

The Shepherd's staff

THE NEWSLETTER OF HOLY SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
EARLY SUMMER 2022 — ORINDA, CALIFORNIA
www.holyshepherd.org / (925)254-3422

A PRAYER FOR OUR NATION — AND FOR WE WHO ARE PART OF IT

Lutheran theologian Philip Jacob Spener once said, "We are to be different because Christ is in us. The world is to be different because we are in it." As we approach our nation's Independence Day celebrations, Spener's words are a pointed reminder that we are to be about particular service to the community, the nation and the world in which we live precisely because God lives in us.

In anticipation of our worship celebration on July 3rd, you're invited to ponder our prayers for that day, and think of some of the particular ways our world might be different because YOU are in it!

Lord of the nations, in your hands are all the people of this world: the prideful, the needy, the arrogant, the lost, the high, the lowly, the entitled, the dispossessed, the loved and the unloved, the blessed and the not so blessed, and even we too, seeking your comfort, seeking your aid in tumultuous times.

We give you thanks for the blessings of freedom. May we learn to use our freedoms to be servants to our neighbors. We give you thanks for the blessing of justice. May our own actions – and the actions of our nation – facilitate justice for all.

Come to the aid of nations and leaders who need your guidance. Come to the aid of those standing in harm's way. Make us mindful of the sacrifices of our military and their families. Make us mindful of ways that we can support them in their service. Strengthen us in faith and calm the fears within us.

God of all who are in need, heed our call and answer our prayer. Send peace in our time, peace for our hearts, peace for our land, peace for all the world, peace that abides as we abide in you. For you are God alone, blessed above all others, from whom comes the only peace that endures forever and ever. Amen!

Truth be told, we ARE different because Christ is in us. Now may the world be different because we are in it.

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 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.

(Please note that our weekly Adult Ed' class offering is on Summer break through Labor Day.)



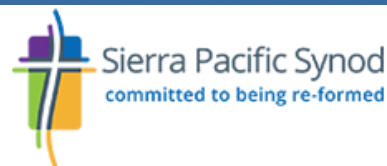
Social Ministry Update:

Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly 2022

The 2022 Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly was held in Sparks, Nevada on the weekend of June 2-4, with clergy-folk and lay voting members from congregations across Northern California and Northern Nevada. Pastor John and Pastor Pam joined the Assembly in-person, while our lay voting members (Fred Schroeder, Joan Kiekhaefer, and Bethany Valentine) participated via Zoom in this 'hybrid' event.

Normally, Synod Assemblies are a time to connect with friends old and new, to share together in worship and study, and to celebrate 'being church together'. This year not so much. This assembly was a difficult one for several reasons, the most prominent being the fact that the assembly voted on a motion asking our bishop, the Reverend Megan Rohrer, to resign. In the process of getting that motion to a vote, there first was a time of listening to people speak about the need for the bishop to resign, owing to some behavior which has caused whole groups of people pain. Some of those speaking during this time were in favor of Bishop Megan remaining in office. In the end, the motion asking Bishop Megan to resign garnered 56.5% of the legal votes cast; it needed two-thirds to pass. Therefore, as the Synod Assembly closed, Bishop Rohrer remained in office. The Assembly also voted to adopt a \$2.4M budget for fiscal year 2023/24, a budget which had been promoted by Bishop Megan and recommended to the Assembly by the Synod Council. Lamentably, that budget presumes an operational deficit of nearly half-a-million dollars!

Our lay voting members described this year's Assembly as inept, exasperating, disturbing, unbelievable and inconceivable. And it left them feeling disheartened, saddened, perplexed, disappointed, and deeply concerned. In the aftermath of this incredibly painful, challenging time in assembly, we as a synod will have much healing work to do. We will need to take the time to truly listen to those who have been hurt, and we will need to commit ourselves to the hard work of growing toward being a church that truly lives out the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the world. May the Holy Spirit guide our steps toward wholeness and healing.



The Sierra Pacific Synod (of which Holy Shepherd is a part) is the regional expression of the ELCA 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 some 180 congregations and worshipping communities throughout that territory.

