



LOVED BY GOD; LOVING OTHERS

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

February
2021

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

Christians believe, however, that **neither what we do nor what we suffer defines us at the deepest level.** Though the way we think of and treat ourselves...does shape our identity, no human being can make or unmake us. Instead of being defined by how humans relate to us, **we are defined by how God relates to us...we are defined by God,** not by wrongdoers' evil deeds and their echo in our memory...they may live in us, but they no longer occupy us; they may cause pain, but they no longer exhaustively define us. **We are more than what we have suffered,** and that is the reason we can do something with our memory of it..." (The End of Memory by Miroslav Volf p80).

I accidentally left chicken on the grill.

For two days.

I did turn the grill off so I haven't totally lost it.

In my defense it was dark and kind of cold, but no sideways precipitation so perfect for grilling. I should have remembered that I put five chicken breasts on the grill since there are five of us, but instead I cut one in half and moved on.

I'm not overly worried about my forgetfulness. The days have been full and it is easy to be forgetful in the dark.

February is my favorite month. The days are getting longer, it's my birthday, and we get to celebrate Lent. Valentine's day is meh, but I love Elizabeth Peratrovich Day.

As we head into the season of Lent some of the area pastors have agreed to resurrect the Lenten lunches with the theme "Redemption." I'm not even sure how we came to that, but it got me thinking about what we mean by redemption. I dug into one of my favorite theologians, Miroslav Volf, who wrote a book called *The End of Memory: Remembering Rightly in a Violent World.*

I've got a lot of reading to go, but the power of speaking truth about injustice without being defined by it for eternity is significant for our time. We know that redemption is not simply erasing the chalkboard and starting over; that doesn't settle well with the human spirit or reality.

What if redemption is about our baptismal identity as beloved children of God who are defined by that relationship so we are free to speak and acknowledge the brokenness in our other relationships? And to not cling to that brokenness as what defines us or the other?

I'm going to spend some time this Lent pondering "right remembering." I think that will involve not being so busy that I forget chicken on the grill, but even more I hope it involves experiencing the power of redemption in my life, my community, and my nation.

Peace,
Pastor Tari



Faith Formation at SOV

Faith Formation opportunities for all ages are offered via Zoom and in-person. We hope you will join us as part of your faith journey.

Preschool - 5th Grade

A plan is in place! Every other Sunday at 11 a.m. we will have a “hybrid” gathering with a song, story, and activity (you can either Zoom or attend in-person; the Zoom link can be found on the SOV website). Thank you to the Corson Family for our first story video; and to Savona Kiessling for the friendship activity. The next gatherings will be February 7 with a video by the Stage-Harveys on the “First Sin” and then a video on February 21 by the Morgan family. We still need activity leaders for both; let us know in the church office if you’d like to lead the group through a simple activity.

6th-8th Grade (Confirmation)

We will continue to meet via Zoom at 10:45 a.m. on Sundays. Zoom invites will be sent to individuals via email. We will also continue to meet with mentors once a month (Walk & Talk Sunday is a good time to meet). In addition, we will meet for our Wednesday Walks at 1:30 p.m., Wednesdays, February 10 and 24. Be sure to wear your mask.

9th-12th Grade+

Sunday Time Together: Grab your mask and gather at church at 10:45 a.m. for games and conversation.

Wednesday Time Together: We will meet in person to walk and talk about life at 2:30 p.m., Wednesdays, February 3 and 17. Plan on wearing your mask.

Small Group Devotions on Tuesday Evenings; and Thursday & Sunday Mornings

There are lots of opportunities for adults through the variety of small groups. There is a Tuesday evening group at 6 p.m., Thursday morning at 9 a.m., and Sunday morning at 8:30 am. Attend devotions as often as you would like to do so. You can register for these Zoom events on the SOV website.

Walk & Talk Sunday on February 28

All are welcome to participate in Walk & Talk Sunday on February 28. Gather at the church at 10:45 a.m., and Pastor Tari will pair participants to walk toward the glacier on the paved path, while chatting about specific questions and sharing points. This will happen regardless of weather. Once again, it is open to all ages, and is a good chance for families to get a break and for all of us to safely “socialize” with folks we don’t get to see in person very often.



