

# The Shepherd's staff

THE NEWLETTTER OF HOLYSHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH  
PENTECOST / JUNE 2021 — ORINDA, CALIFORNIA

## REOPENING IS HAPPENING!

Can you believe what a difference the month of May made?

- In April, we were dreaming about getting back together for in-person worship. By the end of May, we'd settled into a rhythm of regularly weekly worship in our Sanctuary, albeit with masks, social-distancing and an abbreviated order of service.
- In April, our Church Council was talking about upgrading the technology in our Sanctuary to accommodate online worship offerings. By the end of May, we have three large video screens and a camera system in place that allow us to live-stream and record our worship services so that those home-bound members and friends of our congregation can partake in our worship life.
- In April, the Lamorinda Adult Respite Center was in search of a new Program Administrator. By the end of May, we'd welcomed Kathleen Januszewski into that position and have instituted plans to re-open LARC to on-site programming on June 15th. (*See details on page 3!*)

To be clear, we are not yet "fully re-opened". We still face restrictions imposed for the health of the larger community. And we do need to continue to be particularly mindful of COVID for the sake of the younger members of our congregation and community for whom COVID vaccines are not yet approved or authorized. But we rejoice that progress is being made, even as we grieve the strains and the losses which the past year has wrought upon our congregation, our community, our nation and God's world.

As we re-open our doors, it's good to remember not only what we are thankful for, but the One to whom we are thankful! For — to borrow the words of a beloved old hymn — "Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices, who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices; who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today!"

## EVENTS SCHEDULE

*We encourage you to join in the following events — virtually and/or in-person:*

**Every Sunday at 9:30 am** — Our weekly in-person worship opportunity in our Sanctuary!

**Every Sunday at 9:30 am** — Our in-person worship services are "Live-Streamed" via Facebook @HSLCOrinda

**Every Sunday at 10:30 am** — An abbreviated Coffee Fellowship takes place on the patio following in-person worship services

**Every Sunday at noon** — A recording of our weekly 'Worship Video' should be accessible via our webpage at [www.holyshepherd.org](http://www.holyshepherd.org) or our Facebook page @HSLCOrinda.

**Third Sundays from 10:30a to 11:30a** —

Following morning worship on the third Sunday of each month, our Sanctuary is open for socially-distanced Holy Communion. (*Join us on June 20th!*)

**Wednesdays at 7pm** — Pastor Pam hosts "Tea & Conversation" — a Zoom-based online fellowship opportunity. Zoom Meeting ID# is 872 8704

# Mission Partner Update: ELCA — SIERRA PACIFIC SYNOD



During its recent Zoom-based online Synod Assembly, voting members elected the Rev. Dr. Megan Rohrer to serve a six-year term as bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod. Pastor Rohrer was elected on the fifth ballot with 209 votes. The Rev. Jeff R. Johnson, pastor of University Lutheran Chapel of Berkeley in Berkeley, Calif., received 207 votes. (*Wow, that was close!*) The bishop-elect has served as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in San Francisco since 2014 and as community chaplain coordinator for the San Francisco Police Department since 2018. Bishop-elect Rohrer will succeed the Rev. Mark Holmerud, who has served as bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod since 2008 and will retire June 30.

Our own Senior Pastor, the Rev. Dr. John Valentine, was among the seven nominees who was invited to address the online assembly in anticipation of the third ballot. Soon after the election of Bishop Rohrer, Pastor John noted "I allowed my name to go forward as a candidate out of a sense of responsibility to the Synod as a whole, but I'm quite relieved that the Spirit had other plans than for me to serve as Bishop!"

As ordained ministers serving in the Synod, Pastor John and Pastor Pam were voting members at the Assembly. They were joined by our congregational President and Vice-President (Fred Schroeder and Joan Kiekhaefer respectively— both of whom serve on the Synod's Financial Team), Henry Chow (who previously served as a member of the Synod Youth Committee) and Bethany Valentine (who has used her musical gifts to support the synod's work throughout the recent days of COVID-19.)



The Sierra Pacific Synod is the regional expression of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in Northern California and Northern Nevada. (The word 'synod' comes from a Greek word meaning "to travel a common road – to walk together.") It is comprised of nearly 200 congregations and worshiping communities throughout that territory.

