

The Shepherd's *staff*

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
INDEPENDENCE DAY / JULY 2021 — ORINDA, CALIFORNIA

LARC OFFICIALLY REOPENS!

On Tuesday, June 15, the Lamorinda Adult Respite Center (LARC) officially re-opened to in-person programming! After 15 LONG months of service interruption due to the pandemic, our campus is once again open for business in serving those afflicted with dementia as well as their caregivers.

'Opening Day' found Activity Leader Carolyn Bauer and Aides Juanita Gilbertson and Jenny Taylor abuzz with "First Day of School" excitement (and a few jitters) as they welcomed previous program participants back into the LARC Room for a day full of games, activities and music, laughter, affirmation and love.



Kathleen Januszewski (our new LARC Program Administrator) explained that the current programming schedule calls for LARC to be open each Tuesday and Thursday during the months of summer. Our goal is to re-grow the staff to accommodate additional days of programming, so that LARC can be running five days per week by the time we ring in 2022. If you (or someone you know) would be interested in working in the LARC Program as either a paid Activity Aide or a volunteer, please contact Kathleen in the LARC Office at (925)254-3465 or via email at kj4larc@outlook.com.

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 time takes place 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 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 July 18th!*)

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

Mission Partner Update: NO ONE LEFT BEHIND

In a recent sermon on the theme of 'Holy Imagination', Pastor John highlighted the work of 'No One Left Behind'. Here are a few more details.

'No One left Behind' was founded by Captain Matt Zeller, who served as an embedded combat adviser with Afghan security forces in Afghanistan. Captain Zeller's life was saved by the heroic actions of his then-native interpreter, Janis Shenwari, during a firefight with Taliban forces in 2008. When word of Janis' actions in support of US troops was made public, he and his family began to receive death threats. Captain Zeller helped Janis navigate the process to obtain that 'Special Immigrant Visa' that was promised to him in acknowledgement of his sacrifice on behalf of our nation.



Janis and Matt's shared experience in navigating that process led them to establish NOLB to help other of our wartime allies relocate to safety in the U.S. To date, NOLB has assisted some 2,000 SIV families, in the awareness that there are still 18,000 families who remain in harm's way. Interestingly, the new CBS comedy, "United States of Al," is roughly based upon the life experiences of Matt and Janis, one a veteran returning home

after serving and the other a recent immigrant to the United States from Afghanistan on a Special Immigrant Visa.



'No One Left Behind' (NOLB) is a non-partisan service organization that works to ensure that our nation upholds its moral obligation to those native interpreters who provided vital assistance to US troops amid recent conflicts overseas. NOLB assists applicants for 'Special Immigrant Visas' whose lives (and families) are in grave jeopardy due to the assistance they offered to US service personnel. NOLB also provides emergency financial aid, employment opportunities and resettlement assistance to SIV recipients.

Holy Shepherd supports the work of NOLB by providing dedicated storage space in the unmarked shipping container in the upper parking lot. It is used to store household items and furnishings used in refugee resettlement of SIV recipients and their immediate families.

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
- Jud. Butler

For Comfort

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

For Those Serving

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



July Celebrations

Birthdays

- 2nd Chr. Demos
- 3rd Ro. Leiker
- 9th Fre. Schroeder
- 13th Eli. Ainsley
- 16th Opa. Bliese

- 18th Dou. McManamon
- 26th Tra. Blanchard
- 28th Cam. Shanahan
- 31st Igo. Sobolev
- 31st Cla. Wildman

Anniversaries

- 4th Howards
- 4th Stensons
- 20th Valentines
- 24th Heuers
- 30th Henry/Dockter

Diana Washington Update

Our Teaching Parish Student, Diana Washington, is soon off to a year of internship among the people of Sierra Lutheran Church in Sierra Vista, AZ, effective August 1.

Drop her a note of prayerful encouragement,

Diana Washington
5255 Chula Vista Pl.
Sierra Vista, AZ 86365

Changes Afoot in the HSLC Office

As we work to reopen our Church Office to a regular schedule of in-person activities, we are pleased to note the following changes to our staff configuration:



Lisa Verley — our long-time Office Administrator — has been eyeing a way to downsize her time commitment to our community without stepping out of her role entirely, so as to allow for more time at the family cabin up in the Gold Country.

Accordingly, Lisa will be transitioning into the role of **Bookkeeper** on our staff, working with Steve Swanback (our Congregational Treasurer) and Mary Friese (our Consulting Accountant). Lisa will be in the office most (but not all) Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am to 1pm. She will be happy to help you with questions about congregational stewardship and transactional finance matters.



