

The Shepherd's *staff*

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

MOTHER'S DAY / MAY 2022 — ORINDA, CALIFORNIA

CELEBRATING OUR EASTER JOY!

On April 17, we were able to gather in our Sanctuary for the first time in three years to celebrate the Day of Resurrection. It was a glorious day — and a glorious reminder of that great Good News that is at the heart of our Christian faith.

Easter is the day that defines the Christian community. Mary Magdalene's first tentative declaration to the other disciples that "Jesus is risen" on that Sunday morning has become the Church's full throated affirmation. "Christ is risen!", the worship leader shouts. And the people of God reply "He is risen indeed!" But for the past two years we have been unable to share in that call and response. We have been unable to be together in prayer and praise and celebration. So it felt wonderful to share the spirit of Easter joy with one another this Easter 2022. As Diana Riveness (our Council Liaison for Worship, Music and Arts) noted that morning, "It just feels so good to be doing this TOGETHER!"



But we'd be remiss were we not to acknowledge those many folks who helped make our renewed Easter celebrations possible, including musicians Bethany Valentine, Julie Hamre, Tom Henry, Marc Levine, Bryant Chow, Gretchen Koellermeier Stenson, Sharon Tissue, Joe Zingale, Diana Riveness Young, Elizabeth Humphrey, Bob Schmalz, Steve Swanback, Ed Szaky, Marci Bauer, along with Pastor Pam and Pastor John. And our sanctuary was all gussied up thanks to Juanita and Tom Gilbertson, Elaine Nielsen, Joan Birke, Barbara Perry and Tracy Blanchard (although we forgot to take a picture and so had to post one from 2019 above!) And thanks to Cristi Chow, Bryant Chow, Marci and Bob Bauer, Dave Lausch and Pastor John for helping to coordinate our scrumptious Easter morning meal! And a BIG shout out to our friends over at Town Bakery in Moraga's Rheem Center (next to Chef Chao) for the freshly-baked scones and Danish pastries that were amazing!

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.

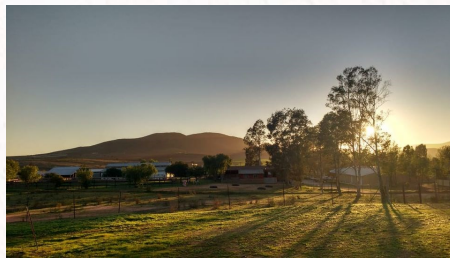
Sundays at 10:30 am — Coffee Fellowship time takes place following our in-person worship service.

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. (Please note that 'Adult Ed' goes on Summer break following Memorial Day weekend.)

Social Ministry Update: Rancho Santa Marta

*A place that makes God's hope real
in Baja California*



Ranch Directors Rod and Tina Struiksma report: "Our school is open; for all students; every day!! What a blessing to have all our students being able to attend classes together, (the hybrid system of having just half of the class for one day and the other half the next day is gone) every single day of the week. Our teachers had mixed feelings about the change because they were so used to being online and then only half of the class, but now they have a full classroom again. It only took two years to get there. The students and parents still have the choice of wearing a mask while they are at school and transportation to school, but the social distancing idea has been obliterated so our busses

can be full, our students can get close in the lines and in the classrooms and our drinking fountains can operate again! Wow it is wonderful to see that we can get back to life as it was pre-pandemonium. Cariño is our one and only speech therapist and she has her hands full at school. There are at least 30 students in our kindergarten through high school system that require one on one or small group speech classes."

Interested in a joining a first-hand visit to Rancho Santa Marta this Fall? Pastor John is working to develop a mission trip to the Ranch in partnership with our friends at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Lafayette in late October. If you'd like more information, email him at jvalentine@holyshepherd.org.



Rancho Santa Marta is a faith-based ministry for at-risk, abandoned, and special needs Mexican children, located on a 450 acre working ranch, about 150 miles south of San Diego. For the past 40 years, Rancho Santa Marta has provided a home and educational opportunities to hurting children, with more than 45 children in residence at the Ranch and an additional 200+ in their Christian day school.

Holy Shepherd has been supporting the work of Rancho Santa Marta since 2003. As one of our primary Mission Partners, Rancho Santa Marta is slated to receive \$3600 from our 2021/22 budget, as well as support from directed gifts and giving. Additionally, our youth and adult mission teams have visited Rancho Santa Marta more than fifteen times, to experience life at the Ranch and to share God's love with needful kids!



