

# EASTER *news*

## A Tanzania Easter Memory

by Lois  
 Okerstrom



**Amefufuka!**  
 (He has risen!)

**Amefufuka kweli kweli!**  
 (He has risen truly, truly!)

These were the words reverberating up and down the valley just before the break of dawn Easter morning. The Christians of the Kijota parish walked with lanterns and flashlights, greeting one another in Swahili with these ancient words of triumph.

In the early morning chill, the women drew their shawls closer to their bodies and their scarves more tightly around their heads. The men carried their walking sticks to ward off any snakes or push a stone off the earthen path.

As they walked, the Christians heard coming from the porch of the missionary pastor's home a trumpet sounding the tune of the hymn, *Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!*

Missionary Howard Olson had resurrected his old high school trumpet from the attic and was putting it to loud and clear use. The whole valley in this section of the central Tanzania plateau surely must have heard this victorious sound that Easter morning!

As the Christians drew nearer they joined in, singing the words, "Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!" But it was not the church building to which they were going. After all, these African Christians reasoned, Christ did not arise from a church. He arose from a grave. He came forth not from a place with altar and pews, but from a stone-cold hard tomb.

And so they gathered together in the little graveyard not far from the church, just at the time the sun was coming up over the distant peak of 12,000 foot Mt. Hanang.

They were not a large group - these were the Christians who lived nearby, within perhaps a three-mile radius. They felt it was a privilege to be among the first that day to rejoice together in the knowledge that they had a living Savior.

They heard these words spoken:

*And very early on the first day of the week, they went to the tomb when the sun had risen.*

— Mark 16:2

Later that morning, Christians from further distances joined them in the church for the festive worship. This was a long service, lasting three hours or more.

Many small choirs from these more distant chapel areas each sang their own songs of praise. They celebrated communion together, and heard again the glorious message of resurrection that had so changed their lives.

*...He has risen; he is not here...*

— Mark 16:6

Of course He was not in the tomb – He was in their midst! He was in their hearts and lives. Alleluia! God be praised!

*Lois Okerstrom was a missionary in Tanzania for 18 years. She served as the Director for the Turu Literacy Program in Central Tanzania, and later as the Director of the Student Wives Study Program at Makumira Lutheran Theological College. She also served for three years in Ethiopia. Lois is now retired and lives in El Cerrito, CA and is a member of Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church.*

# HOLY WEEK



## *Palm Sunday, April 17*

8:15 a.m. Traditions Worship  
9:15 a.m. Coffee Fellowship  
9:40 a.m. Education for All  
10:45 a.m. Celebrations Worship

## *Maundy Thursday, April 21*

7:00 p.m. Worship  
First Communion will be celebrated by  
*Marisa Chow, Dominik Figone,  
Whitney Dishman, Madison Davis*

## *Good Friday, April 22*

12 noon Worship  
7:00 p.m. Worship

## *Easter Sunday, April 24*

8:30 – 11:00 a.m. Easter Brunch  
(Donations for the Brunch will be used to benefit  
Lamorinda Adult Respite Center.  
Singles \$6 / Children 3-11 \$3 / Families \$15)

8:15 a.m. Traditional Worship  
9:30 a.m. Blended Worship  
10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship

*Childcare will be available throughout the morning.*

## *Lutheran Social Services of Northern California*

Holy Shepherd provides financial support each month to LSS as part of our Giving Beyond Ourselves outreach. Through our dollars we are able to:

- Lift homeless individuals and families out of their desperate situation.
- Create a brighter future for foster youth
- Support people suffering with debilitating diseases including alcoholism and AIDS.
- Help those working hard to stabilize their mental health
- Help formerly homeless seniors live with dignity

LSS touches over 2500 people each day right here in our Northern California communities. Service points are located in Contra Costa, San Joaquin, San Francisco and Sacramento counties but LSS is meeting the needs of people that are from all over the region.

Our Jack Pease is a member of the Board of Directors and the agency Treasurer.