HSLC member **Cristi Chow** is stepping into the position of **Office Coordinator**! She'll be working to coordinate campus activities and oversee facilities, both for congregational member-usage and outside user groups. Additionally, she will have significant responsibilities in the realm of congregational communications and media

development, as we become more effective in our use of electronic communication platforms (including Facebook, the church website and our new Sanctuary media screens!) Cristi will regularly be at the Front Desk (or out and about on the property!) on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9am to 1pm. Welcome aboard, Cristi!

GRADUATION DAYS!

The 2020/21 school year was unlike any other on record! But amid it all, a number of our families celebrated graduations — and we celebrate with them! If we missed you (or your graduate), please let us know and we'll acknowledge them in our next monthly Newsletter!



Henry Chow recently graduated from the University of San Francisco (USF) in the City, majoring in Data Science. He recently relocated to Madison, Wisconsin where he accepted a position with Epic, where he'll be developing software to help people get well and stay well!



Paul Griessel Jr. graduated from Amherst College in Amherst, Massachusetts. He was active on the Men's Crew Team and the Men's Golf Team, while majoring in Physics. He is currently hitting the books in preparation for the LSAT exam, in hopes of attending Law School in the near future.



Ciara Kohr graduated from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia with a degree in Public Health (how timely!) She's now working on the CDC Vaccination Contact Center Project in Atlanta but enjoys our live-streamed worship from afar!



Alexandra Demos graduated from Campolindo High School in Moraga (where she was active in school and community dance and theater.) This fall, Allie is heading to the University of Oregon in Eugene, where she hopes to major in Biochemistry.



Jacob Griessel graduated from Campolindo High School in Moraga (where he was also the starting quarterback on their undefeated Varsity Football Team!) This fall, Jacob will be headed off to Washington University in St. Louis, located in the greater St. Louis Missouri area.



Mia Jay graduated from Campolindo High School in Moraga (where she was active in both journalism and community dance.) This fall, Mia is planning to attend

Congratulations!

A WORD FROM PASTOR JOHN



On July 4, 2021, our Nation celebrates its 245th birthday. As John Adams predicted all those years ago, "Independence Day" has been "celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival", and those celebrations regularly include "Pomp and Parade ... Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other." The Fourth of July has been a day for us to be proud of — and thankful for — the nation in which we share.

But this July 4th — THIS Independence Day — somehow feels different. The residual effects of the pandemic have made many skeptical of public gatherings. The drought which now grips our community has delimited most of the usual fireworks shows. And at a more visceral level, the cultural and political disagreements which have gripped our nation level many of us wondering if we deserve to call ourselves "The UNITED States of America" at all.. While we may be proud and thankful of where we have been, we wonder if we should be proud and thankful for where we appear to be headed.

I find the following prayer (taken from the ELCA's 'Prayer Book for the Armed Services') to be particularly poignant as we seek a God's-eye-view on our lives and our nation. And I invite you to pray it with me this Fourth of July — as we celebrate the gift of this nation which we share:

Almighty God, you have given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly ask you that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of your favor and glad to do your will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought here out of many nations and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in your Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to your law, we may show forth your praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness and in the day of trouble, do not allow our trust in you to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

STAY CONNECTED! *(Because we're better together!)*

“TEA & CONVERSATION”

A Weekly Virtual Gathering
(usually) 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!

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

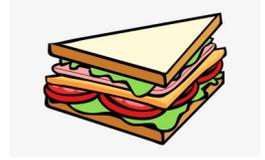
When? **Wednesday evenings — 7-8pm**

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

Zoom Password? **94563**

“LADIES LUNCH BUNCH”

A Weekly In-Person Gathering
hosted by Cristi Chow



Many years ago, the resurrected Jesus shared a meal with some of his dearest friends, “and he was made known to the in the breaking of bread.” Sharing meals together is something Christians do. We call it ‘hospitality’. For it is often over shared meals that strangers become acquaintances, acquaintances become friends and friends become disciples.

In that spirit of community, Cristi Chow has developed a ‘Ladies Lunch Bunch’ group that meets on Thursdays to share a meal and share life-stories. So give Cristi a call at (925)876-0352 and join the conversation, and share a meal, and get better connected with one another!

When? **Thursdays at 11:30am**

Where? **The CFM (Center for Ministry) Building**

The Secret Password? **Please!**

HOLY SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
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