Prayer & Worship at SOV

Holden Evening Prayer

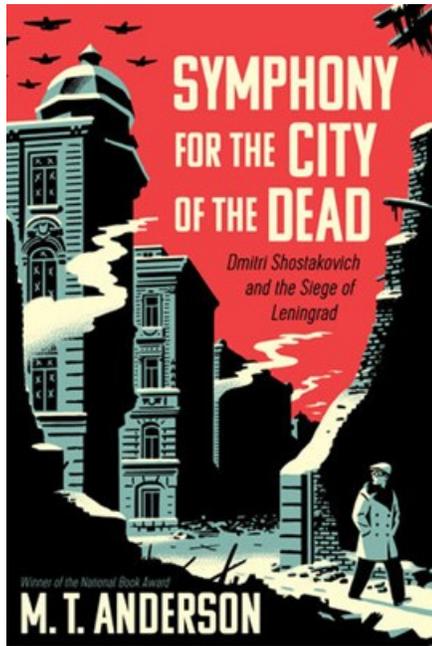
5:30 p.m. Wednesdays in February. This is a lovely and reflective 30-minute prayer service. You can register for the Zoom link on the website.

Sunday Worship via Zoom

Join us from your home at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. The Zoom invitations for Sunday worship are published in the weekly church emails.

Scout Sunday is February 17

Calling all Girl and Boy Scouts! At the 9:30 a.m. Zoom worship service on Sunday, February 17 we are going to recognize and surround our Scouts and their leaders in prayer.



SOV Book Club

The SOV Book Club will meet at 6 p.m., Thursday, February 25 via Zoom. The book for February is *Symphony for the City of the Dead* by M.T. Anderson.

In September 1941, Adolf Hitler's Wehrmacht surrounded Leningrad in what was to become one of the longest and most destructive sieges in Western history; almost three years of bombardment and starvation. Trapped between the Nazi invading force and the Soviet government itself was composer Dmitri Shostakovich, writing a symphony to rouse, rally, eulogize, and commemorate his fellow citizens: the Leningrad Symphony. This is the true story of a city under siege, the triumph of bravery and defiance in the face of terrifying odds. It is also a look at the power; and layered meaning; of music in beleaguered lives. *Symphony for the City of the Dead* is a masterwork thrillingly told and impeccably researched by National Book Award-winning author M. T. Anderson.



The Souper Bowl of Caring Challenge

Throughout the week prior to Sunday, February 7 (which is the day of that other Super Bowl), the SOV youth challenge us to bring to church one non-perishable food item or \$1 for each mask in our households. All donations will go toward the SOV community food pantry; look for the designated Souper Bowl table at church.

This challenge is part of *The Souper Bowl of Caring*, a nation-wide effort of youth to end hunger in their communities. You can find more information about the history of the Souper Bowl on their official website www.souperbowl.org.

And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds... Hebrews 10:24



Fat Tuesday Follies

When: 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 16

Where: Church parking lot (weather permitting)

Our annual pancake dinner and variety show will look a little bit different this year. Instead of pancakes, we're hoping to have hot dogs and smores around some campfires in the parking lot. This event is still in the planning phase, but mark it on your calendar and plan on joining us.

Skits and songs are still encouraged! So feel free to "get your act together." Yes, we are hoping to gather outside in the parking lot, eat hot dogs and smores, and perform songs and silly skits for each other. It's Fat Tuesday, after all!

Let all that you do be done in love.

Corinthians 16:14



Prayers in Words + More

There are many ministries available through SOV to pray for and reach out to others. Check out these prayerful opportunities:

Prayer Shawls. Shawls are a warm hug and a prayer of comfort, celebration, or thanksgiving. To make a shawl you just need basic knitting or crocheting skills and a pile of yarn. A prayer shawl can be made without focus. There are books out there specifically for making prayer shawls. Do not let them scare you. A prayer shawl does not need to be a certain color or pattern. You don't even need to pray the whole time you are making one. It is a shawl; it becomes a prayer when given to someone. If you'd like a simple pattern, think Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Groups of three stitches and/or rows. Shawls and prayer cards to give to a person in your life who could use an extra big hug are available on the table at church.

God Moments. God Moments are prayers of the heart. Sharing your personal inspiration with others may comfort or encourage someone in unknown ways. God Moments are shared on the SOV app and website. If you have a God Moment to share, email it to the church office.

Prayer Requests. Asking for prayers is a prayer in itself. If you have specific prayer concerns, contact the church office at sovjuneau@gmail.com. Your concern will be posted to the Prayer Wall on the SOV mobile app and added to the email Prayer Chain. You can download the app to your mobile device from the church website. You can also add your prayer requests directly to the app Prayer Wall, however if you submit them to the app yourself they will not be included on the email Prayer Chain. If you would like to submit a prayer request for the email Prayer Chain, email the office or amlgates@hotmail.com. Notify Alice or the church office if you would like receive the prayers submitted to the email Prayer Chain.

Volunteer. Actions can be prayers of support. SOV has many volunteer opportunities. For example: contributions of time and talents as a worship servant or faith formation leader; food pantry donations of food, toiletries, or time; helping with Safe Space for School now or Summer Lunch in the future; providing meals for Family Promise when SOV is a host.

