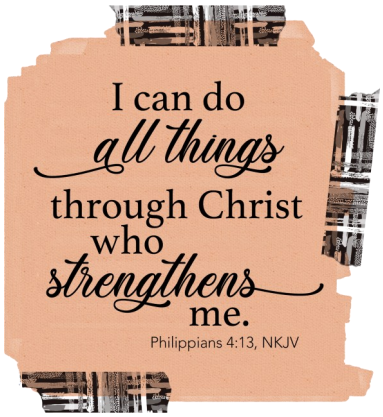
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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3477 Rodeo Drive #332
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

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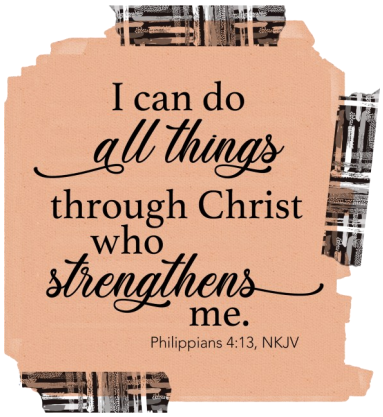
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Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
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Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Nick, DiAndrea, and Jameson Andrews
4406 Cloverdale Street
Juneau, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

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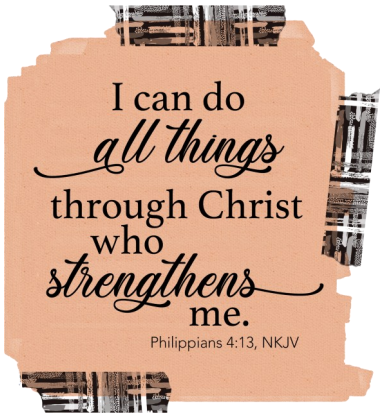
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Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
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Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

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Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

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Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
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Katherine Andrews
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Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

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Other things to know from Linda

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She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

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Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





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28 Kiley Stevens
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October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
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28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Nicole Fenumiai
1652 Glacier Ave
Juneau, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

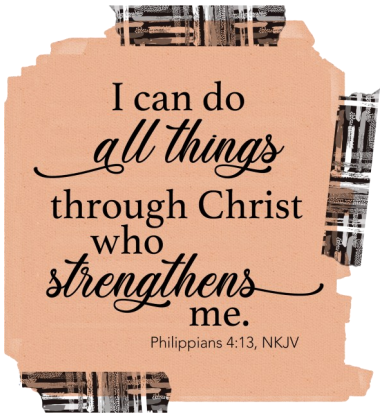
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

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Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

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Submitted by Pastor Tari

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28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

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September

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9-10 am on Saturdays (in person)

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November 2025

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www.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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PO Box 965
Nome, AK 99762



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

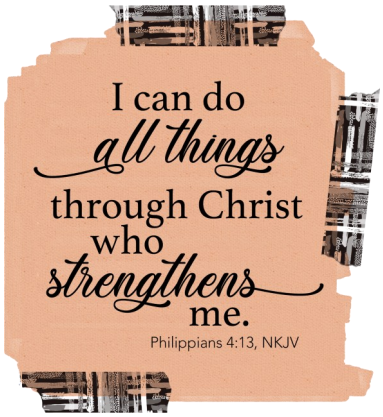
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
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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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5875 Glacier Highway #25
Juneau, AK 99801



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It is the September/October 2025 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

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

September
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The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

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So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

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We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

General Sunday Schedule at SOV

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10:30 am Coffee fellowship.
Thank you to our Sunday morning snack crew! Please note, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
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Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

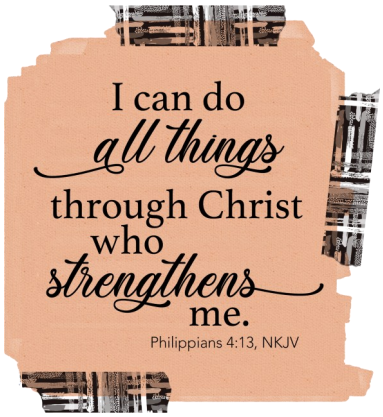
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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5 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 1130 am Aotearoa In-Person Meeting	6	7 Noon Lunch with Love	8 630 pm OWL	9	10 9 am Devotions	11 9 –10 am Pantry
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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Kenai, AK 99611



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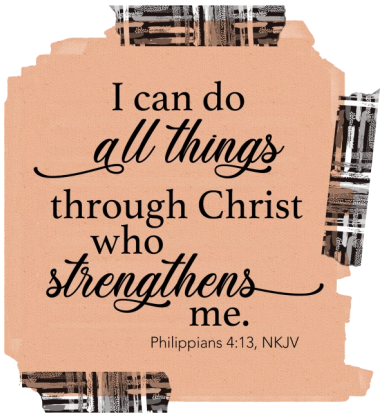
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Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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15935 GLACIER HWY
JUNEAU, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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.
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

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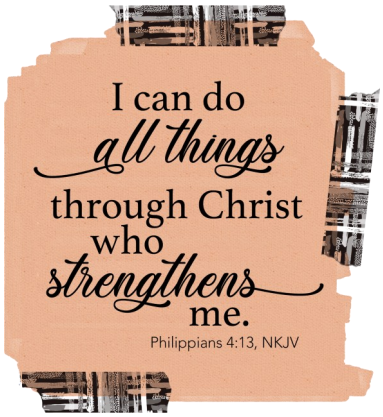
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Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

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Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

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Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

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Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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			1 4 pm Aotearoa Zoom Meeting 630 pm OWL	2	3 9 am Devotions	4 9 –10 am Pantry
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 12 to 19 - - - -						
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

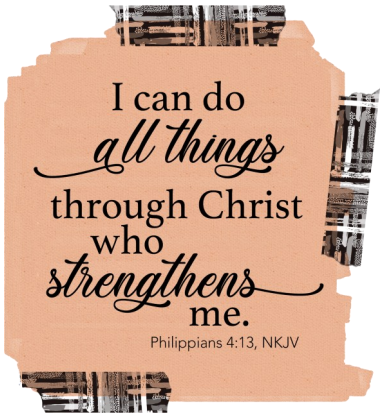
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
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A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

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Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

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Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
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Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

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She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
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She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

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Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





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4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
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8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
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13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
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28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
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30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
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2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



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Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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9-10 am on Saturdays (in person)

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Peggy and Lou Corazza
PO Box 210428
Auke Bay, AK 99821



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 issue.

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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

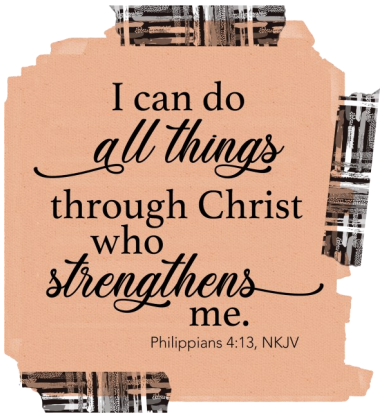
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
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www.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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4919 Steelhead Street
Juneau, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 issue.

SOV
LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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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

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

September
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The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

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I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

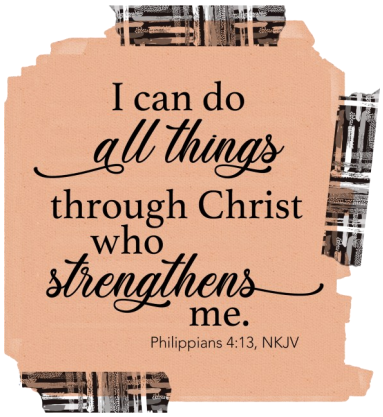
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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

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August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
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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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

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Thank you to our Sunday morning snack crew! Please note, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
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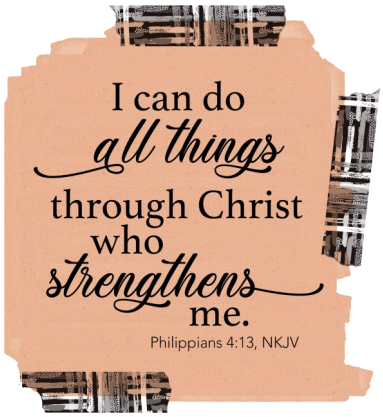
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October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Petersburg, AK 99833



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

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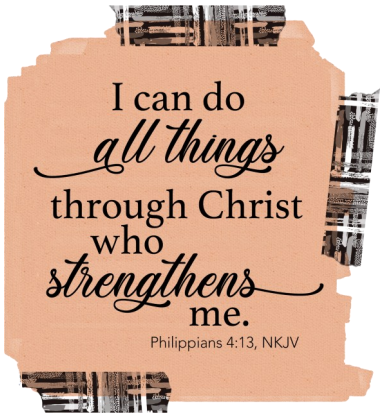
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December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

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Looking Ahead to the Holidays

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We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

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Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

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Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

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Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 12 to 19 - - - -						
19 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	20	21 Noon Lunch with Love	22 630 pm OWL	23 530 pm Parents & Caregivers	24 9 am Devotions Family Retreat at Shrine	25 9 –10 am Pantry
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Phillip Fenumiai
11 Tennessee Street #117
Redlands, CA 92373



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

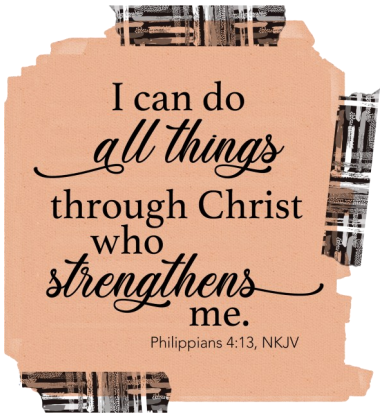
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
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A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

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Duvall Family
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Lisa Wallace
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Katherine Andrews
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Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

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Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

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Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

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Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





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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

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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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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8424 Dolomite Ave.
Juneau, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 issue.