## Coming Soon . . . L-331 Allen Organ

A new sound in our Sanctuary will soon lift and enrich our worship experience. The purchase of a new Allen organ, made possible through an Organ Fund (funded by major gifts and supporting congregational members) will be delivered around May 4. The new organ has:

- ♫ Advanced electronic organ pipe sounds
- ♫ Three manuals (key boards)
- ♫ Fifty stops (simulated pipe sounds)
- ♫ All new speakers (advanced technology)

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Julie Hamre, Bob Lindahl, Lavonne Rodean or Jack Pease.



## HSLC Call Committee Introduction

On March 13, 2011 a special congregational meeting was held for the purpose of declaring a pastoral vacancy and for the seating of a Call Committee. After significant discussion the following motion was unanimously accepted by those in attendance.

**“I move that the Call Committee seated to fill this position clarify that such Associate Pastor, or other qualified lay person, would have particular responsibility in the areas of Children, Youth, Family and Outreach Ministry.”**

A slate of individuals suggested to be members of the Call Committee was introduced by Pastor John. A unanimous vote in favor of the proposed slate was recorded. Call Committee members are Lisa Henson, Alison Kling, Rachael Oczkus, Brian Parish, Andrew Rosenzweig and Fred Schroeder. The May newsletter will profile each of the committee members.

The Call Committee held its first meeting on March 29<sup>th</sup> at which time Fred Schroeder was confirmed as the committee chair. We discussed our religious and personal backgrounds, how we would be working together, and a broad agenda of activity for the period ahead. We also discussed the responsibilities we have as a group in representing all members of Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church. We will strive for harmony as we work together and identify an individual consistent with the criteria outlined by our congregational body to meet both present and future parish needs.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 17<sup>th</sup>. During the call process, we will maintain close contact with Pastor John, the Church Council, and members of HSLC. If you have any questions, please contact me or any member of the Call Committee. We encourage your comments as we move forward.

Respectfully,

*Fred Schroeder*  
Chair of the HSLC Call Committee



Lisa



Alison



Rachael



Brian



Andrew



Fred



## Summer School

Holy Shepherd Christian Preschool is offering a fun-filled summer school for your preschooler (ages 2 through kindergarten, i.e., entering 1st grade in fall). Maximum class size is 12 per day and applications are being accepted now. Presently enrolled children have priority. Hours are 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon and extended day / lunch bunch is available until 2:00 p.m. (no lunch bunch the week of July 11 – 15).

- June 20 – 24                      Cooking Week
- June 27 – July 1                4th of July Week
- July 5 – 8                         Water Week
- July 11 – 15\*                    VBS Day Camp (See following)
- July 18 – 22                      Planting Week
- July 25 – 29                      Spirit Week
- August 1 – 5                      Train Week
- August 8 – 12                  Mixed-Up-Crazy Week

\* Preschool will be open this week 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. They will be using the VBS curriculum and a separate enrollment form is required.



## VBS Day Camp

**July 11 – 15**  
**9:00 a.m. to**  
**12 noon**  
**Pre K – 5th Grade**  
**\$50 per student**  
**(\$35 / sibling)**

Enroll your kids and have them invite a friend to PandaMania VBS Day Camp. They will experience a fun-filled week of Bible stories, songs, crafts, skits, snacks and games! Questions can be directed to the church office, 254-3422, or Miss Susie, 254-3429.

### Staff

The Rev. John B. Valentine  
 Julia Hamre  
 Carole Vetter  
 Tom Henry  
 Marc Levine  
 Heather Hall  
 Lisa Verley  
 Linda Hudak  
 Donna Benseler  
 Susie Koepfer  
 Loren Schoenstein  
 Elizabeth M. Hofinga  
 Jill Kuykendall  
 Cookie Bedford

Senior Pastor  
 Organist/Handbell Director  
 Canticle Choir Director  
 Spirit Borne Director  
 Accompanist  
 Children's Music Leader  
 Office Manager  
 Production/News Editor  
 Financial Secretary  
 Preschool Director  
 Preschool Teacher  
 Program Director  
 Activity Leader LARC  
 Activity Leader LARC



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**PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY.**

