



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



*So come on back Jesus; And pick up John Wayne on the way.  
Time to take off the glove; They just don't respect peace anymore.  
But if we have old John Wayne; We know he can swing from the floor.  
While he kicks their butt; We'll just stand there and watch him and pray.*

There is a Willie Nelson song where he calls out to Jesus to return and maybe pick up John Wayne on the way. In case John Wayne was before your time or outside your interest, he was the bringer of justice. Most problems could be solved in John Wayne movies with a gun or fast fists. He gave the bad guys what they had coming to them (he was the first “good guy” who kept punching when the “bad guy” was still down revolutionizing fight scenes).

Come on back Jesus and bring John Wayne on the way. I’m not picking on Willie because I often feel the same. I too give into the temptation that we can force ourselves into a better society; it just takes a few more arrests, a few more deaths and I bet we will finally find utopia. It’s so tempting and has never worked out (Noah’s Ark is the prime story illustrating this).

Jesus is never going to be the tough guy making heads roll so we can finally get the world sorted. There is a reference in Revelation where the Word of God has a sword as a tongue. If you’ve never seen any of the images of Jesus with a sword tongue, do not look them up. The primary image of Jesus in Revelation is the lamb of God and no matter how artists have tried to make a lamb look tough, it never works.

The gift of Advent, of Christmas, is not all the gifts. This season is the celebration of what power looks like. It looks like love in the flesh. It looks like releasing control and being vulnerable, being open to relationships and possibility. It looks like a babe in a manger who is completely dependent on the world around him to live and grow.

John-Wayne-power may settle things for an episode. It may make us feel better that someone has paid the price for pain caused. There is something in the human DNA that wants someone to pay. It’s more than wanting a community to be safe and give people a time-out when they cannot participate in healthy community. There is something that makes us want people to suffer for the suffering they’ve caused.

When we talk about Jesus taking the sin and suffering of the world upon the cross, it literally means he absorbs the betrayal and violence without hitting back. He stops the cycle of escalation with the promise of forgiveness. Paying suffering for suffering causes more suffering. Jesus came so we may have life abundant, so we may know healing, so we may live as the kingdom.

The best preparation we can make this season is to set aside the cynicism, the thirst for revenge, the hunger for more and show up as children. Show up this season with hearts and eyes wide open to what love looks like in the flesh.

Peace,  
Pastor Tari

## *The Shepherd’s Voice*

Bimonthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church  
November/December 2026



# Faith Formation at SOV

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 on Sundays

We will continue to rotate experiences each Sunday. Thank you to everyone who has led/will lead one or more of the following:

**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 ourselves 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.

## All Saint's Day – November 1

All Saints' Day 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, such as SOV members Jim Wilson and Nancy Davis. Join us for this special service at 9:30 a.m., Sunday, November 1 (during regular worship).

## 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., every other Tuesday, November 3, 17 December 1, and 15, the senior high group meets at SOV.

### Women's Retreat

Spend the evening or stay overnight at Raven's Rest at Eaglecrest from November 8-9. We'll hang out and play games.

### Middle School Cabin Overnighter

Tweens will head out to camp at Eagle Beach on Wednesday, November 11. More details are coming.

### Discipleship Class/SAM

If you are feeling called to explore your faith at a deeper level and perhaps to become a leader in local ministry, then now is the time to engage. We are hosting classes with local cohorts of learners and leaders from around the synod sharing their wisdom. This is a lively group, and all are welcome.

**November 12** 2-6 pm

The Church (Pastor Brenda Fiesl - Ketchikan)

**December 10** 2-6 pm

Teaching

### Lunch with Love

Lunch with Love happens at Noon on Tuesdays (though taking a break on December 22 and 29). The sign-up sheet to bring soup; something for show-and-tell; and/or presentation ideas is on the round table at church (or talk to Eileen or Anne).

### Mom's Group

6 p.m., Tuesdays, November 17 and December 15.

