



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

March
2021

I know that a sabbatical every six years keeps me healthy and the congregation grounded. Shepherd of the Valley has done a remarkable job making this a priority and establishing a fund so this rhythm could be a reality. We were slated for a sabbatical in 2020. That obviously didn't happen. Actually, the plan was a trip to Japan in 2021. Also not going to happen.

We are still working out what a sabbatical looks like this year. I'll take a chunk of time away in June and July. My friend Karl is coming up for several of those weeks. He's a pastor in the central Ohio area of a church with some insane membership, like 800 people. I think it will be a good break for him and for you all.

Our family hopes to go to Kauai for a couple of weeks to relax and backpack. I'm working on what else I want out of the time so I applied to a writing mentorship program (I would get a mentor for 18 months). My application is not remarkable, but I found the process helpful and thought I would share.

The question was something like, "What are your goals and how do you see yourself as an emerging writer?"

I'm not feeling particularly goal-oriented. I'd love to present a list, passion, and direction, but I am simply curious and possibly stuck.

My life is in a middle place. I'm mid-career, mid-life, middle of my community, and a political moderate. This is the year for turning 50, celebrating 22 years of ministry, and leading too many non-profits.

The pandemic quarantine, technology immersion, and political chaos have left me with a certain amount of ennui, which makes it difficult to get out of bed unless someone has brought me coffee and promised me ginger snaps. It's exhausting to stand in the tension without designing idols that promise clarity and righteousness.

My goals are limited, but I love the church (and the trinity) and want the beauty of that communion to be spoken in ways that can be heard and transform relationships. I'm gifted with lots of opportunities to write for and converse with a wide range of people; I'm curious if there are ways I can expand these opportunities and strengthen my voice. I don't feel desperate to publish and I'm not sure I want to embrace writing as more work to do, but I think much of what is crossing my desk in Christian publications misses or diminishes the moderates.

I enjoy writers like Miroslav Volf, Catherine LaCugna, and Stanley Hauerwas who shatter some of my assumptions and ego while offering a new way of being in relationship. I don't want a break from being in the middle of the tension; I want to see if I can write something meaningful from that place without a deus ex machina.

The Shepherd's Voice

Monthly Newsletter of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

Continued on the top of page 4...



Faith Formation at SOV

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

Faith Formation opportunities for all ages are offered via Zoom and in-person. Recordings of our worship services and the Faith Formation videos are available on our YouTube Channel. You can access it through the SOV website or app.
www.sovlutheran.org

Preschool - 5th Grade

At 11 a.m. on Sundays, March 7, 14, and 21 we will have a “hybrid” gathering with a song, story, and activity (you can either Zoom or attend in-person; the Zoom registration link can be found on the SOV website). Keep in mind that these are a blast regardless of your age, as our local thespians act out the weekly Bible story.

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 Wednesday Walks at 1:30 p.m., Wednesdays, March 10 and 31 (there’s no walk on March 24).

9th-12th Grade+

Sunday Time Together: We will Zoom on March 7 and 21; and meet in-person on March 14. Gatherings happen at 10:45 a.m.

Wednesday Time Together: We will meet in person to walk and talk about life at 2:30 p.m., Wednesdays, March 3, 17, and 31.

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

There are lots of opportunities for adults through the variety of small groups. Join the following “regulars” at one of these weekly devotion groups. Please note, just because the groups happen weekly, doesn’t mean you have to attend weekly. You are invited to join in whenever you are able. You can register for these Zoom events on the SOV website.

8:30 a.m. Sundays with Chris Wallace, Glenn Mitchell, and Kirt Stage-Harvey

6:30 p.m. Tuesdays with Kristina Abbott, Trevor & Talea Kellar, Katherine Andrews, and Marie Kanan

9 a.m. Thursdays with Becky Corson, Teresa Kissel, Sue Trivette, and Nancy Hixson

Walk & Talk Sunday on March 28

All are welcome to participate in Walk & Talk Sunday on March 28. Gather at the church at 10:45 a.m., and walk toward the glacier on the paved path, while chatting about specific questions and sharing points. This will happen regardless of weather and is open to all ages.



Prayer & Worship at SOV

Holden Evening Prayer—5:30-6 p.m. Wednesdays in March. This is a lovely and reflective 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.

Holy Week and Easter—Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on March 28. Easter Sunday is April 4. More details about Holy Week and Easter on page 5.



Family Promise Juneau—Annual Meeting

Thank you all for the tremendous support for this program. This has definitely been a strange year, but our focus has been keeping families housed and encouraging our graduates. We would love to update everyone on program changes and our vision for the future. The annual meeting will be held virtually at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 16. You will get a tour of our new building, meet new board members, and review our budget. The Zoom link will be on our church website as well as the Family Promise site. The Family Promise website is www.familypromisejuneau.org.



