

The Shepherd's *staff*

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 2020 — ORINDA, CALIFORNIA

DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME

Holy Communion Returns to Our Sanctuary on October 18th!

Holy Communion is central to our lives as people of God. Jesus said "Do this in remembrance of me" and when we share Holy Communion, we are brought into connection with Him and with His Kingdom. Yet the directives of our County Health Department have effectively precluded us from sharing that meal in which the forgiveness and presence of God become real for us all for the past six months until now.

Beginning at noon on Sunday,

October 18th, we're going to open our Sanctuary on a one-Sunday-a-month basis for a time of socially-distanced sharing of Holy Communion. It won't be a return to a full worship experience, but it will allow you to kneel/stand at the altar rail, hear those poignant words "Given and shed for you" and receive the bread and wine of Holy Communion.

When Will It Happen?

Socially-distanced Holy Communion will be offered in our Sanctuary on the 3rd Sunday of each month until further notice from Noon until 1pm. (Mark **October 18th, November 15th** and **December 20th** if you're looking at your 2020 calendar!)

What Can You Expect? When you arrive at our campus, you will be greeted by an usher. If there is seating space in the Sanctuary, you will be invited to enter – after you've donned your facemask and sanitized your hands. If Sanctuary seating is already at capacity, you'll be invited to wait outside until seats become available.

When you enter the Sanctuary, you'll take a seat in one of the identified open pews, where you may pause to reflect and pray. When you are ready, you'll be invited to come to one of the two altar rails, where the bread and wine/juice of Holy Communion will await you, and one of our pastors will share the words of Communion, and you'll be invited to eat and drink in remembrance of Him. Where you finish, please exit the Sanctuary via the back door and return to your vehicle without lingering.

Know that we respect your decision if you are unable or choose not to come to Communion when it is offered in this way. For we know that – whether together or apart – we have everything we need in Jesus.

EVENTS SCHEDULE

We encourage you to stay connected 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.

Third Sundays from noon to 1pm — Our Sanctuary is open for socially-distanced Holy Communion. (*See the column to left for more details!*)

Tuesdays at 7pm — Our weekly 'Adult Ed.' class happens online each Tuesday night at 7pm. Our Sun(Tues)day School Zoom Meeting ID # is 882 9062 7131.

Mission Partner Update: Loaves and Fishes

Someone recently noted that Loaves and Fishes has become a reliable resource for food over the years, providing to individuals that are in need living in Contra Costa County — but living into that reality in these days of COVID-19 has definitely been a challenge. Here's the latest update.

When COVID first appeared in Contra Costa County, Loaves and Fishes had to adjust — a LOT! The County Health Dept. immediately limited to the number of guests in their dining rooms and then mandated that all distributed food be provided as "to-go" meals. But staff and volunteers learned to make lemonade out of lemons and brainstormed some amazing ways to provide healthy meals to those they serve. Through partnerships with local grocers and White Pony Express, Loaves and Fishes has been able to serve a hot meal in "to-go" containers and provide a bag of groceries. Their guests have been more than appreciative, they have been willing to adapt and are also thankful for Loaves and Fishes making concerted efforts to continue to serve meals.

Pete Schmitt and Pastor John Valentine have been working to ensure Holy Shepherd's support of Loaves and Fishes continues during these days of COVID, even though we can't be volunteering in-person right now. When the Pittsburg dining facility was designated as a primary food-assistance provider by local city management, they found themselves desperately in need of bottled water. Holy Shepherd was able to step in and fill that need by directly providing upwards of 5000 bottles of water to the crew at L+F / Pittsburg. This gift ensured that every meal distributed came with a bottle of water throughout the hottest days of summer — thanks directly to you! The picture at left shows Pastor John, L+F/Pittsburg Team Leader Julie Protich and a couple L+F Crew Members during a recent water delivery.



What is Loaves and Fishes?

The mission of Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa is to provide community based food programs and partner services that focus on basic needs.

Since 1983, Loaves and Fishes has served over 4.9 million meals to many thousands of hungry people throughout Contra Costa County. They have a volunteer base that includes many of our congregation members, and together serve over 133,000 meals, and distribute over 357 tons of groceries each year.

Loaves and Fishes received \$3,333 from Holy Shepherd in fiscal year September 2019 — August 2020. as part of our 'Giving Beyond Ourselves'!

We Remember in Prayer

Prayers for Healing

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

Prayers for Comfort

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

Prayers for Those Serving

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

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 3rd Alexandra He.
- 7th Bob Schm.
- 10th Zachary He.
- 19th Carys Ch.
- 20th Julia Vi.
- 20th Herb We.
- 21st Marian McG.
- 22nd Belle Li.
- 23rd George Ka.

Birthdays (cont.)

- 25th Joe Zi.
- 26th Marilyn No.
- 27th Harry Ho.
- 30th Jordan Ku.

Anniversaries

- 1st Belle & Frank Li.
- 2nd Diana & Bruce Ne.
- 6th Marci & Bob Ba.
- 12th Yvonne & Scott Ga.
- 12th Christine & Jesus Pa.

Life Transitions

Congratulations to Holy Shepherd member Sara Wilson on her recent Ordination! On Saturday, August 22, 2020, Sara formally became Pastor Sara Wilson at an ordination service held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Concord. (Sara had initially made plans to celebrate her delayed-by-COVID ordination at Mount Cross Lutheran Camp in the Santa Cruz Mountains, but those plans were derailed by active wildfires!) Sara has been called into service as the Associate Dean of Seminary Relations at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley. May the Holy Spirit fill your days and your ministry with hope and joy and peace, Pastor Sara!