Time for moms to chat and enjoy a meal together.

We will need help with the meals and childcare.

Please let Pastor Tari know if you plan to attend OR if you can help with the meal or childcare. Thanks!

# Ways to Serve in November & December



## 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, Sunday Snack Crew!

## Glory Hall Meatloaf

We cook and serve our monthly meal on Wednesdays, November 18 and December 16. Watch the weekly emails for the sign-up sheet for needed contributions of time and food.

## "The Caring Canteen" Food Truck

We host the Caring Canteen meal on Tuesday, November 10. We have cooks! Four servers are needed (from about 5:45-7:15 p.m. at Aldersgate Methodist on Cinema Drive). 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 – Saturday Mornings

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.

## Wednesday Warm Up Pantry

Noon - 1 p.m., Wednesdays, October 14 to March 17

We have a mid-week pantry during the darker, colder months. Folks are welcome to come to the church for a bag of food or two. We also serve hot soup every Wednesday. This is in addition to our year-round pantry on Saturday mornings.

## Food Pantry Phone Number

Folks can call or text the pantry line at (907) 500-3588 for information and/or to request Saturday morning delivery.

## 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](http://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.

November loose offering goes to National Youth Gathering.

December loose offering goes to JAMHI Health & Wellness.

## Blessings to Our Newsletter Sponsors

Thank you to everyone who has sponsored a past issue of the newsletter. Your sponsorship is 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.



## Opportunities to Give at Thanksgiving and Christmas

### Gathering Grocery Store Gift Cards for AWARE

**Thanksgiving** - We will gather grocery gift cards for Thanksgiving from October 25 to November 22. Watch for Tom Turkey on the bulletin board in the hallway at church.

**Christmas** - 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.

### Christmas-at-Sea Satchels

We are currently collecting items for the Seafarers International House Christmas-at-Sea satchels. Remember, you don't have to purchase an entire satchel worth of items. The due date for satchel items is November 15. We will put the satchels together and prepare them for shipping during Lunch with Love on November 17.

#### The satchels are filled with the following 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

### 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 bring donations to church by December 20.

## Travel Plans



### 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 (NYG). Every three years, youth from around the USA gather for worship, service, and fellowship. We have nearly met our goal for fundraising (hooray)! Our loose offering during worship in November will go to NYG travel expenses.

### Argentina in 2028 - Pilgrimage of Paradox

Curious about traveling to Argentina on an SOV pilgrimage? Please mark your calendar to attend the "interest meeting" on Sunday, January 3 following worship. We are looking at Bariloche in the Patagonia region in January of 2028.

## Thanksgiving



### 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 25 at one of our three churches (soon to be decided; stay tuned) for a meal and a devotion.

### Thanksgiving Day Dinner

4 p.m., Thursday, November 26 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. Keep an eye out for the sign-up sheet at church (or email the office and let us know you plan to be there).



## Celebrating 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 29 and are due by December 11.

### Christmas Worship

#### Annual Christmas Program

9:30 a.m., Sunday, December 20. 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, December 27

## The Season of Advent

The first Sunday of Advent is November 29. What is our theme for Advent when Pastor Tari has spent time at a sheep sanctuary during her sabbatical? SHEEP (of course).

### Advent Brunches

We are planning Sunday-morning Advent brunches. This is such a special time together so please plan on staying after worship for brunch. We eat, do a fun devotion and craft, and then there is rehearsal for folks in the Christmas play and choir (stay tuned for more about the play and choir). We need four volunteers to lead sheep crafts each Sunday. Here are the themes for each Sunday (and the group providing brunch):

**November 29** - Psalm 23  
Fellowship Committee



**December 6** - Nathan's Sheep Story  
Men's Group

**December 13** - Lamb on the Throne  
Friday Devotions Crew

**December 20** - Sheep Hear the Good News  
Teens

### Advent Devotions

Our Advent devotions written by you all and released on the app and website will also be about sheep. Please sign up to write (the sign-up sheet with topics/Bible verses from which to choose will be available at church and in the weekly email) and if you would like to do so, send a photo to include with your devotion. A devotion typically has a short prayer, a story or thoughts based on the theme and some questions to ponder. Let us know in the church office if you have questions.