Our congregational budget for fiscal year 2021/22 anticipates that Holy Shepherd will provide approximately \$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.

PRAYERS

For Healing

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

For Peace

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

For Those Serving

Meghan H.
Brian P.
Brian H.
Peter K.

For Those Grieving

Enstroms
Gilbertsons

Birthdays

6/2 Dave Co.
6/8 Alex McM
6/9 Cristi Ch.
6/9 Rielly K-B
6/14 Gloria En.
6/15 Leighton Ja.
6/15 Maddie Vi.
6/17 Carol Ha.
6/20 Mia Ja.
6/20 Pastor PJ
6/22 Amanda Ch.
6/27 Carol Kr.
6/29 Gerald Pe.

7/3 Ron Le.
7/4 The U.S. of A.
7/9 Fred Schr.
7/13 Elie Ai.
7/16 Opal Bl.
7/18 Doug McM.
7/26 Tracy Bl.
7/31 Igor So.
7/31 Claire Wi.

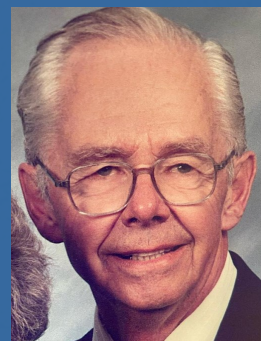
Anniversaries

6/2 Keikhaefer/Rosenzweig
6/2 Klingmans
6/6 Swanbacks

6/12 Hamres
6/14 Yasudas
6/18 Churches
6/19 Chows
6/20 Perrys
6/24 Gilbertsons
6/25 Whites
6/26 Demoses
6/29 Oczkuses
7/4 Howards
7/4 Stensons
7/20 Valentines
7/24 Heuers
7/30 Henry/Dockter

CELEBRATE

In
Loving
Memory
of
**Bertil
"Bert"
Enstrom**



We are saddened to announce the passing of longtime Holy Shepherd member Bertil "Bert" M. Enstrom on May 31, 2022. Bert was a proud East Bay native — having been born in Alameda in 1929, and is survived by his wife of 68 years, Gloria Enstrom and their 3 children Paul, Judy and Jon, as well as 6 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

A memorial service and light reception honoring Bert's life will take place at HSLC on Saturday, June 25th at 10am. Join us as you are able.

A Note from the Synod Vice President

Gail Kiyomura — our synod's Vice-President — recently wrote us regarding developments in the Sierra Pacific Synod. A "Reader's Digest" version of that letter appears below.

Dear Siblings in Christ in the Sierra Pacific Synod,

The events of recent days have left many of us emotionally drained, physically exhausted, spiritually fragile and administratively perplexed. We're not quite sure where we're at, we don't quite know how we got here, and we're unsure about exactly where we're heading. The leadership void caused by Bishop Rohrer's resignation has created significant anxiety in our synod — and it's leaving many of us wondering what is next.

As we have been reminded by Presiding Bishop Eaton, talk of healing is premature. But the promise of Pentecost is that we are still church together. We are gifted and empowered to support one another, to live into the promise of the mutual consolation of the saints, and to continue to be about the work of making Christ real to the last, the lost, the little and the least.

- On Saturday, June 4th, after prayer-filled discernment and robust conversation, the Sierra Pacific Synod Council voted that they had lost confidence in the bishop and their ability to lead and called for their immediate resignation.
- On Sunday, June 5th, the Conference of Bishops met via Zoom; Bishop Megan Rohrer chose not to attend. The Presiding Bishop (Elizabeth Eaton) shared that she had initiated a discipline process against Bishop Rohrer, including immediate suspension. The COB strongly affirmed her decision to do this. Meanwhile, Bishop Rohrer posted their resignation letter on various social sites and formally resigned as Bishop of our Synod.

In the meantime:

- We will be looking to our Conference Deans to be primary resources for spiritual counsel and congregational support until such time as the interim bishop is appointed.
- The Synod Council will work diligently to support both the deans and the synod staff in the day-to-day operations of the synod amid this leadership transition.
- We do not yet know the timeline leading up to the election of a new Synod bishop, but it will — at the earliest — be at the 2023 Synod Assembly.