SOV
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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

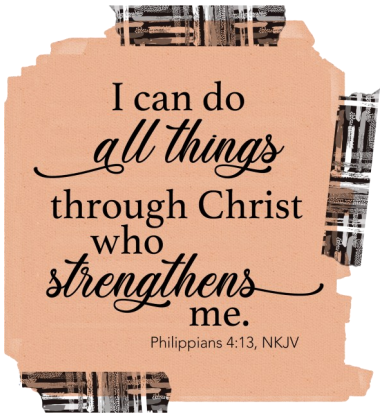
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

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November 2025

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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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30						

www.a-printable-calendar.com

October

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Ray and Shari Baron
N5341 North Riverview Road
Hessel, MI 49745



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It is the September/October 2025 issue.

SOV
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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.

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Faith Formation for All Ages: See inside for details.
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

Loved by God; Loving Others.
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The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

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I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

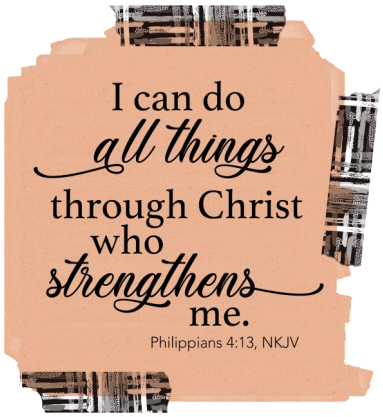
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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Email: sovjuneau@gmail.com Office: (907) 789-4093
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Web: www.sovlutheran.org Like us on Facebook

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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

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Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

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During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

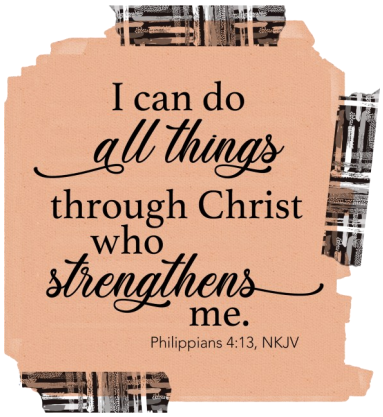
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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PO Box 35
Seward, AK 99664



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

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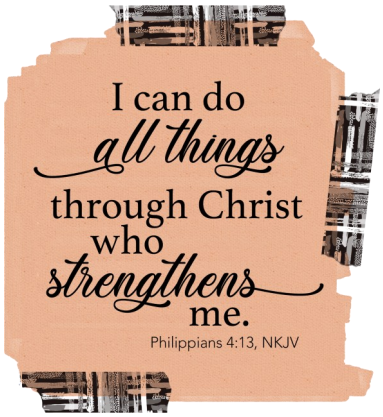
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Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
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Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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2008 Valley Forge Ave.
Fort Collins, CO 80526



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 issue.

SOV
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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

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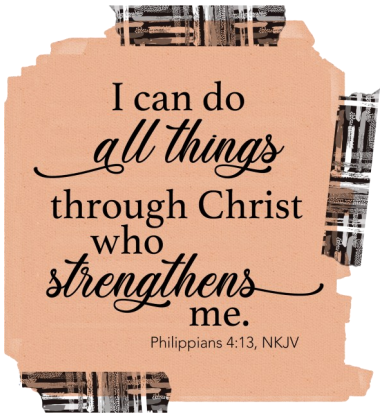
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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
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Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
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Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

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Other things to know from Linda

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She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
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Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





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13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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4843 Raintree Street Cir E
Bradenton, FL 34203



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 issue.

SOV
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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

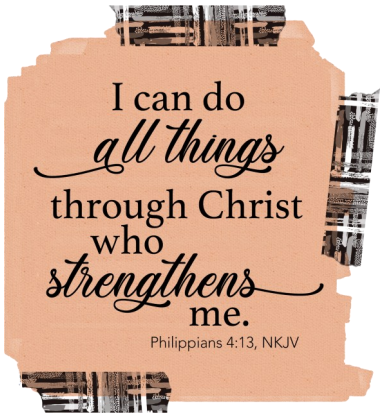
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

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Elks 420
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Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

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13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

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9-10 am on Saturdays (in person)

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November 2025

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www.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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3004 Goodwin Rd
Juneau, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

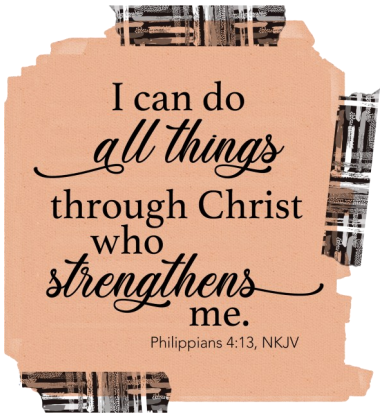
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
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Mailing Address: PO Box 34859, Juneau, AK 99803
Email: sovjuneau@gmail.com Office: (907) 789-4093
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Web: www.sovlutheran.org Like us on Facebook

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Juneau, AK 99801



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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

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There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

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So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

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Discipleship Class

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Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

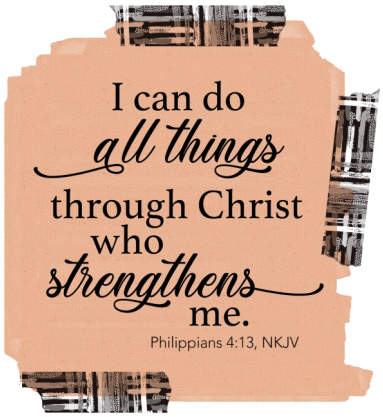
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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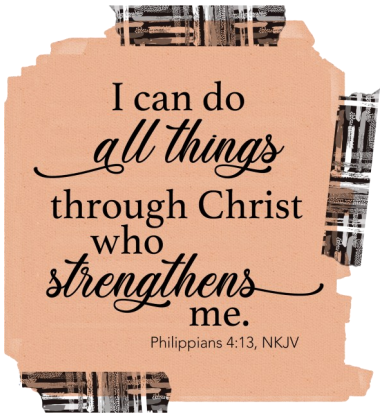
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Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Canby, OR 97013



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 issue.

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.
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

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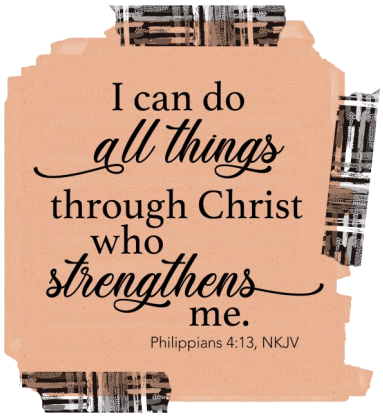
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Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

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AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
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Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

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Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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5 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 1130 am Aotearoa In-Person Meeting	6	7 Noon Lunch with Love	8 630 pm OWL	9	10 9 am Devotions	11 9 –10 am Pantry
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 12 to 19 - - - -						
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Glenwood Springs, Co 81601



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

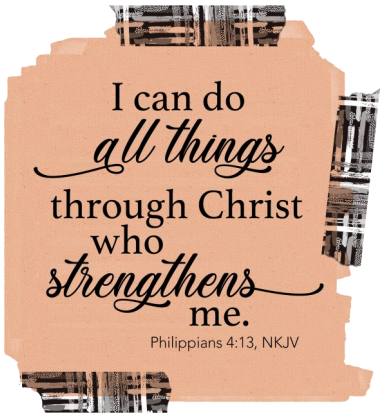
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

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Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

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She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

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Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





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4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
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28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
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30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



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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.

