

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

November
December
2025

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of the Valley Lutheran Church

You all are such amazing theologians. I loved reading how you defined faith and wanted to share. I typed in all your responses and this is the summary:

Faith, Trust & Belief

Since hate has no faith, love must be faith.

Faith is **trust in the unseen**, a belief in things inherently unknowable.

It is **confidence without certainty**, a life raft in the storm, a thread—sometimes thick and sure, sometimes frayed and fragile—connecting our hope to a greater good.

Faith is leaning into something you can't see, hear, smell, touch, or prove—but still, you **know**.

A knowing that lives in the heart, beyond reason, beyond evidence.

Faith is:

Believing all will be well, even when all seems lost.

Trusting when the path is dark and the way unclear.

Holding on when you feel overwhelmed and alone.

It is a **relationship** with a God so vast we can never fully understand—but who is always near, always working, especially when we ask.

It is the quiet **confidence** that the God of the universe is still in control.

Faith is a **mustard seed**, small but mighty.

It's the **freedom** to take the next right step, even when the rest of the road is hidden by fog.

Faith is not blind obedience.

It is **living truthfully**, with integrity, even when you don't see results.

It is:

Hope

Trust

Vulnerability

Commitment

Letting go of control

Believing in good

Anchoring ourselves in love

Faith is **believing in Jesus**, even though we can't see him.

It is **seeing the big picture**—that love wins.

It is **trusting in the Lord with all our hearts**, knowing we are loved, known, and never alone.

Faith is the **substance of things hoped for**—not yet received, but believed in with all we are.

I appreciate your wisdom so much and I think that is one of the many gifts about serving here. We are constantly growing in our faith together. Faith is not something that is explained to us; it is our wrestling and living together as a community seeking to love.

...continued on page 5



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 do 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.

All Saints' Sunday

Please join us for worship on November 2. All Saints' Sunday is when we remember our loved ones who have gone before us and light a candle in their memory. We remember especially those who died this last year - Hank Jebe, Cherie Oliver, Barry Stuart and Linda Price.

Faith Formation

Classes by age group will continue until November 30. Thank you to all our leaders. Adults will focus on the book of Jonah.

On Sundays during the Season of Advent, we will have intergenerational brunches with devotion and craft after worship. More information on page 6.

Alaska Synod Advent Devotions

The firm deadline to submit is November 9.

This year's Alaska Synod Advent Devotional will be new and different, and contributions are needed and wanted. This year it will be a **VISUAL devotional**. Each page will have a verse from the previous Sunday's scriptures with a word highlighted for consideration. Have you painted a picture, taken a photograph, beaded a hair barrette, sculpted a piece of clay lately? Does this piece of art express to you something like *comfort or flood or rejoice or defend or ready*?

Interested in submitting a photo to the devotions?

Please email the SOV office at sovjuneau@gmail.com and we will forward the devotional instructions to you (too many details to include here). The deadline to submit is November 9, so please let us know asap.

Other Faith Formation Opportunities

Faith Formation doesn't just happen on Sunday morning!

Baptisms & New Members

If you are interested in baptism or becoming a member of SOV, please talk with Pastor Tari. We would love to celebrate with you during worship on November 23 or December 14.

Lunch with Love

Noon on Tuesdays. Lunch, good conversation, a devotion and/or activity. All are invited.

11/4—Linda provides lunch and Pastor Tari will lead discussion on what's up with gender identity and pronouns.

11/11—Sue & Eileen provide lunch and Pastor Tari will share presentation on racial justice and housing.

11/18—Teresa provides lunch and we will put together packages for Seafarers.

11/25—We need a volunteer for lunch and someone to lead activity.

High School Youth Overnight

We will have an overnight at Eagle Beach cabin on November 14-15. More details coming soon.

Discipleship Class

2 p.m., Tuesday, November 18. The group will continue 1 Samuel.

