

# Shepherd's Staff

HOLY SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

JUNE 2020



**T**he members of our Executive Committee are thrilled to report that our application into the federal Payroll Protection Plan – the much-ballyhooed 'PPP' – has been approved! While our initial application (made through Wells Fargo in early April) missed the cut, a second application (made through the ELCA Credit Union in early May) was accepted.

Upon receiving the news of our acceptance in the program, Congregational President, Fred Schroeder, stated that "this will be a game-changer for us and our employees; we couldn't be more pleased." Treasurer Steve Swanback reports that these funds will be used to ensure that our employees (including the staff of LARC and the Pre-school) continue to receive their regular compensation even though our on-campus community-care programs have been temporarily shuttered.

At the beginning of our nation's 'shelter-in-place' order, the federal government rolled out the PPP as a way to allow small businesses (including churches and nonprofits) to weather the economic crisis and keep their employees on the payroll. Specifically, the PPP is a government loan program administered through local banks and credit unions that will provide funds equal to 10

Weeks of payroll expenses to organizations like ours. This loan is then 'forgivable' (it becomes a grant) IF the organization uses those funds to keep its employees on its payroll. As a result, our congregation is slated to receive \$108,000.

A huge 'thank you' is due to our church's Finance Team – Treasurer Steve Swanback, Bookkeeper Mary Friese and Vice-President Joan Kiekhaefer – for getting this application approved despite initial setbacks. For their part, they would like to acknowledge the prompt efforts of the ELCA Credit Union for stepping up to make it happen for us. Well done!

*Pastor John Valentine*

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*Some people are idiots. They disdain the use of medicines, they don't listen to the public health authorities, they in fact make lighthearted sport of it to prove how independent they are. The bozos!*

*God created medicines. God gave us intelligence so that we can take good care of our bodies. NOT taking advantage of the things that God has given us to deal with these situations is basically committing suicide.*

*Use medicine when you need to! Disinfect your house! Keep a healthy distance from people who don't need your help. And if you've contracted the disease, quarantine yourself and keep away from others!*

*"Whether One May Flee a Deadly Plague" -- by Martin Luther (1527)*



# Updates from IHP

Zinga seems to be quite a remote area and safe only if you stay without going into town. Zinga is 65 km north of Dar es Salaam, 10 km South of Bagamoyo is a tourist town. It is about 2km from the main road going to the north of Tanzania (Tanga and Arusha). The same buses that are going to Bagamoyo from Dar es Salaam are carrying our workers coming to work. In order to be safe from the coronavirus, everybody is putting on masks and gloves in the buses and at work too, not forgetting to wash their hands with soap. Life is fragile, we should handle it with care.

We thank you for the protective gear you have sent in the past that we can now utilize, fluid soaps and sanitizers that you donated. These are keeping us safe.

Heavy rains are pouring all over Tanzania and Coastal region and Zinga is badly affected by floods. The road to the hospital from the main road is flooded again this week. This has affected our transportation. It is not possible to use our bus to carry the workers. Instead, we are using the minivan. From time to time we are using the Caterpillar bobcat to save us by pulling the stuck cars out of the mud.

Dear Friends of Mothers and Children of Tanzania let me thank you again for your support during this hard time. We welcome you again to come and visit us once the situation gets better.

Na mbarikiwe wakat huu mugumu (Let our Lord Bless you during this hard time).

Jesse A. Kitundu , MD  
President, IHP-JEMA Tanzania.



## **HEALING**

Marilyn N.	Reese L.
Will T.	Kathy McCarty S.
Dinah W.	Jeff K.
Gloria E.	Carole K.
Doug T.	Susie M.
Laura Z.	Mallory W.
Harry H.	Madison V.
DoLoris T.	Mary Helene W.
Dorothy L.	

## **WELLNESS**

Rolf B.	Ann B.
Carol K.	DeLane R.
Marilynn L.	

## **PEACE / COMFORT**

Kitti C.	Kristy L.
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## **MILITARY**

Keep our armed forces safe. Give them courage, hope and strength.

Brian H.	Megan H.
Peter & Melanie K.	

## **OUR WORLD**

All people of our world as together we battle COVID-19.

## **THOSE WHO GRIEVE**

Family and friends of Martha (Ann B.'s sister) who recently passed away.



Denny and I are "sheltering in place" at 9671 Reeder St., Overland Park, KS. The president of IHP, Dr. Charles Powell, is doing the same at Zinga. It's a nice role reversal for us and we're all fine with it.

Meanwhile, I'm making masks with HEPA filters in them for friends and for a few churches who have ordered them. Yesterday and today I've cut out an additional 50. Folks are giving a donation to IHP for them, and I'm enjoying sewing which I haven't had the time to do for 18 years! And, I'll make the masks for anyone who would like them. You can wash, dry, and reuse them.

