

The Shepherd's *staff*

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
THANKSGIVING / NOVEMBER 2021 — ORINDA, CALIFORNIA

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU PRAY FOR!

For the past number of months, we have been praying for an end to the drought which has so burdened local farmers and local forests, as well as our rivers, creeks and reservoirs. Our prayers were certainly answered with that recent 'atmospheric river' — but those rains brought with them a whole new set of issues!



The meteorologists called it an “atmospheric river”. The reporters called it a deluge”. Our insurance company called it “an act of God”. Nearly nine inches of rain fell during that 48-hour weather event on October 23-25. WOW! It was much needed, to be sure. But the speed with which it came down overwhelmed the drainage field on the east side of our property and flooded Gregersen Hall, and that water brought with it a fine layer of silt that covered much of the main hall and the primary LARC care room!

Miss Joanna (our lead Preschool Teacher) was the first to notice the damage when she came to get ready for class on Monday morning. Pastor John then hopped to — vacuuming up about 30 gallons of water with a wet vac and mopping up all that silt that came with it (see the picture above.) Kathleen Januszewski and other members of the LARC staff pitched in to make sure that care-spaces were safe and that soggy items were salvaged as they could be. Then Dave Lausch and Steve Swanback moved furniture and positioned fans to facilitate the drying-out process. And Ed Szaky and Joan Kiekhaefer helped Steve Swanback obtain and position sandbags lest the next storm bring more silt in under the doors. It was an all-hands-on-board effort to mitigate damage and prevent more of the same.

Members of our Property Team and Church Council are working with our insurance company to identify just what happened and to ensure that it won't happen again — but all that water made us VERY thankful for people who were willing to step up and do what was needed in a timely fashion! So here's a hearty THANK YOU to all who helped undo what all that rain did!

EVENTS SCHEDULE

Amid these days of pandemic, 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 — Coffee Fellowship time takes place following our in-person worship service.

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 11:15a — Following morning worship on the third Sunday of each month, our Sanctuary is open for socially-distanced Holy Communion. (*Join us on November 21st!*)

Tuesdays at 7pm — Pastor John and/or Pastor Pam lead “Adult Ed” — a Zoom-based online fellowship opportunity. The Zoom Meeting ID# is 861 5874 8710 and the Password is 94563.

Social Ministry Update: Giving Beyond Ourselves

Did you know that – for the past fourteen years – Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church has committed itself to sharing a full 10% of our undesignated offerings as 'Giving Beyond Ourselves'? That means that – since 2008 – we have shared more than \$500,000 with our local and global ministry partners! Wow! We HAVE made a difference!

Each year – as a portion of our budget development process – our Social Ministry Team and our Church Council turn their attention to part of our budget known as 'Giving Beyond Ourselves'. We do so to be true to Jesus' words 'Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' (Matthew 25:40) We do so be faithful to Peter's call that "Each of us should use whatever gift we have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:10) We do so because sharing of our abundance is what God's people do! And – due to your generous commitments to giving – we anticipate that this budget year we will be able to share nearly \$30,000 with our mission partners!

For budget year 2021-2022, our Social Ministry Team has identified five "Major Mission Partners" and four "Minor Mission Partners" as fitting recipients of our gifts, in addition to the Sierra Pacific Synod of which we are a part. "Major" partners will receive \$900 gifts quarterly, "Minor" partners will receive \$375 gifts quarterly and the Synod will receive a \$1500 gift quarterly. (See right) While we always wish we could do more for each of them, we know that they will be truly grateful for these gifts we are able to share!

Our 2021/22 Mission Partners

International Health Partners

Tanzanian Hospital — major

Rancho Santa Marta

Mexican Orphanage — major

Loaves and Fishes

Local Food Program — major

New Life Band

Tanzanian Missionaries — major

Lutheran Social Service

Community Outreach — major

Winter Nights Shelter

Local Homeless Care — minor

Loaves and Fishes

Direct Food Support — minor

Pacific Lutheran (PLTS)

Seminary Education — minor

Urgent Outreach Fund

Emergency Assistance — minor

Sierra Pacific Synod

ELCA Denomination Support

Birthdays

4th Catherine Dem.

5th Carolyn Schm.

7th Judy Bu.

11th Tom Gil.

12th Bob Flei.

14th Donna Ben.

16th Alta Ste.

24th Joyce Hur.

27th Reagan Sha.



Anniversaries

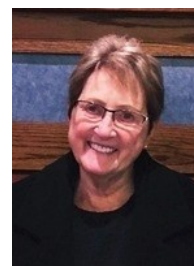
18th Marla & Fred Sch.



Publication of our November Newsletter was delayed due to computer network issues. Thanks to Mark Lemmo for getting us up-and-running again!

FOR ALL THE SAINTS

It is with heartfelt sympathy and sorrow that we share the news of the passing of these dear saints into the heavenly kingdom in recent days. Please hold their loved ones in your prayers:



Dona Lawrentz
(November 3rd)



Marilynn Lindahl
(October 27th)



Phil Hunter
(October 23rd)

Marilyn Sanchez (October 19th)
Photo Unavailable

OUR MONTHLY PRAYER CONCERNS FOR NOVEMBER

For Healing/Strength

Gloria & Bert E.
DoLoris & Doug T.
MaryHelene W.
Dr. Bob & Carole W.
Suzi M.
Judy B.
Diana N.
Pete & Zach Schm.
Cristi Ch.

For Peace/Comfort

Harry H.
Rolf B.
Donna G.
Carol K.
Marilyn & Krist L.
Marian McG.
DeLane R.
Marilyn N.
Igor & Rita S.

For Those Serving

Meghan H.
Brian H.
Peter K.