Supported by the Synod Council, our Synod staff and our Conference Deans, I will necessarily be taking the reins of leadership until such time as our interim bishop is identified and appointed. I covet your prayers and support in these duties. This is uncharted territory for all of us — and for our church more generally. We need to be church together at this time. I would humbly ask that you do what you can to affirm our work together, to support one another and not lose sight of the mission that we share.

In the promise of a brighter tomorrow,
Gail Kiyomura, Sierra Pacific Synod, Vice President

A Word from Pastor John



As many of you know, I contracted COVID-19 in the middle of May. Even though I'd been twice-immunized (and boosted!) with the highly-effective Moderna vaccine, that insidious virus still found a way to make a temporary home in my body! What follows are some reminders and realizations that my journey through COVID brought:

- ♦ I'm thankful for the gift of health. While some vaccinated and boosted people seem to contract COVID asymptotically and feel few effects at all, I was not one of them! I tested positive for the coronavirus for ten full days and felt pretty punk for another full week after the virus had moved on. And there were times when all that laying around not being able to do much of anything drove me up the wall! My need for bedrest was a potent reminder that I have been blessed with good health, and that the gift of well-being is something that I should be thankful for every day, rather than just complaining and whining on those days when I feel less-than-well!
- ♦ I'm thankful for the gift of medicines and for people who practice medicine. The medical and pharmaceutical communities have done some amazing work during the course of this pandemic — developing vaccines that are effective in keeping people (like me) out of the hospital and more-recently developing therapeutics to check COVID infections from getting the upper hand. I'm thankful that I didn't need to lean on doctors and nurses during my bout with COVID, but nonetheless, I'm thankful that they're there would I have needed them.
- ♦ I'm thankful for the gift of a supportive community and people like you! It must have been about three days into my sojourn with COVID that my first "Get Well Soon" card showed up in our mailbox, and a number of them followed over the course of the next couple of weeks. Those cards, along with encouraging text messages and emails, were daily reminders that you were praying for me and hoping with me and cheering me on. St. Paul's words from the opening chapter of 2 Corinthians about how — while it is God who rescues us, "you also join in helping us by your prayers" — sure rang true to me over the past month. We certainly confess that God is the one who heals, but your prayers help too! Thanks for praying for me, and thanks for praying for others known and unknown to you who look to God for healing!

It is an honor and a joy to be numbered as one of your pastors!
Love + Joy + Peace,

Pastor John

Sunday Servers Needed!

Our return to a fuller worship experience on Sunday mornings requires a few additional helping hands on-deck.

Readers

Since the beginning of the Church, communities have chosen persons for the task of reading Scriptures at worship. Reading is the effective sharing of Scripture during our community worship time. Serving as a reader means preparing oneself so that one's words become a vehicle for God's Word.

Jesus himself served as a reader in the context of worship. Luke reports that Jesus *"went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written. 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.'"*

Greeter/Ushers

Hospitality is the real work of our greeter/ushers. Greeters extend their hands as God's hands to welcome people to worship and to our community of faith. While it is fun to greet familiar faces and check in with friends, one's primary attentiveness should be toward any first-time visitors and guests — for we only get one chance to make a "first impression."

Our greeter/ushers strive to ensure that those who gather for worship are offered appropriate worship materials, are aided in finding seats, and are welcomed to Holy Communion. *"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it."*

Communion Servers

In serving the bread and wine in Holy Communion, communion servers offer the most awesome of God's gifts. They convey this gift with the words "for you" in reminder that this is a very personal gift. Our declaration that "the blood of Christ is shed for you" is a testimony that this is a valuable gift given to someone that God loves very much.

Our communion servers show particular hospitality to those who seem unfamiliar with the procedures for receiving Holy Communion at Holy Shepherd, as well as assisting in providing the elements of Holy Communion to those unable to come to the Altar Rail. *Jesus said "Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."*

If you're able to fill one or more of our "Sunday Server" roles or would like more info, please contact our office at (925)254-3422, email Office Administrator Cristi Chow at hslccristi@gmail.com or speak with our Worship Liaison Diana Riveness Young!

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