

The Shepherd's *staff*

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 2020 — ORINDA, CALIFORNIA.

VIRTUAL CHURCH

By Dave Lausch

With the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been a lot of changes... or new normal(s). These include virtual meetings, working from home, reading the newspaper online, and going to "Church."

It took a few weeks to establish the routine for viewing the online services. Additionally, it was a bit of a learning curve watching the service from my laptop then seeing it "Live" in the Sanctuary. The link from HSLC website is used, since I'm not one of those folks who uses social media accounts.

My day of worship is now Saturday morning in the family room on the couch. This is right after having the first cup of coffee and reading the newspaper online. It is a quiet time when everyone else is asleep in the house, except for the dog. The services are professional and it feels like being there. For me, adding the wording enables me to follow along with the service. I enjoy seeing other members highlighted in the video. It allows me to feel connected.

Typically, the service is not watched all at one time. It is put on pause (a few times) to get the second cup of coffee or attend to other items. This is a major convenience for having online services. After watching the service, Hunter (the family Golden Retriever) is now ready to go exercise. He can hardly wait to take me running, usually at a faster pace.



WEEKLY EVENTS SCHEDULE

During these days of 'Shelter-in-Place', we encourage you to stay connected and involved with our community by participating in one or more of the following events

Sundays at 9:30 am – Our weekly Facebook **'Worship Video Watch Party'** hosted by our pastors @HSLCORinda.

Sundays at 9:30 am – Our **'Weekly Worship Video'** is released on our webpage at www.holyshepherd.org.

Sundays at 10:30 am – Our popular **"Zoom Coffee Fellowship"** allows you to connect with others in our congregation. The Zoom Meeting ID is 823 6201 2420 .

Tuesdays at 7pm – Our weekly 'Adult Ed.' class is moving to Tuesday nights at 7pm starting September 15th! Details are on the backpage of this newsletter.

Mission Partner Update: Rancho Santa Marta

The "Giving Beyond Ourselves" portion of our congregation's budget enables us to partner with both local and global organizations to be about the work of God's Kingdom. This month we peek in on our friends at Rancho Santa Marta on Mexico's Baja Peninsula.

Directors Rod and Tina write: "In case you are wondering, we are doing fine here at the ranch during this Coronavirus threat. The cases in our area have been few: three cases have been confirmed in Mexicali, a couple in Tijuana and there were thought to be some cases south of us in San Quintin, but it was a false alarm.

Ensenada has a shortage of toilet paper, meat, water, wipes and other items that are deemed essential for the quarantine. The schools in the state of Baja California have been cancelled and the classes have gone online. We continue to use protective measures to keep everyone safe., and thank you for your ongoing prayers & support."



RANCHO SANTA MARTA



What is Rancho Santa Marta?

Rancho Santa Marta is a home, a school and a working ranch about four hours south of San Diego on the Baja Peninsula.

50 needy, orphaned or abused children have a safe, warm and loving place to call home with leaders who care and show them the love of God. Additionally, 300 children, many with special learning needs, receive an education in a positive and nurturing environment.

Holy Shepherd members who have visited RSM say it is nothing short of a miracle!

We Remember in Prayer

Prayers for Healing

- Marilyn No.
- Gloria En.
- Doug and DoLoris Ti.
- Robert Ch.
- Mary Helene Wa.
- Yvonne Ts.
- Carole We.
- Susie Mo.
- Jeff Kl.
- Henry and Carol Kr.

Prayers for Comfort

- Harry Ho.
- Kitty Co.
- Rolf Be.
- Marilyn and Kristi Li.
- Ann Br.
- DeLane Ri.

Prayers for Those Serving

- Megan Ho.
- Brian He.
- Peter Kl.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

September

2nd	Anne Jo.	24th	Rolf Be.
	Jesus Pa.	29th	Bob Ch.
4th	Joy Ch.		Zachary Ku.
	Ryan Ga.	12th	Igor & Rita So.
7th	Amanda Pe.	18th	Bob Sc & Diana Yo.
	Carole We.	22nd	Dave & Nadine Co.
8th	Reni Ya.	25th	Doug & Elizabeth MH
14th	Barbara Sw.		
15th	Diana Ri.		
17th	Pastor Pam SD		
18th	Steve Sw.		
21st	Sally Ch.		

Federal Privacy Laws preclude the inclusion of both full last names and birthdates in online publications. Sorry!

Life Transitions



We remember **Will Tissue**, who passed away in late July. A small, socially-distanced interment service was held at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon on Wednesday, August 28th honoring Will's life and his service to a grateful nation. Please continue to hold the Tissue family in prayer as they grieve Will's loss.

We celebrate with **Peter Kler** and **Melanie Tunison Kler** at the recent baptism of their daughter, **Adelaide Sarah Tunison Kler**. Pastor John had the privilege of baptizing young Addie in a backyard service at the Klers' new home in the Central Valley, where Peter is currently serving as a helicopter pilot with the California National Guard.



The Good Samaritan

Church Council Member Elizabeth Humphrey recently shared this devotional piece at an online Church Council meeting. It was originally written by a 17-year-old young man. Thanks for sharing it, Elizabeth!