Birthdays

- 2nd John H.
- 3rd Johanna B.

- 5th Julie C.
- 6th Carol G.
- 7th Erin S.
- 10th Terry O.
- 13th Carole S.
- 13th Linda H.
- 16th Rita S.
- 19th John H.
- 22nd Cortney S.

- 24th Janice K.
 - 24th Bethany V.
 - 26th Dave L.
 - 28th Tom H.
 - 30th Nick K.
- Anniversaries**
- 14th Berchtolds
 - 25th Jays
 - 27th Tschudis

OUR MONTHLY PRAYER CONCERNS FOR MAY

For Healing/Strength

- Bert & Gloria E.
- Sharon T.
- Elaine N.
- Donna Z.
- DoLoris & Doug T.
- MaryHelene W.
- Carole W.
- Suzi M.
- Judy B.
- Diana N.
- Jackie S.

For Peace/Comfort

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

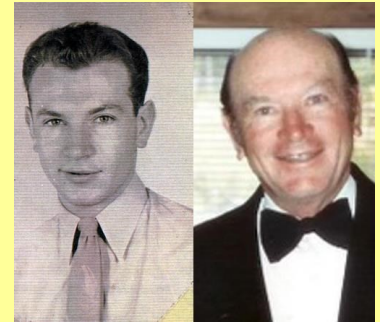
For Those Serving

- Meghan H.
- Brian H.
- Peter K.



In Memoriam

Dr. Bob Weyand



Our much-beloved Dr. Bob Weyand passed away April 12, 2022, two weeks after his 99th birthday. Dr. Bob was an apt student, graduating from Cal at the age of 19 and UCSF Med School at 23. He was a brilliant neurosurgeon, an avid golfer, a loving dad and a great encourager of people of all ages. He is survived by his beloved wife Carole as well as sons John and Dick, and daughters Ann and Patty. A Memorial Service for Dr. Bob will be held at Hope Lutheran Church in Rossmoor, whence the Weyands transferred their church membership during the pandemic and their move to Rossmoor.

Recent Council Highlights

While the pandemic brought a halt to many of our normal on-campus activities, the business of our congregation didn't stop. Below are some recent developments which make us thankful for each and every member of our Church Council.

- Treasurer Steve Swanback reported that Mary Friese — our consulting accountant — recently resigned her position as she moves toward 'less life commitments and more fun'. Mary did amazing work over the past half-decade to bring our finance system into alignment with standardized non-profit accounting procedures. She also worked to ensure that both our LARC and Preschool programs have solid financial footings. While it is hard to say 'farewell' to one as devoted to our congregation's well-being as Mary, we DO want to say 'Thanks for a job well done!' You have truly been a gift to us all, Mary!
- The vacancy created by Mary's retirement is going to be filled by Elizabeth (Liz) Haughey, who serves as bookkeeper for a number of Lamorinda non-profit organizations, including St. Stephen's Episcopal Church and the Xenophon Therapeutic Riding Center. Liz will be working in conjunction with Treasurer Steve Swanback and Accounting Clerk Lisa Verley to ensure that our financial operations function well
- Application has been made for ERC (Employee Retention Credit) funds — made available by the federal government. These funds were made available in late 2020 to support small businesses and non-profits which had to curtail operations or group meetings (for social, commercial or religious purposes) during the height of the pandemic. Steve Swanback reports that we may be eligible to receive substantial federal funding through the ERC program.
- Pastor Pam Schaefer Dawson reported on the joy of sharing Holy Communion in the context of worship once again. After six months of no sharing of Holy Communion at all, followed by eighteen months of our modified 'Communion in a time of pandemic', we are once again able to gather at the Lord's Table on Sunday mornings as a part of our regular worship experiences. Pastor Pam noted the abundance of joyful faces as people gathered at the altar rail once again to receive the sacrament of the altar.
- Property Chair Marla Schroeder acknowledged the amazing work done by Boy Scout Troop 303 in working to clear vegetation from the hillside behind the Center for Ministry Building and the Preschool playground. They filled our six large green trash cans on multiple weekends and kept after it until the job was well-done. This will go a long way toward helping ensure that our property is in compliance with MOFD's vegetation abatement rules when the Fire Dept. comes by for the annual early-summer inspection! Thank you, Troop 303!