Blessings,  
Paula and Den

## **Celebrations**

### **Birthdays**

June 2	David C.
June 8	Alexander M.
June 9	Cristi C. Rielly Kemp-Bye
June 12	June H.
June 13	Ann B.
June 14	Gloria E. Leighton J.
June 15	Maddie V.
June 17	Carol H.
June 18	Andrew C.
June 20	Mia J. John V.
June 22	Yvonne C.
June 25	Amanda C. Natalie L.
June 27	Carol K.
June 29	Gerald P.



### **Anniversaries**

June 2	Joan K. & Steve R. Jeffrey & Deborah K.
June 6	Steve & Ellin S.
June 12	Terry & Julie H.
June 14	Reni & Art Y.
June 17	Carol & Anne J.
June 18	Robert & Sally C.
June 19	Andy & Cristi C.
June 20	Gerald & Barbara P.
June 24	Tom & Juanita G.
June 25	Stan & Kim W.
June 26	Christopher & Catherine D.
June 29	Mark & Lori O.

# FROM OUR PASTORS

**D**ear Members and Friends of Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, While we appreciate the White House's recent acknowledgment that houses of worship are 'essential' to the lives of individuals and to the life of our community, we continue to offer 'on-line worship' as our primary worship experience at this time. We will resume some form of 'in-person' corporate worship as soon as our congregational leadership team determines it is safe for us to do so.

Please be aware that we – as your pastors – along with the elected leaders of our congregation – are closely monitoring developments as regards these matters. Among the factors under their consideration are:

- legally-binding orders from county, state and national officials,
- recommendations from our congregational insurer,
- insights from medically-trained personnel within our own congregation, and
- guidance from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) and NIH (National Institutes of Health).

Any decision to resume in-person / on-campus activities will be made by the Church Council. In electing them into such roles of leadership, we have entrusted them with the responsibility to make decisions like this. (Even though, when they were elected, none of us would have guessed they would be entrusted with decisions exactly like this!!)

One of the things which is so very challenging about the pandemic we currently face is that our behaviors and our actions may have direct impact upon the well-being of our neighbors. Self-restricting our mobility and our interactions has been shown to have a beneficial effect on the well-being of others. As Martin Luther himself noted in the face of a pandemic 500 years ago: "If you wish to serve Christ and to wait on him, very well, you have your sick neighbor close at hand. Go to your neighbor. Serve your neighbor. For you will find Christ in your neighbor. 'For as you did it to the least of these, you did it to me.'" 'Loving our neighbors' as best we can may mean sitting tight for a little while longer. Returning to in-person community is important to who we are as a community of faith. But we also value preserving life, ensuring health, and being good citizens.

Know that you are in our thoughts and prayers as we walk together through these challenging days – and know that we look forward to days when we will again be able to gather together and raise our voices in praise of the goodness of the One who give us life in abundance.



In faith, hope and love,  
*Pastor John Valentine and  
Pastor Pam Schaefer Dawson*



# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The HSLC Church Council met on the evening of May 26 via 'Zoom' conference call to consider a number of urgent and important items in the life of our congregation.

- Steve Swanback reported on the receipt of a forgivable loan of \$108,000 from the ELCA Credit Union in conjunction with the federal Payroll Protection Program. We anticipate using these funds to support staff salaries for employees of the congregation, LARC and the Preschool through the months of May and June.
- Pastor John Valentine alerted the Church Council that he is in receipt of a letter of resignation from Miss Susie Koeper, who has served as our Preschool Director and Childcare Coordinator for more than a quarter-century. While Miss Susie has long been contemplating retirement, she noted that the current communal health situation and attendant concerns for those at 'high-risk' of contracting COVID-19 expedited her decision. She is intending to relocate to Idaho later this summer, and the Council will be coordinating ways in which we can bid a heartfelt "Godspeed" to our beloved Miss Susie.
- The Church Council – by unanimous consent – accepted a motion made by Pastor Valentine to extend the terms of all Council members and officers until such time as we are able to safely hold a Congregational Meeting for the purpose of electing new council members. As our constitution does not allow for electronic or other socially-distanced / remote meetings of the congregation, and the current 'shelter-in-place' prevents us from holding a constitutionally-mandated meeting of the congregation, this action was taken to ensure that our Council is duly authorized to continue its vital work on our behalf.



## ONLINE BIBLE STUDY

Weekly online Bible Study at 5:30 p.m. Pastor John will be hosting a half-hour-long, interactive 'Zoom' conversation that involves watching an engaging video, and reflecting together on what God's world is saying to us today. In order to participate, you'll need an interactive device (video phone, iPad, laptop computer, etc.) that has the ability to run a Zoom Video Conferencing app. And you'll need to send Pastor John Valentine an email ([jvalentine@holyshepherd.org](mailto:jvalentine@holyshepherd.org)) to get the login information ahead of time. Sound interesting? Join us for this unique mid-week opportunity!

Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. our "Facebook Premiere" community worship airs. By using the chat feature on Facebook, you'll be able to greet your fellow worshippers.

Our Webpage at [www.holyshepherd.org](http://www.holyshepherd.org) posts the Sunday worship services The most current one is accessible at about 10:15 a.m. each Sunday morning.

**Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church**

**433 Moraga Way**

**Orinda, CA 94563**