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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

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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, AK 99802



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

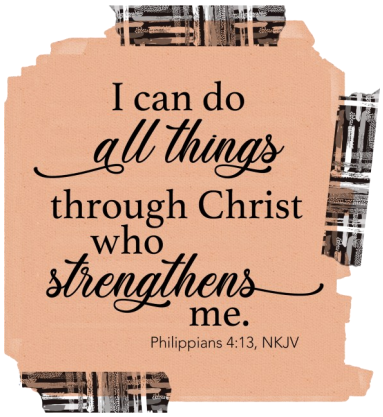
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
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www.a-printable-calendar.com

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			1 4 pm Aotearoa Zoom Meeting 630 pm OWL	2	3 9 am Devotions	4 9 –10 am Pantry
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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Sandra DeLong
PO Box 32896
Juneau, AK 99803



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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.
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
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The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

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I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

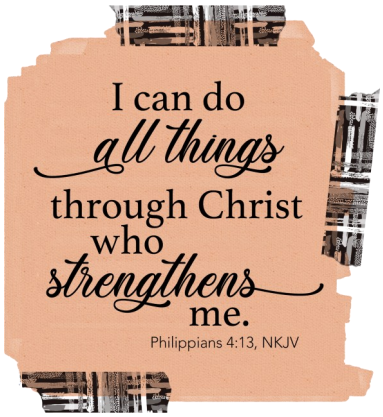
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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

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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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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SOV
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Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
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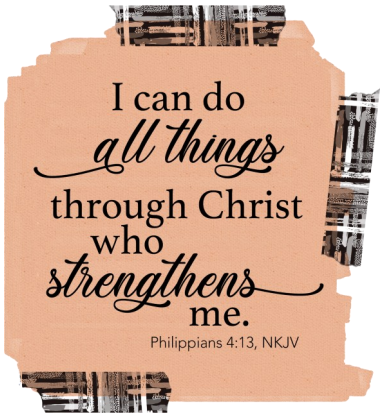
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With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

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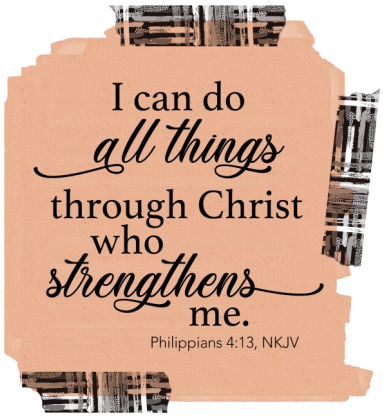
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With Grateful Hearts

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Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
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A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

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Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 12 to 19 - - - -						
19 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	20	21 Noon Lunch with Love	22 630 pm OWL	23 530 pm Parents & Caregivers	24 9 am Devotions Family Retreat at Shrine	25 9 –10 am Pantry
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 issue.

SOV
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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

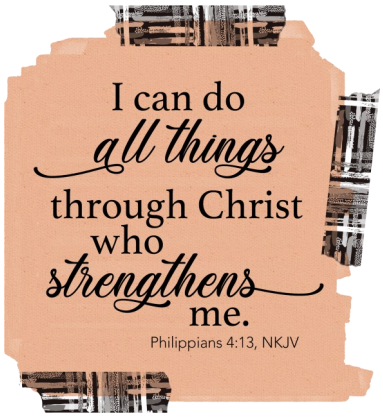
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

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Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
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Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

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Other things to know from Linda

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She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
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Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





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9 Scott Hinton
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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

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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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Sitka Lutheran
PO Box 598
Sitka, AK 99835



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

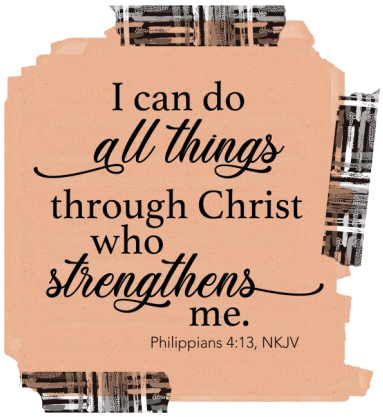
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

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November 2025

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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www.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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, AK 99801



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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.

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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.
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
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The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

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I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

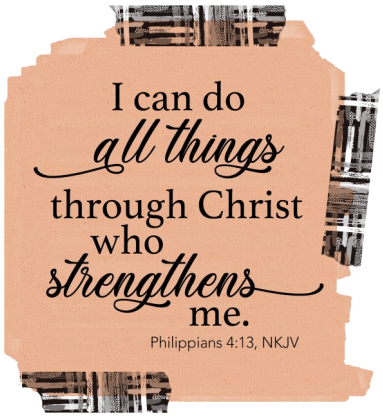
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



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Web: www.sovlutheran.org Like us on Facebook

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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

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During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

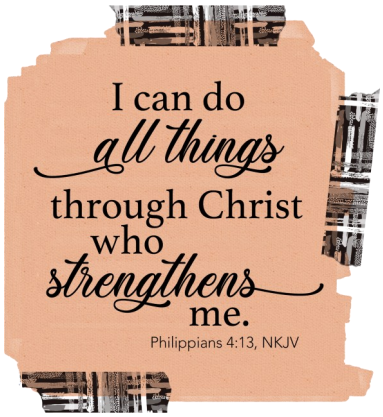
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 issue.

SOV
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
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

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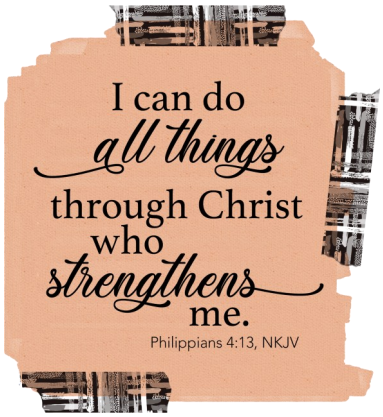
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Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
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One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
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Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Chugiak, AK 99567



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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.
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

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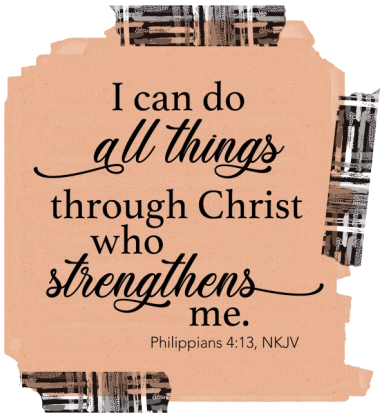
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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
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Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
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Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

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Other things to know from Linda

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She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
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Good news and celebrations in September and October





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15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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3230 Lake Otis Parkway
Anchorage, AK 99508



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 issue.

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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

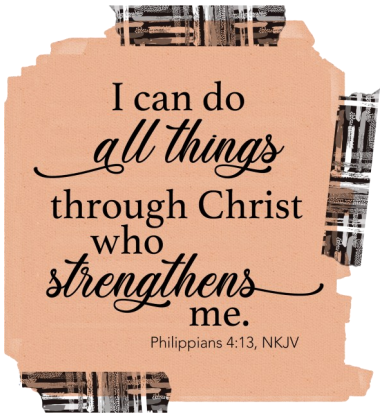
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

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Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

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Submitted by Pastor Tari

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19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

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Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

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9-10 am on Saturdays (in person)

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November 2025

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www.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

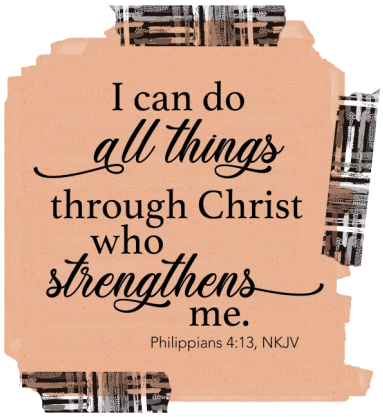
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
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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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SOV
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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.

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LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

Loved by God; Loving Others.
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September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

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So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

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Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

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Peace,
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Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

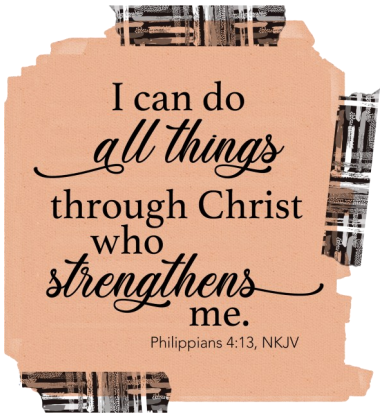
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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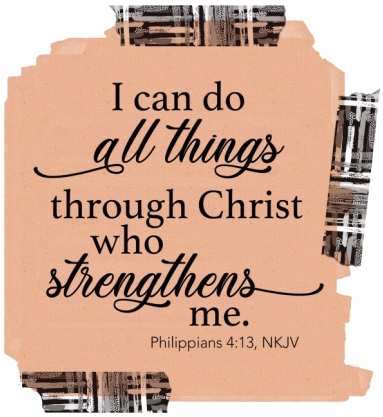
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Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 12 to 19 - - - -						
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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1901 Davis Ave Apt B9
Juneau, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 issue.