And don't forget, praying with others in worship services, small group devotions and book club can bring encouragement, support and thanksgiving.

Things to Know In February



Council Installation & Retreat

We welcome MJ Hinman, Eileen Hosey and Glenn Mitchel to council; they will be installed during worship February 7. Thank you for your willingness to serve. This year's "council retreat" will be on Sunday, February 28 and we are still working on what that will look like (stay tuned for details).

Dinners for Family Promise

SOV is in charge of providing dinners for Family Promise families the week of February 7 to 13. Meals are delivered to Chapel by the Lake at 6 p.m. each evening. Further instructions will be given to folks who sign up. Watch the church emails for the sign-up link.

Food Pantry Operations

Our food pantry is open from 9-10 a.m. Saturdays for food order pick ups. We are using a tool for pantries called Smartchoice. Smartchoice is software that allows folks to order food ahead of time from SOV's available stock. If you need food assistance, call the dedicated SOV food pantry number 500-3588 or visit the website www.smartchoice.life/sov. If you are an elder or struggle with transportation, you may get food delivered on Wednesdays. However, if at all possible, we encourage folks to pick up food on Saturday mornings (you can also just show up on Saturdays and order your groceries).

Columbarium Forum

Are you curious about SOV's plans for a columbarium and/or memorial garden? There will be a question and answer session for those seeking more information. You can attend in-person or on Zoom at 6 p.m., Thursday, February 18.

The Season of Lent begins February 17

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

The season begins with **Ash Wednesday**. We will hold a 30-minute worship at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 17. You are invited to worship in-person or on Zoom (in-person participants will follow the Covid mitigation plan). Please make a point to join us for this powerful worship.

We will continue **Holden Evening Prayer** at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday nights in February.

You are invited to **Lenten Lunches** on Zoom at Noon on Thursdays through Lent. Eat your lunch while participating in a short spoken and musical reflection on redemption. We are looking for speakers and musicians who would like to share during one of the lunches. Let Pastor Tari know if you are interested. The Zoom registration will be on the SOV website.

Lenten Disciplines

We are all encouraged to choose a Lenten discipline. It is a time of fasting from destructive habits and embracing creative ones:

Possible fasts:

Single use plastic - straws, bags, packaging.

Screens - make a goal that is attainable i.e. one hour on weekdays and two on weekends.

Gossip or criticism - say something that builds up every time a nasty thought enters.

Alcohol - Alcohol still kills more people than drug overdoses in Alaska. Lent is a great time to check in with your body and make sure you are not hooked.

Convenience Foods/Meats - Fast from meat or processed food once or twice a week.

Forwarding Social Media without fact checking.

Possible new habits:

Worship regularly

Give generously

Journal

Prepare and eat meals with others

Read scripture and poetry

Walk 20 minutes a day



Devotions for Lent Provided by All of Us

What sermon would you preach as you encounter God's law and gospel and can you do it in a sentence like Jesus and Jonah?

1. Jonah's sermon, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown."
2. Jesus' sermon, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

You are the preachers in this world and when we look at how twisted and messed up the Christian message has become, we realize we need fresh voices and faithful proclamations. Think of what shatters and what heals. Law and Gospel. Death and resurrection. Pastor Tari would like to have a short "sermon" (see example above) for every day in Lent. You are called to go and proclaim the good news of God's kingdom in all the world. Send your sermon to the church email by February 10. The sermons will be printed as a Lenten devotion booklet and sent out as a daily message through the app.

Special Offering for Food Pantry in Lent

Suggestions for a weekly offering to our food pantry in recognition of Lent.

February 21 Pasta Sauce

February 28 Box of Cereal

March 7

Spam

March 14 Fruit Cocktail

March 21 Peaches

March 28

Frozen Veggies

Let the Blessings Overflow

Good news and celebrations in February

Birthdays

- 5 Calvin Landvik
- 7 Michelle Weaver
- 8 Kiah Dihle
- 8 Dan Hubert
- 8 Liam Kiessling
- 9 Rylan Pegues
- 9 Tom Pegues
- 10 Sally Thompson
- 10 Greg Weldon
- 12 Rick Fritsch
- 13 Nancy Davis
- 13 Tari Stage-Harvey
- 15 Patrick Tassell
- 17 Camdyn Landvik
- 17 Carolyn Rasmussen
- 19 Janalynn Doten-Ferguson
- 19 Meilani Doten-Ferguson
- 20 Willie Anderson
- 22 Rachel Sielbach
- 23 Travis Ross
- 27 Helen Mehrkens
- 28 Sharon Fishel
- 29 Aaron Doten-Ferguson

Baptismal Birthdays

- 13 Keith Andrews
- 19 Melissa Fritsch
- 22 Erik Thompson
- 24 Logan Balstad
- 28 Judy Marshall

Anniversaries

- 7 Fred & Debbie Howard
- 22 Megan & Scott Hinton



February Newsletter Sponsorship

Happy 50th Birthday, Pastor Tari!

