

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

September
October
2026

The Shepherd's Voice
Bimonthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

"The fear of the lord is the beginning of wisdom" Proverbs 9:10

I need to stop jumping out and scaring people. It has long been a slight obsession. When I worked in the seminary library, we would hide in the stacks and wait for the last person to turn out the lights and then jump out. My favorite hiding spot at church is right inside the narthex by the door. I managed to scare many summer lunch staff members and only a few of the older volunteers (I'm thankful they didn't punch me).

We played a game the other night at Sr. High night called Grog that involved hiding parts of a flashlight around the church and the Grog (one of the teens) would also hide. The goal was for everyone to put the flashlight together and shine it on the Grog while the Grog hid and tried to scare the other players. There was quite a bit of screaming going on.

I am not sure why it brings me so much delight to scare and be scared. Some of it is probably my weird brain chemistry, but there is also something about fear that makes us alert to our surroundings and aware that surprises may hide behind any corner.

What does the fear of the Lord mean? It is one of the top questions asked of pastors. There is something about fearing God that doesn't sit right with the whole love thing. I want to make clear if you are in a relationship where intimidation and fear are used to maintain it, then that is abuse. Love always offers the freedom to reject that love. We do not love God because of the threat of fire and brimstone.

God is love and there is freedom to delight and live in that love. We call it salvation. There is also the freedom to reject that love and live in numbness, hatred, and rage. We call that damnation. You don't need to wait for the after life to experience either. Fear of the Lord is not worrying about God sending you to hell or making you suffer. God is love; God is for us. That is the very nature of the trinity and fear of the Lord is standing in awe and wonder of that nature.

God is not the creepy pastor hiding behind the door waiting to jump out and scare you, but it does feel like luck or death are like that. There we are minding our own business closing down the library when a friend jumps out and makes the whole world off balance for a bit. Death and luck are like that friend. They are not enemies, but they throw us curve balls sometimes.

In this time of increasing darkness and fear, God's love frees us to live in the surprises of luck and death with some screaming, some laughing, and lots of love.

Peace,
Pastor Tari



Faith Formation at SOV

We hope you'll join us as part of your faith journey.

General Sunday Schedule

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 (thank you).

10:45 a.m. Faith Formation.

Faith Formation: A New Look

After the congregational brainstorming session at the end of fall last year, we are trying some new things with faith formation on Sunday mornings. We will kick everything off with an orientation for everyone on September 13, plus a downtown scavenger hunt for the middle schoolers.

We will rotate experiences each Sunday between:

Triads - groups of 3 (or more so it isn't awkward) will talk through a devotion sheet together that focuses on a Bible story and our lives together. People won't always be in the same group, but it's a great way to get to know each other.

Age Group Classes - we will divide into different age groups in different parts of the church.

If you are willing to lead an Age Group Class and/or be the point person for a Triad once a month, please talk to Pastor Tari. Many leaders make light work!

Fellowship and Community Check-In - This will be our once-a-month Sunday to check in with how we are doing and if there are any updates/questions for leadership.

Field Trips - There might be some field trips thrown in there, but none are planned yet. Let Pastor Tari know if you have an idea for a community field trip.

Small Group Opportunities

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; share highs and lows for the week; and dig into a devotion.

Senior High Group

At 8 p.m., Tuesdays, September 8, 22, October 6, and 20, the senior high group meets at SOV. This is open to anyone. We'll make an easy meal together (good for college cooking) and do some work together on what healing and wholeness look like.

Discipleship Class

It's been a bit! We will meet at 2 p.m., Thursday, September 10 to keep plugging through 1 Samuel. Everyone is welcome.

Lunches with Love

Lunches with Love start again at Noon, Tuesday, September 15 (and happen every Tuesday). Bring your ideas for programs and meals to church on Sunday, September 6 (or feel free to email them to the church office).