FYI. The Season of Advent also begins the new year in the church. We will move from the Gospel of Matthew to the Gospel of Mark.



*...thank you, SOV, from Pastor Kris and Mike Garey*

Greetings dear Shepherd of the Valley! What a gift to join you in worship on Oct 18 and visit your many ministries in the following week. Now back in Duluth, MN, Mike and I look out on our version of the waters of God's earth that are in Lake Superior. Like Juneau's waterways, the "Big Lake" is often foggy, inviting, or stormy—but always intriguing and lovely, reminding us: God is with us in all that comes.

Your ministries at SOV are also of God's creation, giving you many chances to be part of the beauty of God's caring. It was a delight to learn of food pantry, dinners at Glory Hall, children's meals & playground, Tuesday lunches, summer camp time, your connections with other Lutheran ministries and with the Seafarer's Ministry. Meeting many of you after worship and other times, we noticed the Spirit of God at work in individual lives and congregational life. There are times you show up to help unannounced, and times of planned connecting. In all, as God intends, you are a blessing out into the world.

And the colors of Juneau! Like the waters that roll down Thunder Mountain in its many "rivulets," the colors are endless in their variety. Yes, as expected the days were "overcast and rainy" --but the colors so diverse: pewter, slate, gray, silver, lead, chalk, sepia, and within each of those, varying hues (and occasional peeks of sun to change them more). Walking in the rain and seeing the lovely diversity are remembered highlights---but your congregation, its diversity, and the diversity of welcomes, is the greatest highlight.

Our prayers join yours for your many ministries, and our thanks to you for the welcome given us, and that you give others. We thank God for Christ's beckoning and the Holy Spirits' stirrings!

*In Christ, Pastor Kris and Mike Garey*

*(Thought you'd appreciate our Duluth Shipping entry, often fogged in!)*



### **A Moment for Prayer**

Gracious God, during this season of giving thanks, 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—Central Lutheran Church, Anchorage and December – Brevig Memorial Lutheran Church, Brevig Mission.

# 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

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

30 Jack Coutu

## 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



## 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.

<sup>5</sup> God thunders wondrously with his voice;  
he does great things that we cannot comprehend.

<sup>6</sup> For to the snow he says, 'Fall on the earth';  
and the shower of rain, his heavy shower of rain,

<sup>7</sup> serves as a sign on everyone's hand,  
so that all whom he has made may know it.  
Job 37:5-7

| December 2026 |        |         |           |          |        |          |
|---------------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| 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       |        |          |



# November 2026

| Sunday                                                                                                                                | Monday | Tuesday                                                            | Wednesday                                                  | Thursday                               | Friday           | Saturday                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1<br><b>All Saints' Sunday</b><br>830 am Men's Group<br>930 am Worship<br>1030 am Coffee<br>1045 am Faith Formation<br>6 pm Book Club | 2      | 3<br>Noon Lunch with Love<br>8 pm Senior High                      | 4<br>Noon-1 pm Pantry                                      | 5                                      | 6<br>9 am Devos  | 7<br>9-10 am Pantry                     |
| 8<br>830 am Men's Group<br>930 am Worship<br>1030 am Coffee<br>1045 am Faith Formation<br>Women's Overnight Retreat                   | 9      | 10<br>Noon Lunch with Love<br>SOV Hosts Caring Canteen             | 11<br>Noon-1 pm Pantry<br>6 pm Council<br>Tweens Overnight | 12<br>2-6 pm Discipleship              | 13<br>9 am Devos | 14<br>9-10 am Pantry                    |
| 15<br>830 am Men's Group<br>930 am Worship<br>1030 am Coffee<br>1045 am Faith Formation                                               | 16     | 17<br>Noon Lunch with Love<br>6 pm Mom's Group<br>8 pm Senior High | 18<br>Noon-1 pm Pantry<br>SOV at the Glory Hall            | 19                                     | 20<br>9 am Devos | 21<br>9-10 am Pantry                    |
| 22<br><b>Seafarer Items Due to SOV</b><br>830 am Men's Group<br>930 am Worship<br>1030 am Coffee<br>1045 am Faith Formation           | 23     | 24<br>Noon Lunch with Love (pack Seafarer sachels)                 | 25<br>Noon-1 pm Pantry<br>530 pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship  | 26<br>4 pm Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner | 27<br>9 am Devos | 28<br>9-10 am Pantry with Hot Breakfast |
| 29<br><b>First Sunday Advent</b><br>830 am Men's Group<br>930 am Worship<br>1030 am Brunch                                            | 30     |                                                                    |                                                            |                                        |                  |                                         |