Worship Matters

By Diana Riveness Young

Diana currently serves as the Church Council Liaison to our Worship, Music and Arts Teams

Since the first weekend in May, we have been able to worship together in-person, but there still seems to be a tangible sense of excitement every week as worshipers are able to gather together in the same place. Masks are still mandated to protect those who are not yet able to be vaccinated — particularly our youngest members and friends. Our average in-person attendance is 40 to 50 every week.

For those who are not yet ready to return to in-person worship (as well as those who have discovered our on-line service and live too far away to attend) we are still offering a live-stream feed of our worship services online on Facebook at 9:30 each Sunday morning. You can also view the service starting after service is over through our church website or Facebook. While we have had occasional glitches where our Facebook feed has not worked and the service has not recorded, we are pleased that those glitches are becoming less and less frequent! Pastor John reports that we average 26 views of our worship video each week!

During the Covid-19 shutdown our music teams went to a limited number of participants and that practice continues today. We have kept the every other week format for music, with most first and third Sundays being led by our contemporary worship team and second and fourth Sundays being more traditional. During this time these groups have done an outstanding job of leading hymns and presenting special music. There will come a day when all members of our Canticle Choir and Spirit Borne worship team will be able to make a joyful noise again, but for the near future that is not possible.

Communion is offered the third Sunday of the month beginning about 10:30am. All are invited to participate. Additionally, Pastor Pam recently reminded us that she and/or Pastor John are available to offer private communion any Sunday morning if and as you request it.

Coffee fellowship is held in the CFM every week after service. This is a wonderful chance to share a cup of coffee, a light snack and catch up with our HSLC family and meet new people. There are plenty of opportunities for you to bring snacks. Check out the sign-up sheet on the table located in the entrance of the CFM.

A WORD FROM PASTOR JOHN



Don' Make a Turkey Out of Thanksgiving This Year!

The word 'turkey' elicits strong reactions in our community these days. While some still have a sense of wonderment at those big birds that wander our hillsides, others wonder how and why so many of those foul fowl have decided to make our neighborhoods their homes. Still others (including yours truly) just want to scream when a 'rafter' of turkeys (that's the official label) blocks traffic. Even linguistically, we don't hold turkeys in very high regard. While a 'turkey' may be good at the bowling alley (that's three strikes in a row), a car that's a turkey is a dud and a Broadway show that's a turkey is a flop. And when we call someone a turkey, we're implying that we don't think to highly of them at all!

The gospel-writer Luke recalled a time when Jesus was approached by ten people who were sick with a horrible illness and sought healing. In response to their request, he told them to go and show themselves to the local Health inspectors — but on the way to their appointment, all ten of them were healed! One of the ten came back to say thanks to Jesus and thanks to God. But as regards the other nine, we don't quite know. What we DO know is that they didn't come back to say 'thanks'. And so it might be fair to say that those other nine "made a 'turkey' out of thanksgiving."

How often do we make 'turkeys' out of thanksgiving? The air we breathe, the food we eat, the jobs we have, the homes that shelter us — all of them are abundant gifts from God. But what thanks do we give for such blessings? Even for the so-called bigger things in life — like a loved one's healing journey through a debilitating illness or the birth of a healthy child — we're often plagued with a lack of gratitude. Like the nine, we tend to forget a word of grateful appreciation. We make turkey out of thanksgiving all the time!

Making a turkey out of thanksgiving means taking the heart and soul out of gratitude. It means minimizing life and ignoring God. It means taking for granted the abundant blessings which define and shape our lives.

As the fourth Thursday of November draws near this year, I'd invite you to be numbered among those who make Thanksgiving out of a turkey rather than making a turkey out of Thanksgiving!

Happy Thanksgiving!



THIS 'N THAT



Hangin' of the Greens Party @ 3pm on Dec. 5th!

Advent begins on the Sunday after Thanksgiving and that means it's time for us to start getting ready for Christmas! Unlike last year (when we were only able to do minimal decorating due to the pandemic), we're planning our traditional 'Hangin' of the Greens' event this December!

Save Sunday, December 5th for both indoor and outdoor decorating on our campus. After decorating, we'll conclude with a light 'Chili Supper'. (If you'd be able to provide a pot of chili to our hungry, please speak with Pastor John!)

Women's Book Club

The Women's Book Club recently met to share a bit about books they've read over the last 18 months. (Let's just say they've been reading a LOT of books!) They have resumed their regular meetings on Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. in the CFM (our Center for Ministry building). Besides discussing their current book, they sip warm beverages and nibble on treats. If you're interested in joining, they'd love to have you. Next up:

Dec. 4 — The Persian Pickle Club by Sandra Dallas

January 8 — A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towle

A Different Kind of COAT DRIVE!

Karen Rose Kalvass has been working to facilitate coat donations from a number of local churches. Coats, gloves and warm hats are being shared with the Hillcrest Clothes Closet, Friendly Manor and Keeping Our Promise (serving Afghani SIV families.) Karen noticed that children's coats are particularly in short supply right now, and we'd like to help address that need by giving her a Costco gift card to purchase children's coats in just the right sizes! Send checks (memo: Kids Coats) to the church office or drop them in the offering plate, or visit our website holyshepherd.org and use our online giving option!

Coffee Fellowship Signups Needed!

With the resumption of in-person worship, we have need of hosts for Coffee Fellowship this winter. Our tradition of sharing a beverage and simple nibbles after worship is one way that we weave the bonds of community together with one another!

In keeping with County Health Dept. guidelines, it is best if treats be limited to finger foods and items which are already plated or pre-packaged. Sign up to host coffee fellowship one Sunday this winter by using the signup sheet in the CFM, or contact Marla Schroeder for more information!

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