Mom's Group

6 p.m., Tuesday, September 29. Time for moms to chat and enjoy a meal together. We will need help with the meal and childcare. Please let Pastor Tari know if you plan to attend OR if you are able to help with the meal or childcare. Thanks!



Interested in Becoming a Member of SOV?

New Member Sunday at SOV is Sunday, October 4. If you're interested in becoming a member at Shepherd of the Valley (SOV) and/or would like more information, talk to Pastor Tari.

Ways to Serve in September & October



Donate Snacks & Treats

We love our time for fellowship after Sunday worship! Feel free to bring snacks and treats to church for fellowship time. Drop off some baked goods or purchase healthy snacks. It's fun to have a mix of sweet and savory. Thank you to the Fellowship Committee for being the Sunday Snack Crew!

Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, September 16 and October 21. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

"The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

We host the food truck on Tuesday, September 8. Cooks and servers needed for both of those days. This is a great experience to invite friends to help serve. 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.

Food Pantry

The pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. Saturdays; and on the last Saturday of the month we serve a hot breakfast. Deliveries to folks who are homebound are available on Saturdays too. Call the pantry line at (907) 500-3588 for info.

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.



Donate 10% of Alaska 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

Sunday Morning Loose Offering

Thank you for your generous giving of loose offering on Sunday mornings.

September loose offering goes to Meals on Wheels - Meals on Wheels is a volunteer-based service that provides hot, nutritious meals to qualifying homebound seniors age 60 and older.

October loose offering goes to Saint Vincent DePaul Home Visit Team - The Home Visit Team (HVT) is a group of volunteers affiliated with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Theresa Conference who learn about people in need through referrals, arrange visits, and offer assistance to the best of their ability. Assistance often includes financial assistance, as well as help with household chores and transportation.

Home Visit Teams visit people in their home, spend time with them to thoroughly understand their needs, and respond to those needs as best as possible. Examples of basic needs where they might be of assistance include: Food, Clothing, Housing, Heat, Electricity, Transportation, Job application, and Home budgeting.

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



News and Upcoming Events

Resurrection Lutheran Anniversary

Resurrection Lutheran will celebrate 100 years of ministry with a smoked turkey dinner at the Juneau Yacht Club at 5 p.m., Saturday, September 19. Open to all. More information coming soon.

Memorial Service for Nancy Davis

We will have a memorial service for Nancy Davis at 10:45 a.m., Sunday, September 27 (following worship). A light lunch will be served following. Her obituary is online at dignitymemorial.com.

From her obituary: *It is with profound sadness and tender remembrance that we announce the passing of Nancy Carolyn Davis, a remarkable woman who graced this world with her compassion, warmth, and unwavering dedication to the health of others. Born on February 13, 1947, in Spartanburg, South Carolina, Nancy left us on July 21, 2026, after a valiant 12-year battle with neuroendocrine cancer.*

Elfrida's Birthday Dinner

We are excited to welcome Elfrida's family and join them in celebrating her birthday. There will be a potluck dinner at 6 p.m., Thursday, October 1 at SOV.

Pancit Making

Everyone is welcome to a pancit making class at 6:30 p.m., Friday, October 2. One of our friends from First Bank will teach us how to make it so we stop asking her. This has been a huge hit at summer lunch and the Caring Canteen.

Southeast Cluster Gathering in Wrangell

Katherine Andrews and one other person will represent Shepherd of the Valley at the gathering of Southeast congregations in Wrangell, October 2-4. We're still working on getting our in-person Cluster meetings rolling after COVID, but it was a long and meaningful tradition to have everyone gather for a weekend. If you'd like to represent SOV, talk to Pastor Tari.

Alaska Collegium

Pastor Tari will be in Anchorage October 13-15 for the bi-annual clergy gathering. The clergy in Alaska work hard to support and encourage each other. She is also part of Synod Council, which meets October 9-10 in Anchorage. This is the governing body for the church in Alaska.



Update: Master Facility Plan

Fencing along Loop Road

We decided to hire this out and the goal is to get it done before the end of summer. Pickets will probably not be in place until spring.