| January 2027 |        |         |           |          |        |          |
|--------------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| 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           |        |         |           |          |        |          |



# December 2026

| Sunday                                                                                                          | Monday                                    | Tuesday                                                            | Wednesday                                       | Thursday                                                 | Friday                        | Saturday                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                 |                                           | 1<br>Noon Lunch with Love<br>8 pm Senior High                      | 2<br>Noon-1 pm Pantry                           | 3                                                        | 4<br>9 am Devos               | 5<br>9-10 am Pantry                     |
| 6<br><b>Second Sunday Advent</b><br>830 am Men's Group<br>930 am Worship<br>1030 am Brunch                      | 7                                         | 8<br>Noon Lunch with Love                                          | 9<br>Noon-1 pm Pantry<br>6 pm Council           | 10<br>2-6 pm Discipleship                                | 11<br>9 am Devos              | 12<br>9-10 am Pantry                    |
| 13<br><b>Third Sunday Advent</b><br>830 am Men's Group<br>930 am Worship<br>1030 am Brunch                      | 14                                        | 15<br>Noon Lunch with Love<br>6 pm Mom's Group<br>8 pm Senior High | 16<br>Noon-1 pm Pantry<br>SOV at the Glory Hall | 17                                                       | 18<br>9 am Devos              | 19<br>9-10 am Pantry                    |
| 20<br><b>Fourth Sunday Advent</b><br>830 am Men's Group<br>930 am Worship with Christmas Play<br>1030 am Brunch | 21                                        | 22                                                                 | 23<br>Noon-1 pm Pantry                          | 24<br>530 pm Bonfire Worship<br>7 pm Candlelight Worship | 25<br><b>Merry Christmas!</b> | 26<br>9-10 am Pantry with Hot Breakfast |
| 27<br>830 am Men's Group<br>930 am Worship with Lessons & Carols<br>1030 am Coffee                              | 28<br>Young adult & senior high overnight | 29                                                                 | 30<br>Noon-1 pm Pantry                          | 31<br>Have a safe & Happy New Year's Eve!                | January 1                     | January 2<br>9-10 am Pantry             |

**Help Us Stay Updated!** We are updating the picture board and database before the end of the year. Let Becky in the office know if you want to keep your picture as it is on the board. We will have a picture booth set up throughout Advent to help us get caught up on pictures. If you haven't updated your information in the database, please sign in by going to <https://sovlutheran.elvanto.net>. Your username is your first name.last name (tari.stage) and then click "forgot password" to reset your password. You can update addresses, birthdays, email preferences, volunteer opportunities, and check out your giving.

## Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

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Web: [www.sovlutheran.org](http://www.sovlutheran.org) Like us on Facebook

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**JUNEAU, ALASKA**

**PERMIT NO. 11**

**Return Service Requested**



Hang on to this newsletter. It is the  
November AND December 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 appreciate your 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, let us 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 (year-round) and Noon-1 pm Wednesdays (winter only)

Deliveries are 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