Update! The Souper Bowl of Caring Challenge

For this year's Souper Bowl of Caring, the Senior High youth challenged you to bring one can or \$1 for every mask in your homes. You answered the challenge with 383 food items and \$150. All of which will benefit our community food pantry. Outstanding!

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.



Time to Start Thinking about Glacier Bible Camp!

It's not too early to think about summer, especially summer camp. Glacier Bible Camp will run July 19-24, 2021 for Juneau participants. Camp is held this year at the Boy Scout Camp in Juneau and is open to all those going into 5th - 12th grade. The early bird cost is \$100. After June 1, the cost is \$125.

The camp flyer and registration are online on the SOV website under "events." You are able to register for camp online! If you have questions, call us in the church office at 789-4093. The website is www.sovlutheran.org.

Food Pantry Operations

The pantry is available for food order pick-ups from 4-6 p.m. Wednesdays and 9-10 a.m. Saturdays. If you know folks who need food, please have them call the direct line to the food pantry (907) 500-3588 and the operator on duty will answer their questions. Folks can also visit the food pantry ordering 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 their orders.

Safe Space for Schooling

Safe Space for Schooling happens from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday in March. Shepherd of the Valley provides: internet access, printer, tech help, headsets, breakfast, lunch, tutors, and a clean and safe environment. Youth provide: respect, no Covid symptoms, a mask, and the ability to take care of self. For more information email sovjuneau@gmail.com or call 789-4093. **Please note there is no Safe Space for Schooling during the Juneau School District's spring break.**

SOV Book Club

The SOV Book Club will meet at 6 p.m., Thursday, April 8 via Zoom. The book for April is *The Giver of the Stars* by Jojo Moyes.

Participants find their own copies of the book. We hope you will join us. The discussions are enjoyable!

Continued from front page...

I'm not sure "emerging writer" is the best description of what I am. I had to look up the definition and my goal is not to "become prominent, or more well-known," but I love the sense of "coming to light." I'm a pastor and my goal is to try and point to the hope I have in the eternal communion of love. Writing helps me "come to light" and my wish is that it might illuminate truth in such a way eyes may open.

Over the last 22 years, I've written 264 newsletter articles, 96 newspaper pieces, and over 300 blog entries. I reached out to a publisher once, but the process felt overwhelming. I'm curious and need a little motivation and accountability to see if this is a route for me to share a moderate voice in a divided world.

Please keep the congregation and our family in your prayers as we prepare to step away so we can continue to engage and be curious.

Peace,
Pastor Tari



Alaska Synod Assembly

God will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. Behold, I make all things new! Revelation 21:4-5

We will meet online using Zoom on Friday, April 23 and Saturday, April 24. There is an all Alaska Synod worship service on Sunday, April 25.

We will be meeting entirely online for this assembly. Voting members will participate through Zoom, which allows people to participate by phone or online. Guests will view our assembly via Facebook Live. Each congregation is allowed three voting members, which include the pastor and two lay people. No one will fly in or be housed for this assembly. We can all participate from home, so the registration fee is \$50 per voting member. A practice meeting will be held in April, so that everyone feels comfortable with Zoom.

Partnership involves accountability. At a synod assembly we publicly conduct our elections, adopt a spending plan, and review strategies for our work as a synod together. We receive reports and have conversations. Faith stories are part of our tradition and workshops have always been a highlight. We will make use of partner videos in-between our work session blocks. Expect 60-90 minutes at a time for business. Workshops will be 50-60 minutes and are voluntary but really rich.

You can find more information at the Alaska Synod website. www.elcaalaska.net

Holy Week and Easter

We've learned a lot since last Holy Week about how to gather during a pandemic. Our tentative plan is for hybrid experiences for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. There will be no meals, but plenty of opportunities to gather and reflect. Holy Week begins with **Palm Sunday on March 28.**



Maundy Thursday - April 1 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom or in-person. Prayer stations with interactive elements that can be done at church or at home. (30 minutes)

Good Friday - April 2 at 7 p.m. via Zoom or in-person. Reading of the Passion according to the Gospel of Mark and hymns. (45 minutes)

Prayer Vigil - Hour time slots available from 8 p.m. on April 2 to 5 p.m. on April 3.

Easter Sunday is April 4

Skater's Cabin Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. All are welcome, but this is a SOV-only hosted event this year. Worship via Zoom or in-person at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. (more child inclusive)



Lent continues through March...