"But a Samaritan on his journey came up to him, and when he saw the man, he had compassion Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him." — Luke 10:33-34

We all go through tough time and struggles. Christians are going to face challenges. The Bible actually promises us that we will. The man in our passage for today was stripped of his clothing and left to die. This man was in great need; he was in a state of desperation. Perhaps not for the same reasons as the man in the message today, but have you ever experienced desperation? Most of us have at some time in our life.

Imagine the glee that must have sprung forth from his mind and heart when he saw a priest walking down the road toward him! Unfortunately for the half-dead man, the priest walked to the other side of the street. The Levite that came later followed the example of the priest and also walked on the other side of the road. These religious leaders saw the need, made a decision, and kept on walking.

However, the Samaritan came along and he bent down and helped the man. This shows the hearts and mind-sets of the three men. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "The first question which the priest and the Levite asked was: 'If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?' But ... the Good Samaritan reversed the question: 'If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?'" We must also ask, what would our response be?

The religious leaders were more concerned about themselves and what others might think of them, so they removed themselves from the situation. They were not willing to bend down to help the helpless. The Samaritan, however, was concerned about the injured man and was willing to get down where the man was, on his level, to be able to assist him in his hour of great need.

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Dr. Martin Luther King Jr

As an Election Approaches



I recently had someone tell me that voting for Mr. Trump in the upcoming election was a sin. That comment took me aback because — but a couple of hours earlier — I'd heard someone say that voting for Mr. Biden was a sin!

As one of your pastors, I find myself in the odd position of needing to remind you that it is NOT sinful to vote for Mr. Trump, NOR is it sinful to vote for Mr. Biden. However, what truly might be sinful would be NOT VOTING at all. After all, Jesus told numerous stories about what it means to be a 'good steward', with the point being that we are called to utilize the particular gifts we have for the sake of our neighbors and the sake of God's world. And so my pastoral guidance to you this election season is simply this: "God has given you a conscience. Use it well! Consider the teaching of Scripture and the life of Jesus. Study the issues. Pray for wisdom. Use your conscience. And VOTE!"

Meanwhile, remember that neither candidate and neither major political party has a corner on the things of God and the things of faith. While we may vehemently disagree with our neighbors about HOW to vote, they are still nonetheless our neighbors, those whom we are called to love and serve even as we love ourselves. And I'd be remiss were I not to remind you that Martin Luther's explanation of the 8th Commandment is something we ALL need to attend to over the course of the coming days: "We are to fear and love God so that we do not betray, slander, or lie about our neighbor, but defend them, speak well of them, and explain their actions in the kindest way."

Think on these things, and know that you are loved!

Pastor John

Our Center for Ministry Building was recently subjected to a break-in, during which time the perpetrator(s) gained access to the church offices.

Although damage to the building was minimal and few items taken, we cannot be absolutely certain that no sensitive or personal information was compromised. Out of an abundance of caution, we have had the Center for Ministry Building re-keyed, and had taken additional security precautions to ensure that this will not happen again.

IF you become aware -- in the days ahead -- that your financial data has been compromised, please alert Treasurer Steve Swanback at your earliest convenience, as it may help the Orinda Police Dept. further the investigation of this criminal activity.

DID YOU KNOW THAT

- **Janine Crowe has a gift for making lemonade out of lemons!** For a number of years now, Janine has coordinated both a weekly Women's Bible Study and the monthly "Bible and Lunch Bunch" study group. But while COVID-19 has put a damper on those in person study group, Janine has found a new way to 'Get the Word out!' Daily, she distributes a devotional email to her study group participants that has been described as "uplifting" and "such an encouragement". If you'd like to be added to Janine's 'daily devotional' distribution list, email her at jlcrowe@sbcglobal.net
- **Holy Shepherd Christian Preschool has entered Phase One of its campus re-opening!** On Wednesday, September 9th (under an eerie blood-orange sky), our Preschool opened its doors to students for the first time in six months. Lead Teacher Joanna Albano-Fordelon was joined by a small number of returning students as we experimented with the many hand-washing, temperature-checking, mask-wearing and social-distancing protocols mandated by the State. Young Alta S. was the first student 'thru the Gate' — and when asked if she was excited to be back at school — reported a hearty "YES!" and then sprinted to the classroom.
- **Sun(Tues)day School starts September 15 at 7:00pm.** A number of you have been lamenting the loss of our weekly "Adult Sunday School" conversations, but we'd like to remedy that with the Kickoff of our Fall Lectionary Series! But we can't have 'Adult Sunday School' on Sunday mornings, because it conflicts with our weekly 'Zoom Coffee Fellowship' events. So we're shifting Sunday School to Tuesday nights — hence it'll be 'Sun(Tues)day School'! To be well prepared for these discussion-based events, you'll want to make sure that you have watched the weekly worship video for the previous Sunday. Then drop in to Zoom Meeting ID# 882 9062 7131 on Tuesday evenings at 7pm. Want more information about Sun(Tues)day School? Email Pastor John at jvalentine@holyshepherd.org.



Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church

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