SOV
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.
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

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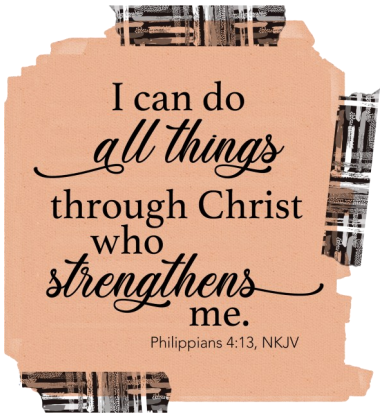
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Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

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Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

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Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

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Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 12 to 19 - - - -						
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Susan Haushild-Clements
61 Barberry Lane
Sequim, WA 98382-9651



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

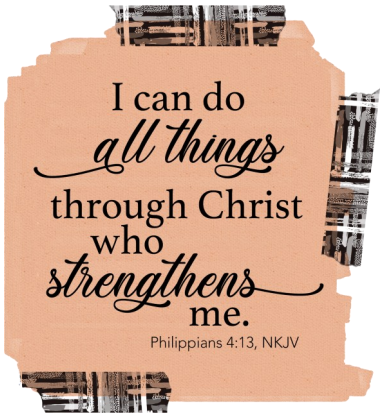
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
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A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

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Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

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Fredenbergs
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Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

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Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

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Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
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She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
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12 Ronald Duvall
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20 Nina Rajala
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24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
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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.

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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

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www.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Sylvia Geraghty
4433 Taku Blvd.
Juneau, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

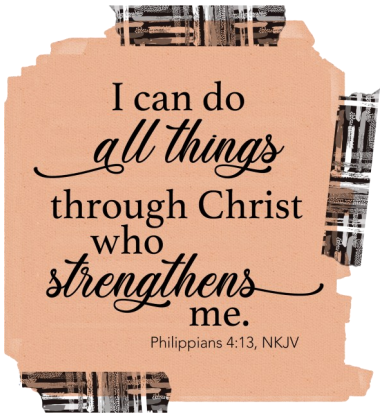
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

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www.a-printable-calendar.com

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			1 4 pm Aotearoa Zoom Meeting 630 pm OWL	2	3 9 am Devotions	4 9 –10 am Pantry
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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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.
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
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The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

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I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

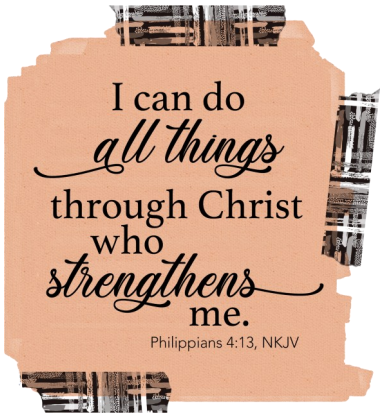
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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

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August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
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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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

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General Sunday Schedule at SOV

8:30 am Men's Group.
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Thank you to our Sunday morning snack crew! Please note, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
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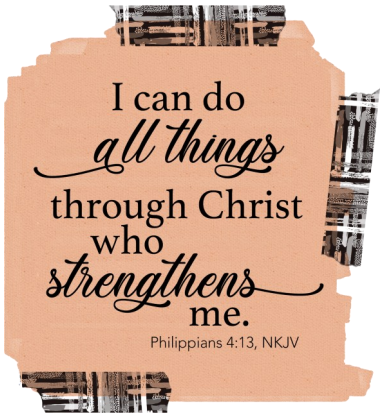
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With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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7198 East Timber Way
Palmer, AK 99645



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
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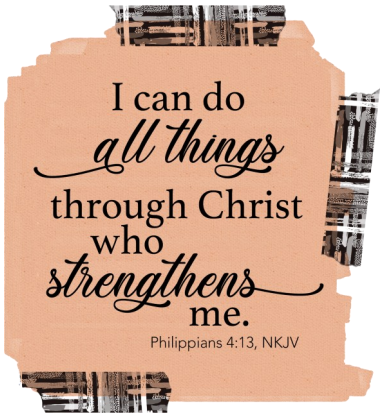
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With Grateful Hearts

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Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
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A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

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Elfrida Nord
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First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 12 to 19 - - - -						
19 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	20	21 Noon Lunch with Love	22 630 pm OWL	23 530 pm Parents & Caregivers	24 9 am Devotions Family Retreat at Shrine	25 9 –10 am Pantry
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

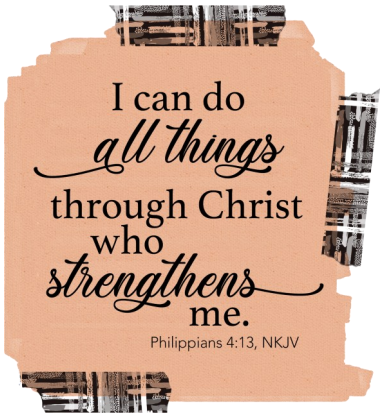
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
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A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

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Memory of Hank
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Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

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Other things to know from Linda

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She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

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Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





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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

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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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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The Carls Family
4879 Steelhead Street
Juneau, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

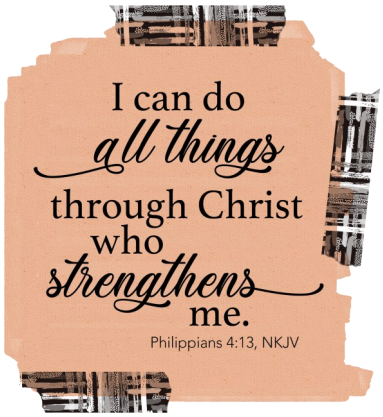
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

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November 2025

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						1
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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www.a-printable-calendar.com

October

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9-10 am on Saturdays (in person)

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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The Corson Family
PO Box 32393
Juneau, AK 99803



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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.

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Faith Formation for All Ages: See inside for details.
In-Person Food Pantry: 9-10 am Saturdays
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Loved by God; Loving Others.
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Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

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I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

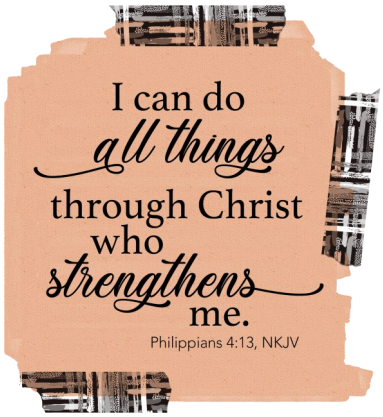
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



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SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

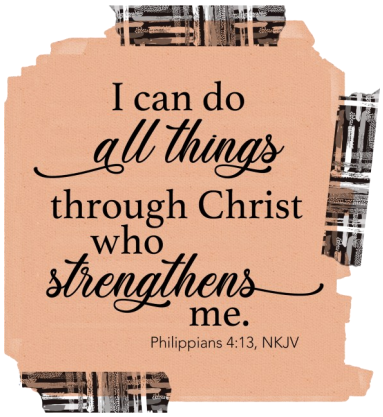
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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2203 Raven Rd.
Douglas, AK 99824



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 issue.

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.
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

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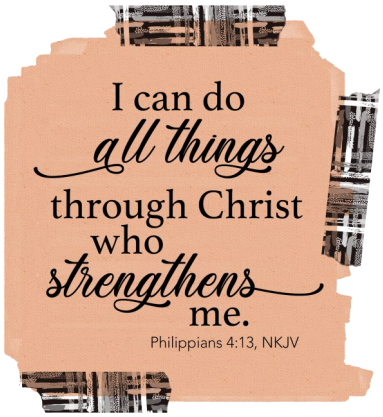
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Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

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A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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The Drapeaux Family
10232 Heron Way
Juneau, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

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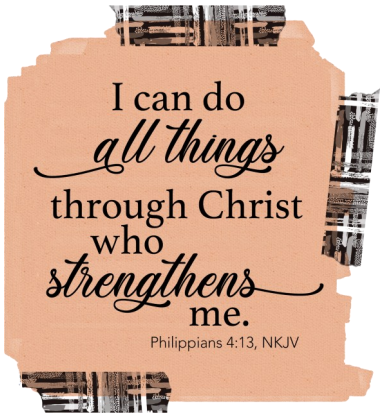
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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
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A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

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Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

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Other things to know from Linda

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She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

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Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





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15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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The Duvall Family
2909 Jackson Rd
Juneau, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

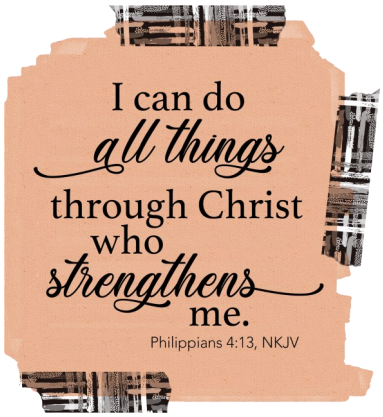
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

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Elks 420
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Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

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Submitted by Pastor Tari

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15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

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Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

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9-10 am on Saturdays (in person)

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November 2025

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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5374 Effingham Dr SE
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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 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

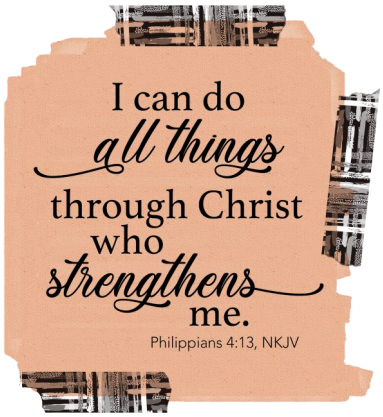
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
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Mailing Address: PO Box 34859, Juneau, AK 99803
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Web: www.sovlutheran.org Like us on Facebook

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4021 Deborah Drive
Juneau, AK 99801



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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.