Our Whole Lives (OWL) Study for High School Students

6:15 p.m., Thursdays, November 6, 13, 20, December 4, 11, 18. We look forward to this time of exploring how our values and sexuality connect.

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 November/December



Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, November 19 and December 17. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

Glory Hall Activity Volunteers

Besides providing a meal on the third Wednesday of each month, we also have the opportunity to lead an activity at the Glory Hall. Thanks to Thrivent, we have purchased several Lego kits to build together. Plan on joining us to build Lego kits with Glory Hall residents on Wednesday, November 19 around 4 p.m. We will likely have an activity planned for when we serve in December also; stay tuned for details.

Glory Hall Tree in Sanctuary

Our traditional “warm clothing tree” for the Glory Hall will be set-up in the sanctuary after Thanksgiving. Stop by church and adorn the tree with warm socks, hats, mittens, gloves and scarves. Please have donations to church by December 16.

“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 turn with The Caring Canteen is Tuesday, December 2. Cooks and servers needed.

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.

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 “leftovers” to share during Sunday morning fellowship!

It’ll Be Here Soon. Snow. Wanna Help with Snowblowing?

We have a serious (seriously cool) snowblower so we can keep the path from Loop Road to the parking lot clear. If you are willing to be trained in how to use it, please talk with Scott Hinton

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.



Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your generous giving of loose offering on Sunday mornings. We have raised a good amount of money each month for a variety of worthy non-profit organizations.

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)

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

Opportunities to Give at Thanksgiving and Christmas



Gift Cards for AWARE Thanksgiving

Provide a grocery gift card for families to help them purchase their Thanksgiving meals. Take an envelope from the box that Tommie Turkey has on the bulletin board at church. Purchase grocery store gift cards in denominations up to \$100. Indicate dollar value and include activation receipt. Place the envelope in the offering plate. **The final day for card collection is November 16.** Cards will be delivered to the AWARE shelter for distribution to clients.



Brighten Up Christmas with Gift Cards for AWARE

From November 30 through December 14 we will be collecting Grocery and Gift Cards for AWARE Christmas. Take an envelope from the tree on the bulletin board and fill it with grocery gift cards up to \$100 denominations or gift cards that can be used as gifts. Coffee, Restaurants, Movie Theater, Local or Online Retail Stores. Remember to include the activation receipt and the dollar value of the card. Cards that can be used as gifts are helpful when there are last minute admissions to the Shelter and unexpected needs.

If you'd prefer to shop for gifts for a family, contact AWARE directly to inquire about adopting a family. Laura Elizando, Administrative Coordinator 907-586-6623 ext 331 or info@awareak.org

Seafarer's International—Due Date for Donations is November 16

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 is Sunday, November 16. We will organize the donations at Lunch with Love at Noon, Tuesday, November 18.

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 over-worked 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; patterns and yarn available at church)

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!

It is you who lights my lamp; the Lord, my God, lights up my darkness. Psalm 18:28



Master Facility Notes

Thank you to Anderson Brothers for their patience and work on the lighting. We are slowly paying for it since the grant is reimbursable from FEMA. We pay chunks and then get the reimbursement. The security cameras are next.

We are looking for someone to examine the doors and windows at church to see what needs replaced and come up with a plan. We also need someone to build a railing on the handicap access to the columbarium.

SLOW DOWN when you pull in the driveway please. We are thankful to Brandon Godkin for doing the grading on the driveway and we still have some serious drainage work to do, but entering and exiting the driveway slowly helps keep potholes at bay.

Annual Meeting Reports

(Due December 22)

Hello report writers! Reports are due early this year. Please have them to the church office by December 22. The Annual Meeting of the Congregation happens January 25, but Becky will be in New Zealand until January 21, so she needs to assemble the report before she leaves.