We are encouraged to continue our Lenten disciplines and special offerings through March. In addition, be sure to check out the "short sermon" devotions for Lent on the SOV website and app.

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. The Zoom registration will be on the SOV website. Lenten lunches schedule for speakers and music:

3/4	Fr. Simeon	Missouri Smyth
3/11	Pr. Faith McClellan	Tlingit Gospel Chorus
3/18	Missouri AUMC	Hannah DCUMC
3/25	Pr. Karen Perkins	Resurrection musicians

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 March

Birthdays

6	Laurie Balstad
6	Xandor Beck
6	Arlo Hinton
7	Peggy Corazza
8	Bryan Morgen
9	Liz Balstad
15	Mark Peterson
18	Adam Doten-Ferguson
20	Theresa Ross
22	Haeden Newport
22	Maya Ross
29	Dawson Menz
29	Amos Kissel
30	Hannah Harvey
31	Nadine Marx

Baptismal Birthdays

4	Elmer Marx
6	Roger Birk
8	Kirk Fishel
8	Chad Fishel
24	Amber Marshall
30	Katherine Andrews
31	Julie Orsborn
31	Sharon Mitchell

Anniversaries

27	Lou & Peggy Corazza
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(Jesus said,) “The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

John 3: 8



A Moment for Prayer

Gracious God, We keep close at heart those who feel they have no one to pray for them, that they may feel the Holy Spirit and know they are not alone in the world. Amen.

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

March Newsletter Sponsorship

Thank you to our March newsletter sponsor, Karen Stumpf! Karen is a long-time member of SOV. She currently lives in Arizona and likes to travel. Thankfully, she visits Juneau when she's able and we have to say; when she's here it feels like she never left (don't worry, Karen, that's a good thing). Thank you and blessings to you, Karen!

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.

Looking Ahead to Celebrations in May

Mother's Day - We won't have a breakfast, but we are tentatively planning a Mother's Day worship and bonfire at Auke Bay Shelter on May 9.

Confirmation and Graduate recognition will be on May 23.

April 2021

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

www.a-printable-calendar.com



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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
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	1 730 am—3 pm Safe School	2 730 am—3 pm Safe School 630 pm Zoom Devos	3 230 pm High School Walk 530 pm Holden Evening Prayer	4 730 am—3 pm Safe School 9 am Zoom Devos Noon Lenten Lunch (Zoom)	5 730 am—3 pm Safe School	6 9-10 am Pantry
7 Via Zoom: 830 am Devos 930 am Worship *** 1045 am FF (pg 2) 11 am Elementary FF (pg 2)	8 730 am—3 pm Safe School	9 730 am—3 pm Safe School 630 pm Zoom Devos	10 130 pm Middle School Walk 530 pm Holden Evening Prayer	11 730 am—3 pm Safe School 9 am Zoom Devos Noon Lenten Lunch (Zoom)	12 730 am—3 pm Safe School	13 9-10 am Pantry
14 Via Zoom: 830 am Devos 930 am Worship *** 1045 am FF (pg 2) 11 am Elementary FF (pg 2)	15 730 am—3 pm Safe School	16 730 am—3 pm Safe School 530 pm Family Promise Annual Meeting on Zoom 630 pm Zoom Devos	17 230 pm High School Walk 630 pm Zoom Devos	18 730 am—3 pm Safe School 9 am Zoom Devos Noon Lenten Lunch (Zoom)	19 730 am—3 pm Safe School	20 9-10 am Pantry
21 Via Zoom: 830 am Devos 930 am Worship *** 1045 am FF (pg 2) 11 am Elementary FF (pg 2)	22	23 ----- JSD Spring Break is March 22 to March 26 ----- 630 pm Zoom Devos	24	25 9 am Zoom Devos Noon Lenten Lunch (Zoom)	26	27 9-10 am Pantry
28 Palm Sunday Via Zoom: 830 am Devos 930 am Worship *** 1045 am Walk & Talk Sunday	29 730 am—3 pm Safe School	30 730 am—3 pm Safe School 630 pm Zoom Devos	31 130 pm Middle School Walk 230 pm High School Walk 530 pm Holden Evening Prayer	April 1 Maundy Thurs.	April 2 Good Friday	April 3 9-10 am Pantry
				730 am—3 pm Safe School 9 am Zoom Devos	730 am—3 pm Safe School 9 am Zoom Devos 7 pm Worship 8 pm Prayer Vigil	April 4 Easter Sunday 630 am Sunrise 930 am Worship 11 am Worship

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

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Web: www.sovlutheran.org Like us on Facebook

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Return Service Requested

March



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