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LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

Loved by God; Loving Others.
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September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

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So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

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Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

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Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

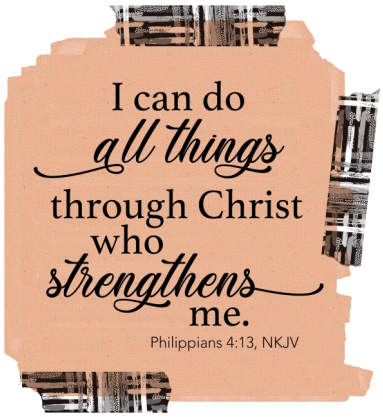
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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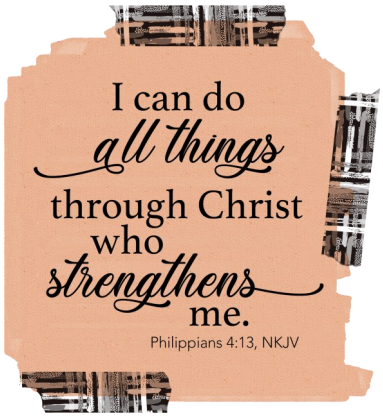
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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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The Gates Family
PO Box 35881
Juneau, AK 99803



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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.
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

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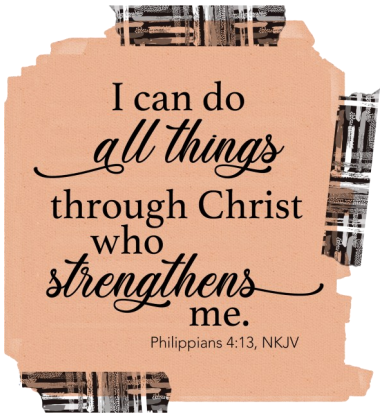
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Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

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Elfrida Nord
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First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
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Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

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Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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			1 4 pm Aotearoa Zoom Meeting 630 pm OWL	2	3 9 am Devotions	4 9 –10 am Pantry
5 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 1130 am Aotearoa In-Person Meeting	6	7 Noon Lunch with Love	8 630 pm OWL	9	10 9 am Devotions	11 9 –10 am Pantry
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 12 to 19 - - - -						
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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The Hinton Family
9094 Fireweed Ln
Juneau, Alaska 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

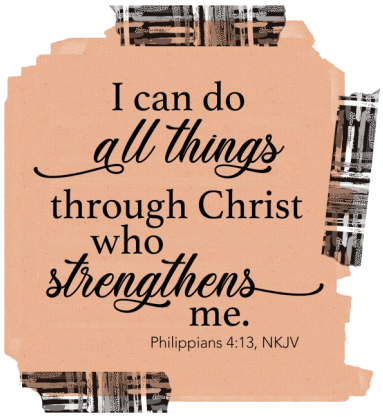
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
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Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

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She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
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She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

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Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





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2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
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28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
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October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
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2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



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9-10 am on Saturdays (in person)

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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The Jenkins Family
PO Box 35735
Juneau, AK 99803



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

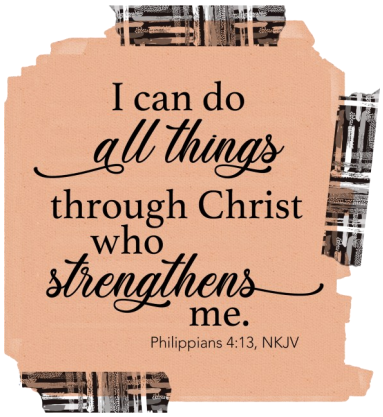
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

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www.a-printable-calendar.com

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			1 4 pm Aotearoa Zoom Meeting 630 pm OWL	2	3 9 am Devotions	4 9 –10 am Pantry
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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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The Kellar Family
3081 Riverwood Drive
Juneau, Alaska 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 issue.

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.
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
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The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

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I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

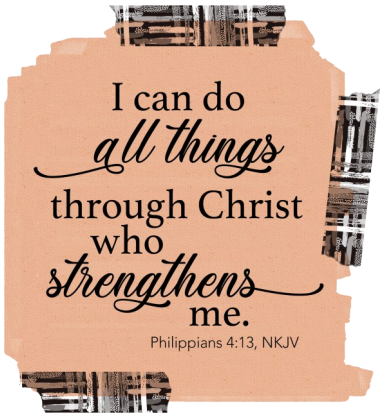
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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

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August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
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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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Rev. Tari Stage-Harvey, Pastor

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Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

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Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

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Pastor Tari

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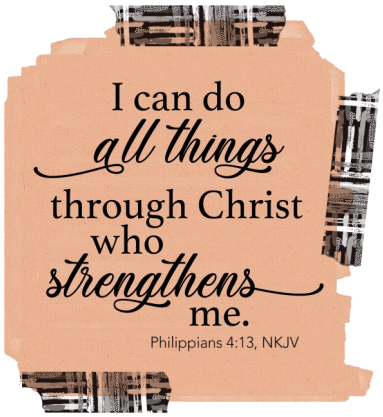
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With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Traverse City, MI 49685



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 issue.

SOV
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
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

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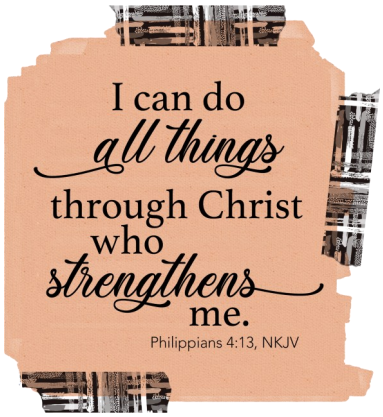
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With Grateful Hearts

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December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

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1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

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Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

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What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

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Elfrida Nord
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Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 12 to 19 - - - -						
19 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	20	21 Noon Lunch with Love	22 630 pm OWL	23 530 pm Parents & Caregivers	24 9 am Devotions Family Retreat at Shrine	25 9 –10 am Pantry
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 issue.



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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

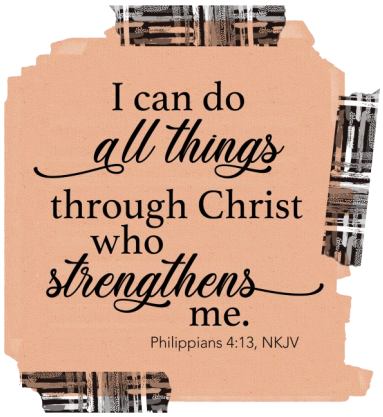
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
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A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

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Helen Mehrkens
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McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
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Crossett Fndn.
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Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
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Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





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8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
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13 Joy Will
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9-10 am on Saturdays (in person)

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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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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The Morgen Family
PO Box 456
Kellogg, ID 83837



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 issue.

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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

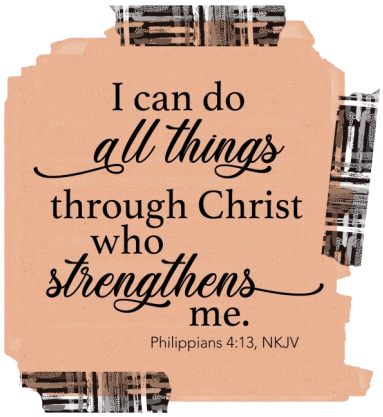
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

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November 2025

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						1
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www.a-printable-calendar.com

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9-10 am on Saturdays (in person)

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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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.

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Faith Formation for All Ages: See inside for details.
In-Person Food Pantry: 9-10 am Saturdays
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

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Loved by God; Loving Others.
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The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

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I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

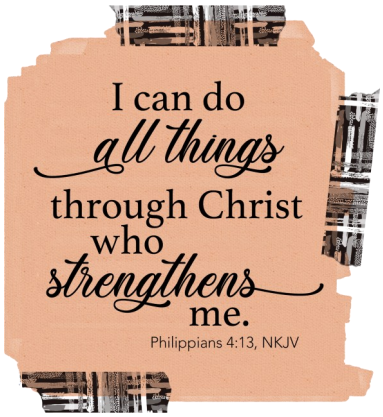
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



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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.