Take time to say 'Thanks' to our devoted Church Council members who have done so much to ensure the continued operation of our congregation during these unsettled times, including Nina Berchtold, Tom Gilbertson, Howard Harpham, Elizabeth Humphrey, Joan Kiekhaefer (Vice-President), Dave Lausch (Secretary), Elaine Nielsen, Diana Riveness, Fred Schroeder (President) and Steve Swanback (Treasurer), as well as Pastor Pam and Pastor John.

A Word from Pastor John



After a few days, Jesus returned to Capernaum. When word got around that he was back home teaching the Word, a crowd gathered, jamming the entrance so no one could get in or out. Four people brought a paraplegic to him, carrying him on his stretcher. When they weren't able to get in because of the crowd, they removed part of the roof and lowered the paraplegic on his stretcher. Then — impressed by their bold belief — Jesus said to the paraplegic, 'Son, I forgive your sins.' (Mark 2:1-5)

This story from Mark 2 about Jesus' healing of the man who had been paralyzed is one of my favorite stories in the whole of Scripture. It is so vivid — so engaging — so amazing. I particularly love the role which the paralyzed man's four friends play in that story, as they dismantle the roof over the place where Jesus is teaching and lower their friend right into the teacher's lap! Those four friends get an "A+" for their diligence, their creativity and their "whatever it takes" attitude as they work to facilitate their friend's encounter with Jesus.

- Those friends were resourceful. They utilized what they had as best they could to address a need which they noted. Then again — isn't that what "stewardship" is all about? Using the gifts which God has given to each of us as best we can to meet the needs of others.
- Then again, those friends were reliable. They could be counted on. Perhaps we underestimate the value of reliability. Nobody makes a big deal about "how reliable" their car is until it isn't reliable. But when "reliability" is missing, nothing else matters. Those four friends in Mark 2 were reliable precisely because they could be counted on. They could be trusted.
- Then again, those resourceful, reliable friends were risk-takers. They didn't care about public opinion polls. They didn't get overly concerned about what the neighbors might think. They realized that "not trying" was far more tragic than trying and perhaps failing. As author Leo Buscaglia once stated, "To live is to risk dying. To hope is to risk despair. To try is to risk failure. But risks must be taken, because the greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing."

Those four friends certainly faced obstacles. They could have fallen back on umpteen excuses. They could have thrown up their arms and gone home. But they didn't. On account of which, Mark 2:5 says "Jesus saw their faith." A faith which told them that — if they could get their friend to Jesus — Jesus could take care of the rest. A faith that told them it was worth putting up with the complaints of the crowd. A faith that told them it was worth the effort to dismantle the roof and finagle a way to lower their friend down to Jesus. A faith that told them to trust that their disabled friend was worth their best efforts. In these four resourceful, reliable, risk-taking friends, Jesus saw 'faith'.

Can we embrace the invitation contained in that memorable story? It's an invitation to be resourceful and reliable and risk-taking — not for our own sakes — but for the sake of those whom Jesus calls our 'neighbors'. Jesus saw faith in them and it certainly gets me to wondering WHAT DO YOU THINK JESUS SEES IN US???

A Prayer for Mother's Day

During this season set aside to honor women in our homes, in our community and throughout the world, we offer this prayer:

Life-Giving God We thank you for our mothers ... and for all women who have been instruments of that compassionate love with which you love us.

Life-Giving God We think of those who would call themselves "motherless". For those throughout the world who are orphaned, for those who grieve a mother now dead, those who have been abandoned, for those for whom the words "Mother's Day" bring pain and sadness.

Life-Giving God We remember mothers throughout the world who struggle to provide for their children amid famine, war, and national discord ... and especially amid these days for mothers and children in the nation of Ukraine.

Life-Giving God We pray for those who desire (and those who have desired) to be mothers, but struggle with miscarriages, infertility, or disappointment in relationships, that they might know comfort, peace and the assurance of your never-failing love.

Glory be to you, Holy God, for your comfort and care know no bounds. And may we all rest in your abundant love, which nurtures us from age to age. Amen



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

Hits ... *In Their Own Time!*

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

This coming 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

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church

433 Moraga Way

Orinda, CA 94563