In fiscal (pandemic) year 2020/21, Holy Shepherd provided \$6,600 to support the work of the Synod and the ELCA (nationally and globally) as well as \$3,700 to support specific projects and programs of the Synod and the ELCA. [Note that this is a significant decrease from our pre-pandemic giving levels of \$11,325 (undesignated) and \$6,100 (designated) in fiscal year 2019/2020.]

## We Remember in Prayer

### For Healing

- Glo. & Ber. Enstrom
- Dou & DoL. Timmons
- MHe Wagner
- Vic. Gess
- Dr.B & Car. Weyand
- Sus. Morgenstern
- Hen. & Car. Kramer
- Judy Butler

### For Comfort

- Har. Howe
- Rol. Benseler
- Mar. & Kri. Lindahl
- Mar. McGill
- DeL. Riveness
- Mar. Norleen

### For Those Serving

- Meg. Howard
- Bri. Henson
- Pet. Kler



## June Celebrations

### Birthdays

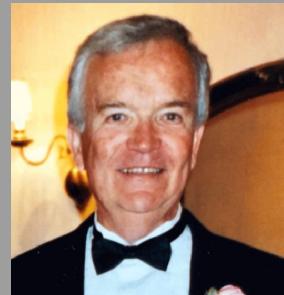
- |                     |                           |                  |
|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| 2nd Dav. Coburn     | 22nd Yvo. Curran          | 18th Churches    |
| 8th Alex. McManamon | 25th Ama. Chung           | 19th Chows       |
| 9th Cri. Chow       | 27th Car. Kramer          | 20th Perrys      |
| 9th Rie. Kemp-Bye   | 29th Ger. Perry           | 24th Gilbertsons |
| 14th Glo. Enstrom   | 2nd Keikhaefer-Rosenzweig | 25th Whites      |
| 15th Lei. Jay       | 2nd Klingmans             | 26th Demoses     |
| 15th Mad. Villano   | 6th Swanbacks             | 29th Oczkuses    |
| 17th Car. Hansen    | 12th Hamres               |                  |
| 20th Mi. Jay        | 14th Yasudas              |                  |
| 20th PJ             |                           |                  |



### Anniversaries

## LIFE TRANSITIONS

We extend our sympathies to the family of Pete Johnson, who died on April 24th. Pete was an active member of Holy Shepherd, serving on the Church Council and championing the work of Loaves and Fishes among us. Pete is survived by his children (Tim, Laura and Doug) and four beloved grandchildren. A memorial service was held on May 23rd.



We lament with the Heuer and Villano families at the passing of Dean Villano on April 14th due to COVID-19 and complications of Myotonic Dystrophy. Our hearts particularly go out to Julia and Maddie Villano at the loss of their dad, who was their champion at all times, even as he struggled with health concerns of his own. A memorial service was held on May 22nd.

We rejoice with Mike and Sandy (nee Ficklin) Heidt on their marriage on May 15th at a ranch near Placerville! Pastor John Valentine served as officiant and Ms. Susie Kooper came down from her new home in Idaho to star in her role as 'Overjoyed Mother of the Groom'! Congratulations, Sandy and Mike (and Breanna, Matthew and Lily)!



# Congratulations, Diana!

Congratulations are most definitely in order for our long-time Teaching Parish student, Diana Washington! On the morning of May 22, Diana was conferred her Masters of Divinity degree from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley as part of a Zoom-based graduation service. She formally received her Master's hood from Karen Rose Kalvass (Diana's Teaching Parish Committee Chair), Pastor John Valentine (her Teaching Parish supervisor) and Bethany Valentine (her choral director) while seated in our sanctuary!

In July, the soon-to-be 'Vicar Diana' will be headed to the mountains of southern Arizona and the town of Sierra Vista, where she will complete a year of internship among the people of Sierra Evangelical Lutheran Church. (Sierra Vista is home to Fort Huachuca — a US Army Installation near the US/Mexico border.)

Join us at worship on Sunday, June 27th as we celebrate Diana's time among us and send her off on the next step of her journey toward ordained ministry! Pastor John and Pastor Pam are assembling a starter set of biblical commentaries to assist Diana in her sermon-writing as a gift from our congregation. If you would like to contribute toward that gift, you're encouraged to send a check to the church office or give via Givelify at [www.holyshepherd.org](http://www.holyshepherd.org).