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During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

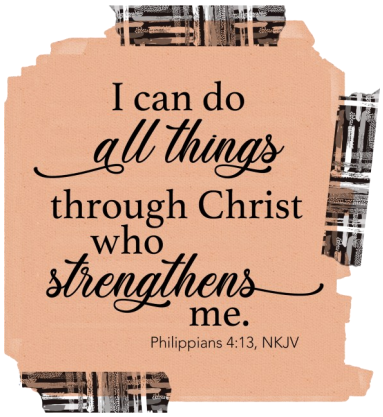
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Ralston, NE 68127



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

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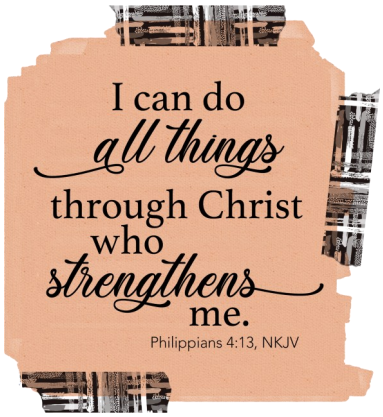
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Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
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A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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9003 Gee St
Juneau, Alaska 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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.
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

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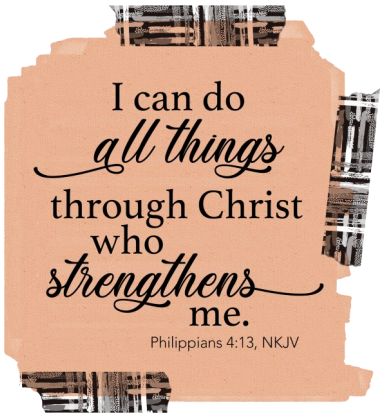
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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
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A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

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Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
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Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

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Other things to know from Linda

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Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

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Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





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15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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The Ross Family
9510 Speel Way
Juneau, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

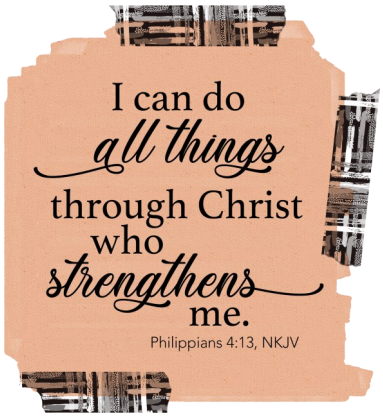
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

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Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

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15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

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9-10 am on Saturdays (in person)

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November 2025

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www.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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22 Tiger Gulch
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Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

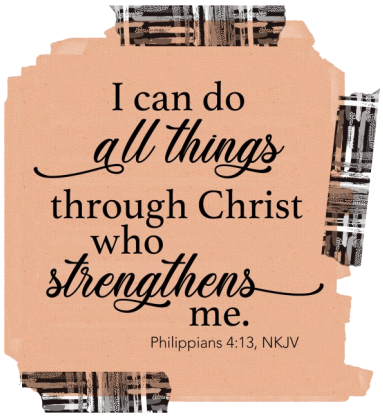
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
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The Stage-Harvey Family
3776 Julep Street
Juneau, AK 99801



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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

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So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
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We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

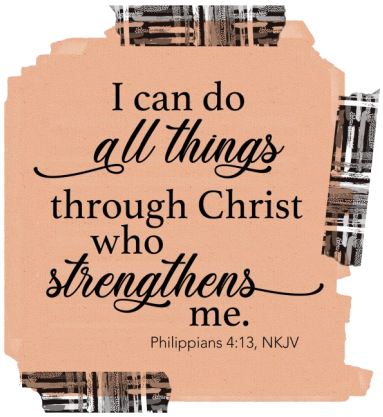
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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, AK 99801



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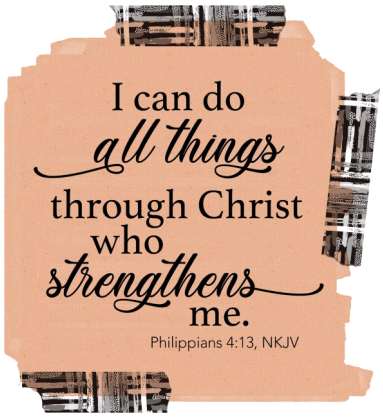
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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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The Thompson Family
PO Box 35833
Juneau, AK 99803



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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.
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

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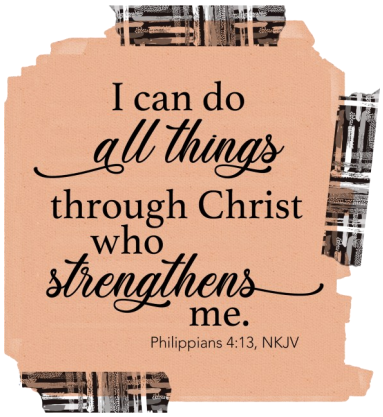
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Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

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Elfrida Nord
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First Bank
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Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

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Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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5 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 1130 am Aotearoa In-Person Meeting	6	7 Noon Lunch with Love	8 630 pm OWL	9	10 9 am Devotions	11 9 –10 am Pantry
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 12 to 19 - - - -						
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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The Wallace Family
PO Box 33795
Juneau, Alaska 99803



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

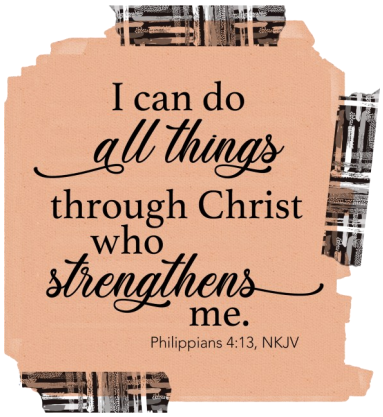
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

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One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
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Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

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She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

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Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





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4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
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28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
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October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
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2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



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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

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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The Weaver Family
9317 Turn St
Juneau, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

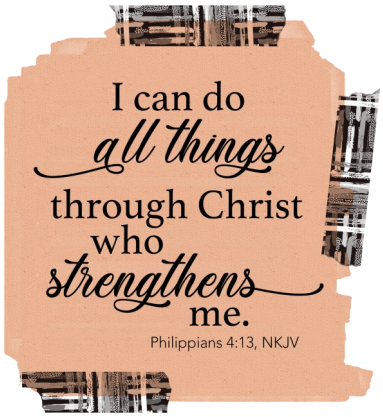
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

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www.a-printable-calendar.com

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			1 4 pm Aotearoa Zoom Meeting 630 pm OWL	2	3 9 am Devotions	4 9 –10 am Pantry
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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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, AK 99803



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
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The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

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I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

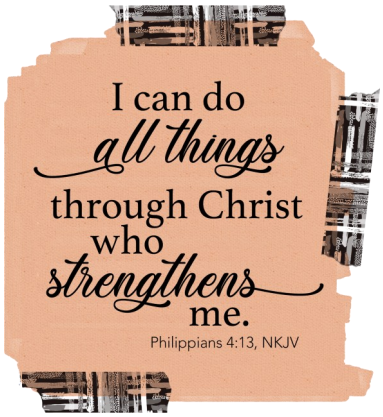
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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

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August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
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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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

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Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
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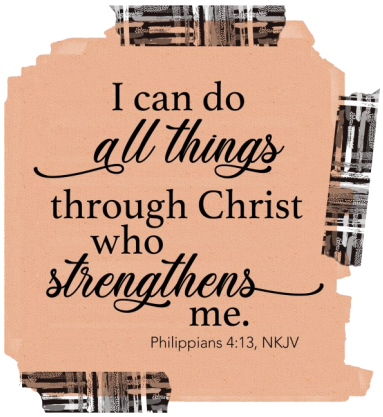
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With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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, AK 99801



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 issue.

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
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

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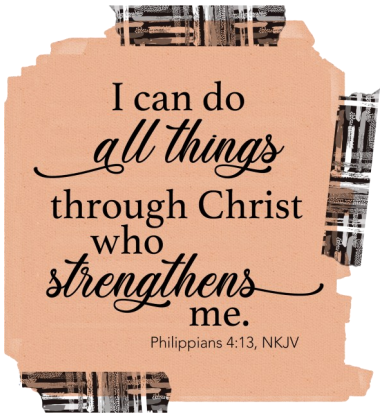
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With Grateful Hearts

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Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
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A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

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Elfrida Nord
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Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 12 to 19 - - - -						
19 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	20	21 Noon Lunch with Love	22 630 pm OWL	23 530 pm Parents & Caregivers	24 9 am Devotions Family Retreat at Shrine	25 9 –10 am Pantry
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- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

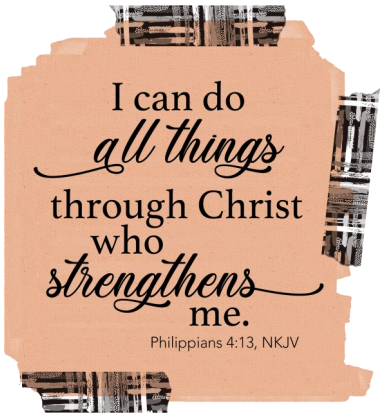
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





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One T- Shirt (size M-L)
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Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

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Other things to know from Linda

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She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

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Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





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9-10 am on Saturdays (in person)

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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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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W4465 West US-2
Moran, MI 49760



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

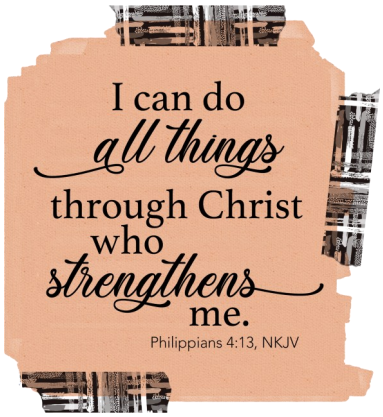
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

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November 2025

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						1
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

www.a-printable-calendar.com

October

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9-10 am on Saturdays (in person)

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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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.