The February newsletter is sponsored by the Corson Family in celebration of Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey's 50th birthday! As much as they'd like to throw Pastor Tari a huge party, for now the Corsons encourage everyone to throw their own private mini-celebrations with two of PT's favorites; pie and strong black coffee. And perhaps some rubber chicken juggling. Happiest of birthdays, PT! Blessings galore & love to you!

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

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *From Lutheran Book of Worship published by Augsburg Publishing House, 1978*

Also, keep in your prayers Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey; Alaska Synod Bishop Shelley Wickstrom; and ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

2021 MARCH						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	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			

Free Printable Calendars From towncalendars.com



Food Pantry Order Pick-Up:

9-10 am on Saturday

Food Pantry Direct Line: 500-3588

Food pantry details on page 4 of newsletter.

Pastor Tari's Office Hours:

10 am—2 pm Tues/Wed/Fri

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
FF = Faith Formation (details on pg 2)	<i>1</i> 730 am—3 pm Safe School	<i>2</i> 730 am—3 pm Safe School 6 pm Zoom Devos	<i>3</i> 230 pm High School Walk 530 pm Holden Evening Prayer	<i>4</i> 730 am—3 pm Safe School 9 am Zoom Devos	<i>5</i> 730 am—3 pm Safe School	<i>6</i> 9-10 am Pantry
<i>7 Souper Bowl</i> Via Zoom: 830 am Devos 930 am Worship w/council installation ... 1045 am FF (pg 2) 11 am Elementary FF (pg 2)	<i>8</i> 730 am—3 pm Safe School	<i>9</i> 730 am—3 pm Safe School 6 pm Zoom Devos	<i>10</i> 130 pm Middle School Walk 530 pm Holden Evening Prayer	<i>11</i> 730 am—3 pm Safe School 9 am Zoom Devos	<i>12</i> 730 am—3 pm Safe School	<i>13</i> 9-10 am Pantry
<i>14</i> Via Zoom: 830 am Devos 930 am Worship w/Scout Sunday ... 1045 am FF (pg 2)	<i>15</i> Presidents' Day	<i>16</i> Elizabeth Peratrovich Day 530 pm Fat Follies in Parking Lot	<i>17</i> Ash Wednesday 230 pm High School Walk 530 pm Worship	<i>18</i> 730 am—3 pm Safe School 9 am Zoom Devos Noon Lenten Lunch (Zoom) 6 pm Columbarium Forum	<i>19</i> 730 am—3 pm Safe School	<i>20</i> 9-10 am Pantry
<i>21</i> Via Zoom: 830 am Devos 930 am Worship ... 1045 am FF (pg 2) 11 am Elementary FF (pg 2)	<i>22</i> 730 am—3 pm Safe School	<i>23</i> 730 am—3 pm Safe School 6 pm Zoom Devos	<i>24</i> 130 pm Middle School Walk 530 pm Holden Evening Prayer	<i>25</i> 730 am—3 pm Safe School 9 am Zoom Devos Noon Lenten Lunch (Zoom) 6 pm Book Club	<i>26</i> 730 am—3 pm Safe School	<i>27</i> 9-10 am Pantry
<i>28</i> Via Zoom: 830 am Devos 930 am Worship ... 1045 am Walk & Talk Sunday Council Retreat	Safe Space for Schooling Safe Space for Schooling happens from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday in February. Shepherd of the Valley provides: internet access, printer, tech help, headsets, breakfast, lunch, tutors, and a clean and safe environment. The youth provide: respect, no Covid symptoms, a mask, and the ability to take care of self. For more information call 789-4093 or email sovjuneau@gmail.com (NO Safe Space for Schooling on February 15 & 16).					

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

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Food Pantry Direct: (907) 500-3588

Web: www.sovlutheran.org Like us on Facebook

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JUNEAU, ALASKA

PERMIT NO. 11

Return Service Requested



february



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

Our regular worship services and faith formation classes are suspended for now. Please see inside the newsletter for the many ways we are connecting.

Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m. (via Zoom)

Faith Formation Classes for All Ages: See page 2 of newsletter for details.

Pastor Tari's Office Hours: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tues, Wed, and Fri.

Food Pantry Order Pick-Up: 9-10 a.m. Sat.

Food Pantry Direct Line (call with questions or to place orders): 500-3588