Pastor's Report-PT

Council Prez-Dan Corson

Treasurer - Gail Fenumiai

Stewardship - Pastor Tari

Scholarship – Gail

Worship and Music/Altar Guild – Katherine Andrews & Roger Birk

Fellowship - Sue Trivette

Parish Education - Lisa Wallace

Property Management - Dan Corson

Social Concerns - Gail Fenumiai

Social Media - Becky Corson

Summer Lunch - Teresa Kissel

Master Facility - Theresa Ross

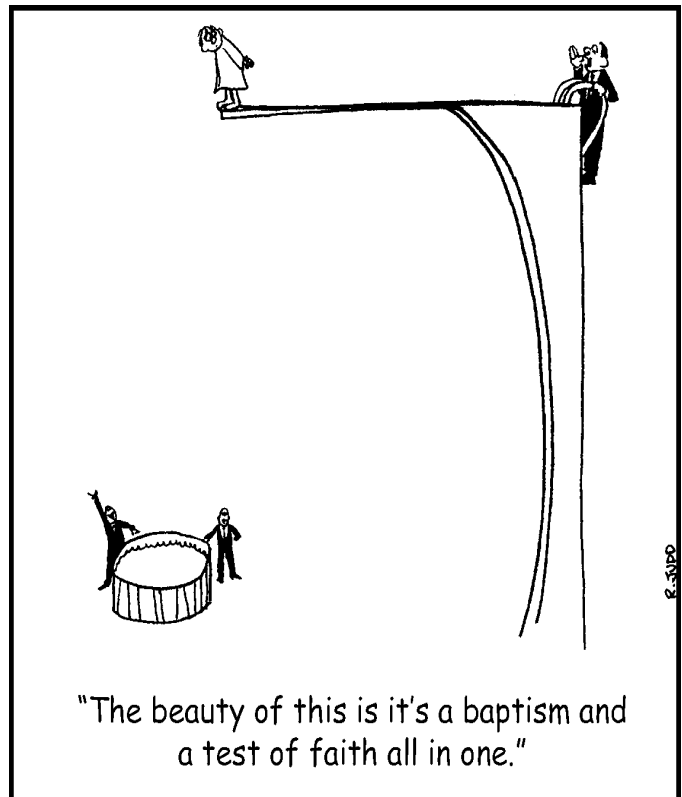
Continued from the front page...

Sabbatical is coming quickly and I do catch myself not breathing because there are so many details, but I don't stress at all about what will happen at SOV while I'm away. It's not just because there are so many wonderful leaders, but there is a dynamic to the community, a spirit that is holy, and I trust that love to sustain and guide us all through the time apart.

I'm excited and curious to see what all happens, but I have faith God's holy spirit will be at work.

Peace,
Pastor Tari

Reminder note about Pastor Tari's upcoming sabbatical: January is a good month to begin a sabbatical. She'll already be in New Zealand so it makes sense to stay. Part of her time away will be spent hiking with Sophie, learning to shepherd real sheep, and spending time with friends and family. A friend and colleague of Pastor Tari's, Linda Land-Clossen, will fill in for her while she is away.



Thanksgiving Eve & Day



Thanksgiving Eve Gathering

Join us for the annual Thanksgiving Eve *Soup and Devos* with our friends from Aldersgate and St. Brendan's. We'll gather at 5:30 pm, Wednesday, November 26 at St. Brendan's (across Mendenhall Loop Road from SOV) for a meal and a devotion. We're providing soup; watch for the soup sign-up sheet.

Thanksgiving Day Dinner

4 p.m., Thursday, November 27 at SOV. Join us for Thanksgiving dinner! Pastor Tari will provide the turkey and another meat; if you're able, please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Watch for the sign-up sheet at church (or email the office and let us know you plan to be there).

Season of Advent

We have many meaningful ways to mark this season of waiting and preparation together. The Season of Advent begins November 30.

We will take a break from regular faith formation for Intergenerational Advent Brunch and Activities following worship. Pastor Tari will lead the devotion, and volunteers will provide the main brunch dish and help with crafts.