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Faith Formation for All Ages: See inside for details.
In-Person Food Pantry: 9-10 am Saturdays
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

Loved by God; Loving Others.
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The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

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I think of Men's Group that started with two or three guys showing up for a couple of years and now it is flourishing with a whole crew and lots of sharing and giggles. There were times it felt like "just" two or three, but that was enough for seeds to grow.

I think of how often people imagine they can solve someone else's problems if they "just" do one thing or another. One of the reasons we invested deeply in life coaching is to change the way we approach each other. You are not the expert on anyone else's life and the most faithful things we can do is ask good questions and listen for answers that help us move from stagnation into abundant life.

So when we talk about faith formation or Sunday School classes, there are times we will "just" have two or three people. There are times it will be tempting to shame or belittle others to "just" believe or do this or that to be right with God.

"Just" is not used in scripture often unless it is referring to justice. The word that does show up a bunch is the Greek word "idou." It means "pay attention," "behold," or "lo." We do not use "lo" nearly enough. Here's a fun exercise. Every time you are tempted to say "just," replace it with "behold."

Behold three people showed up. Behold the challenges and burdens someone faces and how they carry them. Oh God, behold I'm showing up in prayer.

Instead of minimizing the miracles with the word "just," "behold" makes us look, pay attention, and celebrate the minor miracles in our midst ("miracle" comes from the root "to wonder"). One of my favorite verses where "idou" shows up three times is Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, 'Lo, it is here!' or 'Lo, it is there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

Don't despair if church or life isn't turning out like you imagined; don't try to control or minimize the messiness of existence. Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom that has already come and continues to come.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey. There are many opportunities to learn and connect with each other! Thank you to all those willing to lead.

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, everyone is welcome to pop in the kitchen and take a turn doing dishes after coffee fellowship (thank you).
10:50 am Bell rings and faith formation classes for all ages begin. Thank you for not visiting in the narthex while classes are taking place.

Faith Formation

Thank you to everyone who helped come up with ideas and plans for Faith Formation this year. We're always growing and reforming how we meet and develop in our relationships with each other and God. Our first day of classes will be Sunday, August 31.

Here is the current plan for Sunday mornings:

* Meagan Hinton, Lisa Wallace, Michelle Weaver, and Heidi Herter will lead younger kids in learning about the sacraments and what Lutherans believe

* Pastor Tari & Christy Wallace will lead 5th-7th grade confirmation classes. The schedule was mailed to parents. If you are willing to be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Tari.

* Scott Hinton, Bob Williams and Kirt Stage-Harvey will hang out with the high schoolers.

* Scott Ranger will lead adults in a study of the book of Ruth.

Field Trips & Overnights

Waste Water Treatment Field Trip tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 28 following worship. If you've never been you really should go.

5th-7th Grade Campout at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest is October 16-17.

Family Retreat at Jubilee Cabin at the Shrine is October 24-25. More information coming, but get it on your calendar for a fun evening together.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Lunch with Love

Noon, Tuesdays, beginning September 30. There are so many things to learn and discuss. Please join us on Tuesdays at noon for a mix of Bible study some weeks and topic discussion or presentation other weeks.

Discipleship Class

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9. The group will start on 1 Samuel. If you have wanted to check out the group, now is a great time as we start a new book of the Bible.

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Study for High School Students

6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, beginning September 3. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect. We'll need some help providing dinners.

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Thursday, September 11. Time for moms of little ones to gather for dinner and a chat.

Parents & Caregivers as Sexual Educators

5:30 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning October 23. This cohort is mainly focused on men and couples, but anyone is welcome. Feel free to ask Pastor Tari if you have questions.

Men's Group

8:30 a.m. Sundays before worship. The guys gather to catch up on life.

Friday Morning Devotions

9 a.m. Fridays. Have coffee or tea and dig into a devotion.

Ways to Serve in September/October

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 17 and October 15. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

What a remarkable ministry! This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. The menu is flexible; 100+ meals are cooked and served; and the budget is $250. If interested, you can either talk to Gail Fenumiai directly, or talk to us in the church office and we will put you in touch with her.

SOV's next two turns with The Caring Canteen are Tuesdays, September 9 and September 30.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

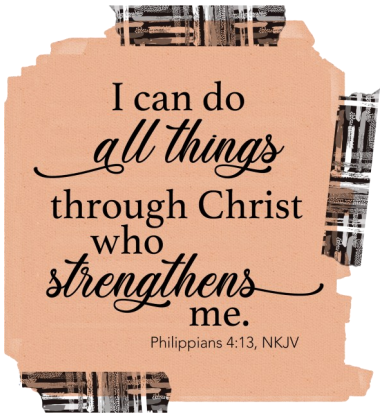
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



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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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SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

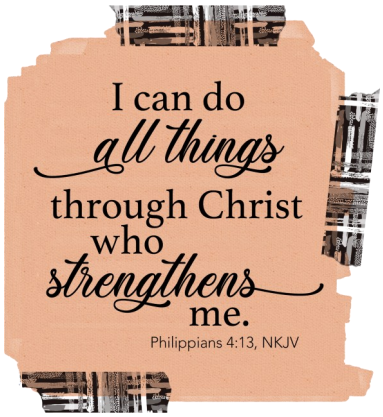
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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, AK 99803



Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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
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The Shepherd's Voice: Editor, Becky Corson and Production/Distribution, Lewis Gates

LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

September
October
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

One of my goals as a pastor is to remove the word "just" from our vocabulary at church. Here are some of the ways I hear it creep in to conversations:

There were "just" three people who showed up; If only those people, agency, or church would "just" do . . ., then everything would be fine; "Father God, we just come before you . . .". Somehow "just" started showing up in prayers, not by my lips, but lots of others. I'm sure this makes me a petty, horrible person, but I like to make a game out of long evangelical prayers and count the times "just" is said.

People use "just" far too often on social media and in churches to mean "simply or only." It's a minimizing word that takes the complex particularities of relationships or systems and tries to make things feel small or easy. "Just" reduces intricacies into controllable simplicities.

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The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. 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.

SOV Hosts Family Promise

During the month of October, SOV is the static site for Family Promise of Juneau. We provide dinners and volunteer hosts for two of those weeks: October 12-19 and 26-31. Stay tuned for ways to help. If you are unfamiliar with Family Promise, please check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WulJjnY4YzM&t=4s

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

Savory or sweet—snacks and treats are always appreciated on Sunday mornings. Did you celebrate a birthday or other special event during the week and have delicious leftover cake? Or did you make/buy too many cookies? Too many apples? Bring your yummy "leftovers" to share during Sunday morning coffee fellowship!

Giving Updates

Ways to Give

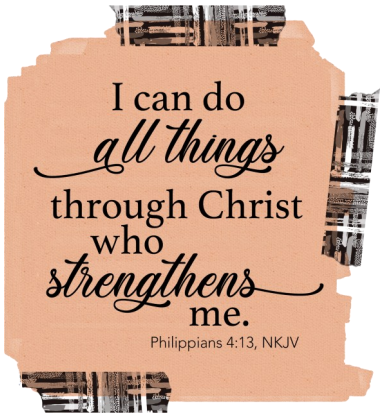
1. Place checks or cash in the offering plate.
2. Sign up for regular giving through Tithely at www.sovlutheran.org/give
3. Sign up through Vanco using the QR code.

10% PFD for Winter Costs

We have managed to reduce our oil consumption, but winter costs for plowing and electricity remain high. Please consider donating 10% of your PFD to help offset these costs.

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 display at the back of the sanctuary and give it as a gift. If you are willing and able to make a shawl, please do so! If you have questions, feel free to ask Alice Gates (she knows of some patterns and can answer questions).





With Grateful Hearts

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your loose offerings in July and August. We raised $199 for Special Olympics and over $467 for the Children's Advocacy Center.

September—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Alaska
October—Suicide Prevention
November—Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR)
December—SE Alaska AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children)

Thanks from Nigeria

A huge thank you from Nuwayina in Nigeria. We recently sent $800 for flood relief. In late August, the area near her in Yobe where her daughter Namsi lives was destroyed by floods. Over 500 homes were destroyed as well as schools. We sent funds to help with food and shelter.

Caring Canteen

The Caring Canteen has been operating for over a year. Thank you to Gail Fenumiai for her leadership, ELCA domestic hunger grant for the funding, and to all the volunteers who have helped cook and serve. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors.