New Doors and Window

We have three security doors that will be replaced and one window. There are more windows that should probably be replaced, but this is as much as we could do with the security grant.

Playground Sign

A new permanent sign should be installed before the end of fall.

Parking Lot

The goal is to have engineering plans for drainage by the end of the year.

Sound System

After COVID, we tried to get bids twice for a sound system at church, but neither company followed through after the initial visit. We are trying again to solicit a plan and bid.

Travel Plans



Kumano Kodo Pilgrimage in October 2026

During the last two weeks of October, Pastor Kristin Garey will preach and preside while Pastor Tari and her family are hiking the Kumano Kodo in Japan.

Pastor Kristin's (aka Kris) bio: Kris followed the Christian call to be of service to those in need. Kris studied American Sign Language, earning her degree in Deaf Services through the University of Wisconsin at Superior. She also holds a Masters in Vocational Rehabilitation, a degree which led to certification as a Rehabilitation Counselor for the State of Minnesota. She served clients with wide-range of disabilities and assisted them find employment opportunities. In 2008, Kris completed a degree in Theology and was eligible for Ordination in the Lutheran Church. She was a Lutheran pastor in Hovland, Minnesota for sixteen years. Kris used her interest in ministry and music to connect people, and mentored youth through her church and community.

About the pilgrimage (from Wikipedia): The Kumano Kodō is a series of ancient pilgrimage routes that crisscross the Kii Peninsula, the largest peninsula of Japan. These mountainous trails are used by pilgrims to the "Kumano Sanzan" - the Three Grand Shrines of Kumano: Kumano Hongū Taisha, Kumano Nachi Taisha, and Kumano Hayatama Taisha. These three shrines are the holiest sites of the ancient syncretic Kumano religion. It has been visited by pilgrims seeking healing and salvation as a site of religious significance for over a thousand years. People with backgrounds from peasants to emperors would visit the region while guided by Shugendō monks.

National Youth Gathering 2027

We have at least five youth along with Pastor Tari and Kirt headed to Minneapolis in June/July 2027 for National Youth Gathering. Every three years, youth from around the nation gather for worship, service, and fellowship. Thank you to everyone who helped with the clothing sale. We have nearly met our goal for fundraising. We have one youth who could use help with mileage to get to the gathering. If you are able to help, please talk with Pastor Tari.

Argentina 2028

We're looking at doing something new. People we met in New Zealand highly recommend going to Patagonia and this opportunity came along.

We will work with Merge to plan a trip in late December 2027-early January 2028 to Argentina. Here is the description from their website:

The Global Church is inviting your group to participate in what God is doing in the Patagonia region of Argentina. Our partners are Las Iglesias del Pacto in Bariloche and Ingeniero Jacobacci. The two churches in Bariloche, and the one in Jacobacci, are very involved in community ministry. They have outreach to youth, small groups, participate in community events, have ministry to children, sports ministry, etc. The two churches in Bariloche are well established. Teams would be engaged in community-based ministries led by the local churches. Any age group is invited, any time of year, for any length of time. Trips are led, staffed and implemented by Argentine and Latin American leaders.

We will have a deposit fee and registration by January, but if you are interested talk with Pastor Tari.



Recognizing Reformation Sunday

Reformation Sunday, observed on the Sunday closest to October 31, is when ELCA congregations give thanks for the Holy Spirit's work through Martin Luther in the 16th-century Reformation and remember that the church is always being renewed by God's grace in Christ. We celebrate core Lutheran convictions—grace alone, faith alone, Scripture alone—not as a once-a-year “holiday,” but as a living promise that all people are loved and freed by God to serve their neighbors in justice, mercy and courage. (from ELCA.com)

Reformation Potluck

After worship on October 25 we'll celebrate Reformation Sunday with a German Food Potluck. Wear red and bring your favorite German foods. The Fellowship Committee will provide the (Root) Beer!

