

The Shepherd's *staff*

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

EASTER / APRIL 2022 — ORINDA, CALIFORNIA

Thank YOU for Making Our 2022 Crab Feed a Huge Success!

Due to pandemic restrictions, we were unable to celebrate our annual Crab Feed this year in our usual 'sit-down' fashion. But our spirited 'Crabby Crew' — and all of you — found a way to make lemonade out of pandemic lemons!



Who knew that our first-ever 'Drive-Thru Crab Feed' — held on the weekend of Saturday, March 12 / Sunday, March 13 — would be such a resounding success!

We did know that just about everyone loves a hearty fresh



crab dinner and we did know that you (and the larger Holy Shepherd community) love to support our partners at Holy

Shepherd Christian Preschool and LARC (the Lamorinda Adult Respite Center.) But we didn't know if all the pieces could come together, and we certainly didn't know that they would come together as well as they did!

Our Crabby Crew (Cristi Chow, Joan Kiekhaefer, Elizabeth Humphrey and Bethany Valentine) logged many hours of prep time to make sure that the crab was first-rate, that the food was fresh and that the Raffle prizes were over the top. And they were joined by a number of supportive cast members (including members of Holy Shepherd along with friends of our Preschool and LARC programs) to make sure that



food-pickups were seamless. Best of all, we were able to raise more than \$4000 to support facility upgrades in our Preschool and LARC classroom / care spaces. Bravo and a hearty 'Thank You' to all who pitched in to make our 'Drive-Thru Crab Feed' our best Drive Thru Crab feed ever! And a big shout out to Thrivent Financial for their generous monetary support — and the yummy cookies too!

WEEKLY EVENTS SCHEDULE

We encourage you to join in!

Sundays* at 9:30 am — Our weekly in-person worship opportunity with Holy Communion in our Sanctuary!

Sundays* at 9:30 am — Our in-person worship services are "Live-Streamed" via Facebook @HSLCORinda.

Sundays* at 10:30 am — Coffee Fellowship time takes place following our in-person worship service.

Sundays at noon — A recording of our weekly 'Worship Video' should be accessible via our webpage at www.holyshepherd.org or our Facebook page @HSLCORinda.

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.

* See Back Page for Easter Sunday special worship times on April 17th!

Social Ministry Update: Ukrainian Relief

Lutheran World Relief in Action

The recent Russian invasion of the sovereign nation of Ukraine has put millions of people in danger. As Ukrainians shelter from bomb blasts or flee their homes, many need medical attention, food, water, and basic sanitation. Thousands of civilians have been injured or killed in eastern Ukraine, the capital Kyiv, and other areas. People are sheltering underground to escape shelling from heavy artillery, rockets and airstrikes. In the combat zones, thousands of families have been cut off from water, food, electricity and fuel for days. Health facilities have sustained damage and many Ukrainians are in need of medical attention. As of late March, the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) estimated that more than 3.6 million Ukrainians have fled to neighboring countries, while an additional 6.5 million have been displaced within Ukraine itself.

The Polish government has passed legislation to support Ukrainian refugees in Poland, which allows them to access basic services such as healthcare, education and the right to work, but this flood of refugees is putting pressure on food and other supplies in their host communities. Lutheran World Relief (LWR) is working with partners in Poland to implement programming to address both short and long-term needs. To this point, most efforts and funds are being channeled as direct aid to those fleeing combat areas, with upwards of \$2 million in the form of emergency cash and vouchers for Ukrainian refugees in Poland. Additionally, in partnership with the Lutheran Church of St. Martin in Krakow, Poland, LWR has established a hostel for Ukrainian women and children. If you would like to support LWR's work with Ukrainian refugees, log on to www.holyshepherd.org and visit Givelify (our online giving portal) or deliver a check to Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, noting 'Ukrainian Support' in the memo line. Together we CAN be a source of comfort to victims of this tragic war.



A young boy in the Kraków Główny Main Station after arriving from Ukraine.



LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF

Founded by Lutherans in the United States at the end of World War II, grounded in Lutheran theology and building on decades of experience,

Lutheran World Relief is our presence amid global humanitarian crises, helping people adapt to the challenges that threaten their livelihoods and well-being.

Lutheran World Relief is working with its ministry partners from Lutheran churches throughout the world as primary relief agencies supporting those displaced by the War in Ukraine.

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church has utilized Lutheran World Relief as our primary channel for disaster support worldwide for more than two decades. We are thankful for their efforts on behalf of all of us to make God's compassionate care manifest in the lives of hurting people.

APRIL



BIRTHDAYS &
ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

2nd Kalolaine S.

7th Bill H.

9th April L.

14th Gail B.

20th Elizabeth H.

24th Ed S.

27th Marc O.

29th Joan B.

30th Steve B.

30th Jeff K.

Anniversaries

3rd Enstroms (66!)

11th Yangs

25th Clark/Lausch

27th Wildmans

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today.

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.



OUR MONTHLY PRAYER CONCERNS FOR APRIL

For Healing/Strength

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

For Peace/Comfort

Harry H.
Donna G.
Carol K.
Bob & Kristi L.
Marian McG.
DeLane R.
Marilyn N.
Igor & Rita S.

For Those Serving

Meghan H.
Brian H.
Peter K.



Crab Feed Raffle Prize Winners!