[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 26 to November 23. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 23 through December 14. If you would like to purchase gifts for one of their families, contact AWARE directly at (907) 586-6623.

Seafarer's International

We'll again gather supplies for Seafarer's International - you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items will be sometime in November; we will also have a gathering to put the satchels together.

Please help us make 2025 another banner year. 90% of global trade is transported on the world's oceans by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people, yet our supply chains depend on their services and sacrifice of being at sea for months on end. Seafarers are often overworked and lonely. We invite you, your business, school group or congregation to spread the joy of Christmas among those who will not be home with their loved ones. Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts. Mariners regardless of their faith or nationality will receive satchels filled with:

One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L)
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
One T- Shirt (size M-L)
One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)
One small Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M or L on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers share the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

Master Facility Update

Columbarium

We are hoping to do the final masonry work on the seat bench this fall. If you are interested in purchasing one of the columbarium niches, please talk to Pastor Tari or a member of the committee.

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant

The lighting is completed! This was the major project and the next phase is security cameras. The next major part is working on replacing some of the doors and windows.

Landscaping

A huge thank you to Doug and Wendy Larsen for all their work moving dirt and making things beautiful. We are still a work in process, but things are starting to come together.

Fire Drill at Church

We are planning a fire drill on September 14 (weather permitting). It is in our constitution to do one annually and this will be our first. Here is a basic list of our evacuation procedures:

Alerting occupants of evacuation - who ever identified the threat/event. Usher calls 911 and keeps in contact with JPD.

In the event of a fire, pull fire alarm pull stations as evacuation starts. If trained and comfortable use fire extinguishers.

Evacuation routes and exits to primary and secondary assembly points.

Accountability of staff, volunteers, congregants, and visitors - Accountability officer would be the Lay Assistant.

Procedures for securing restricted areas, items of historical or religious/cultural significance, cash donations, or other valuable items.

Procedures for assisting children, the elderly, or those with disabilities/access and functional needs.

The Playground is OPEN

The playground was dedicated on Sunday, August 24 and every day since we've had kids playing there. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The pickets and permanent signage will be ordered hopefully before the end of this year. We have to order either 50 or 100 engraved pickets. We are currently at 65, but will probably be closer to 75 once we include some of the volunteers and in-kind donations. Please check our current list:

Elfrida Nord
AK Synod TEAM
First Bank
Goldbelt
Newton Family
Douglas-Dornan
Landvik Family
Natalie Blanton
Kiessling Family
Wallace Family
Dihle Family
Ranger Family
KofC:Bishop Kenny
PSEA
Global Credit
Balstad Family
Cheryl Jebe
Memory of Hank
Umbs Family
Larsen Family
First Natl Bank
Hinton Family
Howard Family
Edvenson Family
Gates Family
Breakthrough
Weaver Family
Varness Family
Lori Gaisford
Debbie Parsons
Eileen Hosey
Newport Family
Stage Family
Dave Ringle
Helen Mehrkens
GC Friends
McCarley Family
Fredenbergs
Duvall Family
Anne Van Sickle
Lisa Wallace
Judy Gustafson
Katherine Andrews
Schmidt Family
Memory of Steve
Rasmuson Fndn.
Block Fndn.
Crossett Fndn.
Varness Family
Susan Clements
Gaguine Fndn.
Chris Gianotti
Orsborn Family
Stage-Harvey
Fam Larsen Tempel
Jenkins Family
Kathy HoseyJordan
Pete Trivette
Corson Family
Little Leaf
Moose Lodge
Nancy Hixson
Elks 420
Gastineau Rotary
Will Judy
Cindy Spanyers

Sabbatical Update



Submitted by Pastor Tari

Sabbaticals are traditionally taken every seven years, so it's not quite time for another one, but it's close enough. I'll already be in New Zealand so it made sense to stay. Part of my time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family.

I'm excited to introduce Linda Land-Clossen as the shepherd who will be in Juneau while I'm away (January to April 2026). Linda and I worked together 30+ years ago in Alaska, and many of you met Linda these last three years at camp.

From Linda's Resume:

Ph.D. in Religious and Theological Studies Religious and Psychological Studies Concentration Joint Ph.D. Program of the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology Dissertation: "Strings of Relationship and Community: A Dialogue between the Early Years of Bede Griffiths and the Theories of Jean Baker Miller"	2008
MA in Religious Studies University of Denver Thesis: "The Ordination of Theravadin Women"	1995
BS in Religious Studies Ball State University, Honors College	1992
Semester Abroad in Thailand School for International Training Independent Research Project: "Thai Impressions of Mae Ji"	1990

Teaching

Assistant Professor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2019 – 2023
Term Instructor, Peace and Justice Studies Department, Regis University	2017 – 2019

Other things to know from Linda

Member of Church of the Beloved (of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion); Eucharistic Minister and a lector there.
Participating in a Truth and Reconciliation pilgrimage through ECC to Montgomery, AL Legacy sites.
She is an oblate with the Benet Hill Monastery in Monument, CO (since July 2024).
She participates in a variety of food ministries.
She participates in monthly contemplative circle gatherings.

Part of our preparation is working on Lutheran liturgy and theology, but our bishop has approved her leadership at Shepherd of the Valley. I think you'll enjoy Linda and she will help us develop some of the contemplative practices that are not my forte.

Thanks for supporting time of renewal and rest for me and for the congregation.

Peace,

[28] Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:28-30

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in September and October





September Birthdays
2 Beverly Loveid
4 Jack Davis
4 Sharon Mitchell
8 Amanda Duvall
8 Deb Tempel
9 Scott Hinton
10 Norman Carls
13 Braden Jenkins
13 Joy Will
15 Corinne Orsborne
16 Sue Nielsen
19 Kirt Stage-Harvey
20 Sam Kiessling
21 Mariel Odum
24 Robert Varness

September Baptismal Birthdays
12 Karen Stumpf
27 Maddox Rasmussen
29 Kristin Wright

October Birthdays
5 Lewis Gates
5 Marie Stevens
7 Bess Ranger
8 Mindy Birk
8 Whitney Hall
8 Elfrida Nord
9 Braith Dihle
9 Wendy Larsen
10 Beverly Varness
10 Linda Thompson
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
28 Erik Abbott
28 Trish Dihle
28 Kiley Stevens
30 Eileen Hosey



October Baptismal Birthdays
2 Mabel Hinton
2 Trevor Kellar
2 Kyle Reilly
2 Megan Sheufelt
11 Lewis Gates
13 Denny Corson
15 Corbin Corson
19 Tyler Sorem-Birk
23 Phillip Fenumiai
27 Bekah Peterson
29 Valorie Kissel
30 Joy Will



Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors
Thank you to Dennis and Ginny Iverson (Becky Corson's parents) for sponsoring in celebration of Denny and Corbin's baptismal birthdays, and Dan and Becky's anniversary, all happening in October.

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.

A Moment for Prayer

Prayers for visitors to our pantry, and other food pantries in Juneau, that they find not just food, but friendly faces and genuine caring. We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; outgoing ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and recently elected ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October.

September—Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage.
October—Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole.



September

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
August 31 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am First Day of Faith Formation (FF) Classes	1	2	3 630 pm OWL	4	5 9 am Devotions	6 9 –10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 6 pm SOV Book Club (location tbd)	8	9 230 pm Discipleship Class SOV Hosts Caring Canteen	10 630 pm OWL	11 530 pm Mom's Grp	12 9 am Devotions	13 9 –10 am Pantry
14 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes and Fire Drill	15	16	17 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	18	19 9 am Devotions	20 9 –10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	22	23	24 5-630 pm Council 630 pm OWL	25	26 9 am Devotions	27 9 –10 am Pantry
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes or Waste Water Field Trip	29	30 Noon Lunch with Love SOV Hosts Caring Canteen				

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.

November 2025

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.a-printable-calendar.com

October

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 4 pm Aotearoa Zoom Meeting 630 pm OWL	2	3 9 am Devotions	4 9 –10 am Pantry
5 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 1130 am Aotearoa In-Person Meeting	6	7 Noon Lunch with Love	8 630 pm OWL	9	10 9 am Devotions	11 9 –10 am Pantry
12 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	13	14 Noon Lunch with Love	15 SOV at the Glory Hall 630 pm OWL	16 5th-7th Grade Campout	17 9 am Devotions	18 9 –10 am Pantry
- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 12 to 19 - - - -						
19 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	20	21 Noon Lunch with Love	22 630 pm OWL	23 530 pm Parents & Caregivers	24 9 am Devotions Family Retreat at Shrine	25 9 –10 am Pantry
26 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	27	28 Noon Lunch with Love	29 630 pm OWL	30 530 pm Parents & Caregivers	31 9 am Devotions	
- - - - SOV Hosts for FPJ from October 26 to 31 - - - -						

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Physical Address: 8198 Keegan Street
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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Save this newsletter!
It is the September/October 2025 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