Katherine 'Kitti' Colucci (known to many of us as Mary Helene Wagner's little sister) passed away on September 17, 2020. While living at Pacifica Senior Living and Care Facility in Oakland (formerly Salem Lutheran Home), Kitty had been active participant in the worship life of our congregation., before being incapacitated by a worsening medical condition. Kitti's family is currently preparing an online memorial tribute honoring the life of their cousin / sister / aunt that will be available in early November.

Returning to Worship

Our Worship, Music and Arts Team recently conducted a survey to better understand your hopes and concerns regarding the re-opening of our communal worship life. Diana Riveness — the Church Council Liaison to our WMA Team — reported the key findings of that survey to our Church Council at a recent online meeting and now shares them with you.

Thank you to all of you who participated in our recent "Returning to Worship" survey! Your honest reflections and responses to that survey will make it much easier for our pastors and WMA Team to tailor our future worship reopening plans to your hopes and dreams, your concerns and cares.

The survey results clearly indicate that:

- Respondents are quite eager to be back together to worship, but not at the expense of their health and the health of others.
- Until a COVID-19 vaccine is widely available, members of our congregation generally think it wise to follow all CDC guidelines (as well as State and County Health Dept. mandates) in planning and preparing for in-person worship.
- Nearly 60% of respondents identified themselves as being at "heightened risk" for contracting coronavirus due to age, with 30% acknowledging they are at "high risk" due to age or an underlying medical condition.
- Until in-person worship is resumed, the online worship opportunities currently in place are meeting the needs of many of our members because they can sing along with the music and recite the prayers and liturgy which they would not be able to do in the sanctuary.
- The thing which respondents identified as being missed the most amid these days was the sharing of Holy Communion.

In response to the concerns which you've shared, we will continue to utilize the online worship format as our primary worship medium for now, in hopes that things for the better soon and that we can get back to in-person worship. Meanwhile, our pastors and the WMA Team will begin offering a once-a-month Communion opportunity in our Sanctuary beginning October 18th, as explained in the article on page 1 of this newsletter!

In Christ's Love and Hope, Diana Riveness

The Fruits of the Spirit



When we human beings are in close contact with God the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sanctifier, God brings forth the fruits of the Spirit in our lives. Our dealings with others are characterized by gentleness and self-control. We are patient and kind; we are faithful and filled with love, joy, and peace.

But St. Paul also lists the fruits of the flesh: things like impurity, idolatry, strife, jealousy, anger, dissensions, factions. These, and several others like them, characterize our behavior when we are not connected to God, when we are trying to run the show ourselves.

Wouldn't it be great if we always lived in the realm of Spirit? If we, and others, and in fact the whole world, could be full of these gifts of the Spirit and not the Fleishy ones?

We are, as Martin Luther liked to say, simul justus et peccator, at the same time both saint and sinner. We are a bundle of all of these qualities, and we frequently cause quite a mess with our jealousy, anger, dissension, and the like. Sometimes we don't even realize the hurt and division we've caused.

But God knows. And God wants us to turn to him and be healed. God always wants to connect with us, and when we turn again to God and are forgiven we can show forth the fruits of the Spirit in our lives. We can walk in this world with love, joy, peace – indeed all the gifts of the Spirit. And we are assured that God is always with us, always loving us, and always forgiving us, so that we can be a blessing to others.

May you know the Peace of God! Pastor Pam

*The fruit of the Spirit is love,
joy, peace, patience, kindness,
generosity, faithfulness, gentle-
ness, and self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23a)*

IMPORTANT REMINDERS!

Our Church Council has scheduled a Zoom-based Listening Post event for Wednesday evening October 21, 2020 at 7pm as it moves toward finalizing a new congregational budget.

Because our Congregational Constitution does not allow for “proxy voting” or electronic meetings of the Congregation, responsibility for developing and adopting a budget during these days of pandemic has fallen to our Church Council. Our Council members are unanimously concerned that congregation members ought have opportunity to share their comments and concerns prior to such budget adoption., and this Listening Post event will help ensure that can happen.

The 2020/21 Draft Budget as it currently stands:

- Projects congregational income and expenses at roughly \$330,000,
- Continues “Giving Beyond Ourselves” at 10% of Offerings, with a heightened focus on serving our local and global ministry partners,
- Reduces staff hours and compensation to align with work done through the duration of the pandemic.

If you would like a copy of the budget draft, please contact Treasurer Steve Swanback at sswanback@carollo.com or call Lisa Verley in the Church Office. The Listening Post begins at 7pm on October 21st, using Zoom Meeting ID# 829 0693 0767 (no password required).

FaithBuilders Cohort Now Forming!

FaithBuilders — our Middle School Ministry / Confirmation program — is currently forming a new cohort. If you (or your child) is a Middle School student and would like information or would like to enroll in our twice-monthly learning and activity-based program, contact Pastor John at jvalentine@holyshepherd.org.

Get Ready to Fall Back!

Time Change occurs early on the morning of November 1, 2020! That means you get a bonus hour of sleep on Halloween night. Set your clocks back one hour!

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church

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