The following persons were winners of gift baskets in conjunction with this year's Crab Feed!

- **Tom and Juanita Gilbertson** won a brand new iPad and a number of iPad accessories!
- **Fred and Marla Schroeder** won tickets to a Giants game, along with a number of unique Giants-themed items!
- **Bethany Valentine** won the Wine Gift basket, including a number of bottles of very nice wine!
- **George and Karen Rose Kalvass** won the 'Gift Card Gift Basket', which included a number of gift cards to both local shops and national chains!

Congratulations to all of this year's Gift-Basket winners!



Our friends at Chromatica Chorale (*who regularly rehearse at Holy Shepherd and consider our congregation their home-base*) will be offering a concert entitled:

Hits ... In Their Own Time!

A selection of Choral masterpieces and Arrangements of Favorite Songs through the Ages!

Saturday, May 7th, 2022 @ 7:00pm

At Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church

433 Moraga Way in Orinda

For additional information and tickets visit:

www.chromaticachorale.org

or speak with Bethany Valentine

Join us on Saturday, April 9th from 9am to Noon for a **Property Work Day!**

There is an abundance of tasks on Property Chair Marla Schroeder's 'To-Do' list, including pruning and planting, cleaning and clipping, projects inside and out.

Bring your work-gloves and help us spruce up our campus for the days of Holy Week!



A Word from Pastor John



Holy Week approaches! Our journey starts on the streets of Jerusalem with a makeshift Palm Sunday parade, leads through an upstairs room wherein Jesus shared a meal with his dearest friends on the night he was betrayed, and draws to a dark conclusion in a graveyard on Good Friday that very same place where — on Easter Sunday morning — God has the last laugh.

As we often note in our Lenten liturgies, the days of Holy Week are days for us to pay special attention to Jesus' journey to the cross. They are days for us to hear the stories of people whom Jesus encountered along the way. And they are days for us to realize that we are those very people.

We think of someone like Peter. And we realize that we, too, are guilty of running away from our commitments. For though Peter was bold to boast "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you," less than 24 hours later he denied Jesus three times. In what ways have we said "God, I'm with you" and yet reneged on such commitments?

We think of someone like Judas. And we realize that we, too, are more interested in our own agendas than the agenda of our Lord. It always strikes me as tragic when people blame Judas as the one responsible for Jesus' death. The Bible is clear to point out that we make Judas-like choices every time we place our own agendas and personal priorities over the priorities of our Lord. Judas may have "done the deed", but we are his "partners in crime."

We think of someone like Pontius Pilate. And we realize that we, too, are tempted to choose easy answers rather than the right ones. Pilate had to make a decision about Jesus' fate, and the Bible declares that his choice was based on "popularity" and "expediency", rather than "right" and "wrong". Oh, how easy it is for us to slip into those "easy answers" rather than the "right ones"!

We think of someone like Caiaphas. And we realize that we, too, are tempted to abuse what authority we've been given. Caiaphas was the high priest in Jerusalem at the time of Jesus' crucifixion. He had been entrusted with authority which he chose to abuse. Though we may be quick to point out ways in which others in authority have abused and misused their power, Caiaphas' decision is a reminder that the temptation of power are nearly universal.

We think of people like Mary and Mary Magdalene, the disciples and the crowd. And we realize that in their story we find our stories too. The Gospels allow us enough glimpses of the people around the story of Jesus' suffering and death that none of us can say "I'm not there" or "that wouldn't have been me." Each of us has a place in the pain, even as each of us is offered a place in the promise of Easter that awaits.

But most of all, we discover in His story — that story we call "Holy Week" — that there is forgiveness of our sin, hope for our future and strength for our journeys. Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday together help us to taste and see and hear the amazing depth and breadth of the love which God in Christ has for us. I'll hope you'll make the effort to lay your own stuff aside long enough this coming Holy Week to join us as we journey to the Holy City and discover our places in that greatest story ever told. And — as you do — may you know God's gifts of love and joy and peace.

Our Updated Holy Week Schedule

Please make note of our UPDATED worship schedule for Holy Week 2022 (with a correction of Easter Sunday Worship times)!



Palm Sunday — April 10th — Worship at 9:30a

Palm Sunday celebrates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem as a champion of God's people — but the joyful mood of the beginning of our service fades into sober contemplation of the week which lies ahead.

Maundy Thursday — April 14th — Worship at 7:00p

Maundy Thursday invites us to hear Jesus' call that we love one another even as he loves us. In the washing of feet, in the breaking of bread, in the stripping of the altar, we discover anew the depth of his love.



Good Friday — April 15th — Worship at 7:00p

Good Friday is a day for us to discover the boundless depth of God's love. Jesus' cries from the cross bear witness to the pain of the world in which we live, and that pain which he endured that we might know life.

Easter Sunday — April 17th — Worship at 9:00 am (Contempo) & 10:30 (Traditional)

Jesus Christ is risen this day — our triumphant holy day! Easter Sunday is the Day of Resurrection, the day on which the Truth finally got out that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, God's Holy One. Join us in celebration and song as we remember that the stone was rolled away, that the tomb was empty and that Christ is risen indeed! (Note that there will not be a full 'Easter Breakfast' this year due to continuing pandemic restrictions, but that we will offer an extra-hearty 'Coffee Fellowship' spread after each service.



Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church

433 Moraga Way

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