Our Advent theme is HOPE. Thank you to the following volunteers for spearheading a brunch:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Kitchen</u>
November 30	Friday Devos Group
December 7	Fellowship
December 14	Senior High (Rasmussens lead craft)
December 21	Men's Group

Advent is also the beginning of the new year in the church. We will move from Luke's gospel to the Gospel of Matthew. Here are some of the unique characteristics in Matthew to watch for this year according to New Testament professor and theologian Dr. Mark Allen Powell:

- *Matthew likes to organize.
- *There are five great speeches given by Jesus in Matthew's Gospel.
- *Matthew likes pairs. Double characters.
- *Matthew's Gospel has a strong Jewish character.
- *Matthew's Gospel also displays anti-Jewish polemic.
- *The fulfillment of prophecy is important.
- *The law is important: questions about Jesus' relationship to the law and the interpretation of the law recur.
- *Matthew's Gospel presents an apocalyptic vision of the world.
- *Matthew is the only Gospel in which Jesus talks explicitly about the church.
- *Peter is important: there are several references to Peter and stories about him found nowhere else.
- *The abiding presence of God/Jesus is important: Matthew's Gospel starts with Jesus as Emmanuel (God with us) and ends with Jesus' promise "I am with you always."

Advent Devotions

The Alaska Synod (that SOV is part of) is putting together an Advent Devotion book. We are invited to send submissions to the devotions. Find more information on page 2 of the newsletter.



Celebrate Christmas

Christmas Eve Luminaries

Sponsoring a luminary is a heartfelt way to honor or remember loved ones at Christmas. The luminaries will be decorated by folks at SOV and adorn the walkway on Christmas Eve. The suggested donation is \$10 per luminary. The sign-up form will be available beginning November 30 and are due by December 14.

Christmas Worship

Annual Christmas Program

9:30 a.m., Sunday, December 21. Worship featuring the Christmas program.

Christmas Eve Bonfire Worship

5:30 p.m., Tuesday, December 24. A shortened outdoor worship with Gospel readings and singing Silent Night.

Traditional Christmas Eve Worship

7 p.m., Tuesday, December 24. Traditional candlelight worship service.

Worship with Lessons & Carols

9:30 a.m., Sunday, January 4.



Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in November and December



November Birthdays

3 DiAndrea Andrews
4 Matt Fishel
7 Katherine Andrews
7 Lindsay Birk
7 Adella Dihle
7 Gen Nestler
8 Nick Andrews
9 Keith Andrews
9 Chuck Orsborn
12 Christy Wallace
20 Philis Beran
20 Erik Thompson
21 Marsha Buck
21 Richard (Ike) Stage
22 Dan Corson
22 Lori Fredenberg
25 Tyler Sorum-Birk
30 Kayleigh Newport

November

Baptismal Birthdays

22 Bob Williams
27 Ben Nestler
28 Marsha Buck



December Birthdays

1 Amy Witt
2 Nicole Fenumiai
2 Judy Gustafson
2 Mac Oliver
3 Scott Ranger
5 Bob Wright
14 Al Fenumiai
15 Sandra DeLong
16 MJ Hinman
17 Annette Ranger
18 Jacob Carls
18 Dani Witt
22 Joelle Newport
24 Caleb Abbott
26 Joie Orr
27 Cameron Marx
27 Karsun Newport
29 Logan Balstad
29 Brittany Fenumiai

December

Baptismal Birthdays

1 Gen Nestler
1 Bob Varness
13 Tyler Weldon
16 Bobbi Meek
21 Aaron Doten-Ferguson
24 Nicole Fenumiai
25 Savona Kiessling
29 MJ Hinman
29 Arlo Hinton
29 Jack Pegues
29 Morgan Pegues
29 Rylan Pegues



A Moment for Prayer

Gracious God, during this season of giving thanks, and of peace and joy, we keep in our prayers those who are lost, lonely, poor, broken-hearted, hungry, and grieving. Help us to remind them of your unconditional love. May you fill them with your peace during times of grief and sadness. Amen.

We also pray for Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Timothy Oslovich; and ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers also for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for November and December.