# Welcome, Kathleen!



It is with great joy that we announce the hiring of Kathleen Januszewski as the new Program Administrator of LARC — the Lamorinda Adult Respite Center. Kathleen brings extensive marketing and staff management experience to the position, having previously worked for Sears, Kmart and Macy's. More importantly, she is patient and positive, with a can-do attitude and a listening ear.

Kathleen is a graduate of UC Davis and a long-time resident of Orinda. She enjoys the outdoors - hiking, camping, swimming and gardening and has been active in numerous community organizations in the Lamorinda area. She and her husband Farin are proud parents of two young adult children. She is very excited to begin her tenure in the LARC Office in service to the vulnerable seniors whom we seek to serve!

# Something to Think About!

*With Pastor Pam Schaefer Dawson*

*Begin by reading Luke 16:19-31 — the story Jesus tells of a poor man named Lazarus and an anonymous rich man*



*"If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead." (Luke 16:31)*

This is the "punch line" of the parable Jesus has just told. The rich man, who has failed throughout his life to really see Lazarus, the poor man at his gate, wants Father Abraham to send Lazarus to warn all of the rich man's brothers who are still alive. The rich man says that if someone would come back from the dead, his brothers would repent and be spared the torment he himself was enduring. To which Father Abraham responds, in effect: "I don't think so! If your brothers have successfully ignored and explained away the words of Moses and the prophets, then they will have a rationalization for a person being raised from the dead as well." To what lengths do we sometimes go in order to not see the needy in our midst and in order to not hear the words God speaks to us?

## "TEA & CONVERSATION"

A Weekly Virtual Gathering

hosted by Pastor Pam



Since we've reinstated in-person Worship and Coffee Fellowship on Sunday mornings, our pastors are no longer available for virtual Sunday morning coffee fellowship time. And with our virtual Bible Study on summer break, we've noted that a number of you are feeling a bit disconnected — especially those who are home-bound! In response to that reality, Pastor Pam has offered to facilitate an informal Zoom-based community gathering each Wednesday from 7 to 8pm, beginning on June 9!

So come, pour your favorite evening beverage, and relax with us. Pastor Pam will prepare a conversation starter, and we'll go from there!

**When? Wednesday evenings — 7-8pm**

**Where? Zoom Meeting ID #872 8704 7522**

**Password? 94563**

# SUMMER SERMON SERIES on 1 JOHN

Buried in the back of the Bible is an ancient letter that has come down to us with the label "1 John". While we don't know very much at all about the author or the recipients of that letter, the message it contains has been treasured by God's people for well-nigh 2000 years. Consider some of the questions it seeks to answer: "How do I live a godly life?" "How do we live with one another in community?" "What does it really mean to 'Love my neighbor as myself'?" "How can I know that God loves me?" It's those questions — and others — which are the focus of this year's Summer Sermon Series, as together we take a slow walk through the 62nd of the 66 books of the Bible. Join us on the journey!

Week #1

**"HOW DO WE KNOW ...."**

Sunday, June 6th

1 John 1:1-10

Week#4

**"GET RIGHT WITH GOD ...."**

Sunday, June 27th

1 John 3:1-10

Week#7

**"LOVE, LOVE, LOVE ...."**

Sunday, July 18th

1 John 4:7-21

Week #2

**"WALKING THE WALK ...."**

Sunday, June 13th

1 John 2:1-11

Week #5

**"AUTHENTIC LIVING ...."**

Sunday, July 4th

1 John 3:11-24

Week #8

**"WHAT IS THE TRUTH ...."**

Sunday, July 25th

1 John 5:1-12

Week #3

**"DON'T BE DECEIVED ...."**

Sunday, June 20th

1 John 2:12-29

Week #6

**"TESTING TRUTH-CLAIMS ...."**

Sunday, July 11th

1 John 4:1-6

Week #9

**"THE PROMISE-KEEPER ...."**

Sunday, August 1st

1 John 5:13-21

HOLY SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

433 MORAGA WAY

ORINDA, CALIFORNIA 94563