Looking Ahead to the Holidays

Gift Cards for AWARE

We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 25 to November 22. Grocery gift cards for Christmas will be gathered from November 29 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. Remember, 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.

The satchels are filled with the following items. The end-of-season sales downtown are a good opportunity to buy some of these items:

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



Family Promise of Juneau

Hearth and Harvest

Saturday, October 3

Celebrate 10 years of impact.

Enjoy a delicious harvest dinner.

Support families experiencing homelessness.

Join us for a cozy evening of comfort food, community, and celebration as we mark 10 years of building community to end childhood homelessness in Juneau.

Enjoy a delicious harvest-inspired meal (think baked mac & cheese, roasted chicken, fresh breads, seasonal sides, and homemade pies!), connect with friends old and new, and hear stories of the impact we've made together over the past decade.

Funds raised through Hearth & Harvest will support the ongoing operation of House of Promise and ensure families experiencing homelessness continue to have a safe place to land, heal, and rebuild.

<https://givebutter.com/fpjhearthandharvest>

Let Blessings Overflow—Celebrations in September & 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
12 Ronald Duvall
16 Jeff Jenkins
19 Nancy Hixson
20 Nina Rajala
24 Alan Duvall
24 Bob Williams
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, 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; and ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry.

Prayers for our Alaska Synod Prayer Partners for September and October. September—Christ Lutheran Church in Soldotna. October—Christ Lutheran Church in Fairbanks.



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	

HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCES: 13 COLUMBUS DAY, 31 HALLOWEEN

MondayHandouts.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 9 am Devotions	5 9-10 am Pantry
6 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee	7	8 SOV Hosts the Car- ing Canteen 8 pm Senior High	9 6 pm Council	10 2 pm Discipleship	11 9 am Devotions	12 9-10 am Pantry
13 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1045 am Middle School Scavenger Hunt & Faith For- mation Orientation	14	15 Noon Lunch w/Love	16 SOV at the Glory Hall	17	18 9 am Devotions	19 9-10 am Pantry 5 pm Resurrection Anniversary at Jnu Yacht Club
20 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1045 am Triads	21	22 Noon Lunch w/Love 8 pm Senior High	23	24	25 9 am Devotions	26 9-10 am Pantry with Hot Breakfast 1015 am Social Con- cerns Meeting
27 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1045 am Nancy Davis' Memorial	28	29 Noon Lunch w/Love 6 pm Mom's Grp	30	Did You Know?! Videos of Pastor Tari's Sunday sermons are posted to the SOV website. We also post sermons and faith stories presented by guest speakers. Check them out at www.sovlutheran.org		

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					

HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCES: 3 ELECTION DAY; 11 VETERANS DAY; 26 THANKSGIVING DAY; 27 BLACK FRIDAY
MondayFondais.com



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Food Pantry Hours 9-10 am Saturdays (in person) Deliveries available Saturday morning to homebound folks in Lem-on Creek and the Valley. Call the food pantry direct line for information or fill out the form on the home page of our website: sovlutheran.org Food Pantry Direct Line: 907-500-3588				1 6 pm Elfrida's Birthday Dinner	2 9 am Devotions 630 pm Pancit Making Class Southeast Cluster Weekend in Wrangell October 2-4	3 9-10 am Pantry 5 pm Family Promise Harvest Event
4 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship with New Member Sunday 1030 am Coffee 1045 am Triads	5	6 Noon Lunch w/Love 8 pm Senior High	7 6 pm Council	8	9 9 am Devotions Alaska Synod Council Meeting In Anchorage	10 9-10 am Pantry
11 830 am Men's Grp 930 am Worship 1030 am Coffee 1045 am Community Check In	12	13 Noon Lunch w/Love	14 Alaska Collegium in Anchorage (bi-annual clergy meeting) October 13-15	15	16 9 am Devotions	17 9-10 am Pantry
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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

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Return Service Requested



SAVE THIS NEWSLETTER!
It's the September & October
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

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: 907-500-3588

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