November—Joy Lutheran Church, Eagle River
December—Island of Faith Lutheran, Wrangell

A Prayer for Veteran's Day

Almighty and ever-living God, we give you thanks for the men and women who have served and defended our country and the values of freedom and justice we hold so dear.

Help us be mindful of the sacrifices they made and the hardship endured by their families and friends, so that we never take for granted the privileges they have secured for us.

Hear us, we pray, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

From the Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Prayer Book for the Armed Forces

Veteran's Day is November 11.

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

www.sovlutheran.org

Sun**Mon****Tue****Wed****Thu****Fri****Sat**

Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors Thank you to everyone who has sponsored a past issue of the newsletter. Your sponsorships are most appreciated! If you are interested in sponsoring 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 issue you would like to sponsor and any special wording you want included.						<i>1</i> 9-10 am Pantry
<i>2</i> All Saints' Day 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes 1130 am NZ Mtg 6 pm Book Club	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> Noon Lunch w/Love	<i>5</i> 4 pm New Zealand Mtg (Zoom only) 530 pm Worship & Music Mtg	<i>6</i> 615 pm OWL	<i>7</i> 9 am Friday Devos	<i>8</i> 9-10 am Pantry
<i>9</i> 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> Noon Lunch w/Love	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> 615 pm OWL	<i>14</i> 9 am Friday Devos High School Overnighter at Eagle Beach	<i>15</i> 9-10 am Pantry
<i>16</i> Seafarer's Donations Due to Church 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> Noon Lunch w/Love 2 pm Discipleship	<i>19</i> SOV at the Glory Hall 4 pm Lego Kits at the Glory Hall 7 pm Council	<i>20</i> 615 pm OWL	<i>21</i> 9 am Friday Devos	<i>22</i> 9-10 am Pantry
<i>23</i> 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1050 am FF Classes	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> Noon Lunch w/Love	<i>26</i> 530 pm Thanksgiving Eve Soup & Devos at St. Brendan's	<i>27</i> <i>Happy Thanksgiving</i>  4 pm Dinner at SOV	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> 9-10 am Pantry with Hot Breakfast
<i>30</i> First Sunday Advent 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Advent Brunch	Prayers for Our Pilgrims Please keep our crew of 31 traveling to New Zealand for the January "Pilgrimage of Friendship" in your prayers. The group departs on December 31 and returns around January 13 (many people are staying to travel on their own after the pilgrimage wraps up). No doubt they will have stories of adventures to share when they get back. Thank you for your generous congregational support of this pilgrimage.					

January 2026

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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

Food Pantry Direct Line: 907-500-3588



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

www.a-printable-calendar.com

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2 Noon Lunch w/Love SOV Hosts the Caring Canteen	3	4 615 pm OWL	5 9 am Friday Devos	6 9-10 am Pantry
7 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Advent Brunch 6 pm Book Club at Forbidden Peak	8	9 Noon Lunch w/Love	10	11 615 pm OWL	12 9 am Friday Devos	13 9-10 am Pantry
14 Luminary Forms Due to Church 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Advent Brunch	15	16 Noon Lunch w/Love	17 SOV at the Glory Hall	18 615 pm OWL	19 9 am Friday Devos	20 9-10 am Pantry
21 830 am Men's Group 930 am Worship w/ Christmas Program 1030 am Advent Brunch	22 Annual Reports due to the church office	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 530 pm Bonfire Worship 7 pm Traditional Candlelight Worship	25 <i>Merry Christmas!</i> 	26	27 9-10 am Pantry with Hot Breakfast
28 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship— Wear your pajamas to church today! 1030 am Coffee Fellowship	29	30	31 Happy New Year! Here's to safe & enjoyable celebrations.	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 overwhelm- ing times, or even to check in during "normal" times. If you're curious, feel free to ask Pastor Tari more about it.		

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

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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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JUNEAU, ALASKA

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Return Service Requested



**Save this newsletter! It is the
November/December 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