

# The Shepherd's *staff*

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

## EXCITING TIMES FOR OUR PRESCHOOL

*The days of the COVID-19 pandemic upset our Preschool apple cart, but a new Director and some new directions promise good things for our future!*

What a ride these past two-and-a-half years have been for Holy Shepherd Christian Preschool. Betwixt the retirement of our long-tenured and much-beloved Director Ms. Susie Koeper, the mandated shuttering of all in-person instruction by State Health Dept. authorities, and the ever-fluctuating masking and distancing protocols which were requirements upon reopening, no program on our campus was more deeply impacted by COVID-19 than our Preschool program!

We wouldn't have made it through the topsy-turvy days of the Pandemic without the amazing commitments of Ms. Joanna Albano Fordelon (our lead teacher) and Ms. Pat Bonnini (our classroom aide.) Their patience with the ever-changing state regulations over the past two years and their devotion to our preschool kids and their families was nothing short of amazing! Through their attentive efforts, we were able to keep COVID out of our classroom for almost two full years.

But healthy new opportunities are dawning with the arrival of our new, fully-credentialed Preschool Director, Ms. Amy Cabiles. Amy graduated from Chapman University in Orange with both a B.A. and M.A. in Education, before spending a decade teaching at a premier Early Childhood Center in Rancho Santa Margarita. She and her family (husband Joseph and sons Nathan and Xander) are in the process of moving to Moraga (where they will be renting a home just down the street from Amy's parents, Pastor John and Bethany Valentine!) A little-known fact about Ms. Amy is that her first experience as a preschool teacher was at Holy Shepherd back in 2008 under the tutelage of Ms. Susie Koeper!

Congregational Vice President Joan Kiekhaefer (Council Liaison to the Preschool) recently noted "Bringing Ms. Amy aboard is going to provide a tremendous boost to our Preschool, and should hold us in good stead for years to come."



*Ms. Joanna Albano (on left) welcomes Ms. Amy Cabiles aboard as our new Preschool Director!*

## 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](http://www.holyshepherd.org) or our Facebook page @HSLCORinda.

*(Please note that our weekly 'Adult Ed' class offering is on Summer break through Labor Day. For details how you can dial into Adult Ed beginning September 13th, see Page 4.)*



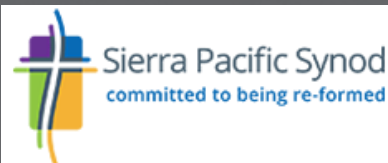
# Social Ministry Update: Sierra Pacific Synod News

In the 'Early Summer' edition of the Shepherd's Staff, we reported on dramatic developments at the 2022 Synod Assembly — including a motion to remove Bishop Meghan Rohrer from office and the passage of a budget with a nearly \$500,000 operational deficit. Since then, MUCH has changed!

- ◆ In the days leading up to the Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly (June 2-4 in Sparks, NV), our presiding national bishop Elizabeth Eaton had asked for the resignation of our regional bishop, Meghan Rohrer. The deeply conflicted events of the 2022 Synod Assembly culminated with the resignation of Bishop Rohrer immediately following that gathering.
- ◆ The Sierra Pacific Synod Council — in late June — ratified the recommendation of national bishop Eaton to appoint the Rev. Claire Burkat to serve as the interim bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod. Bishop Burkat — who is a native of New York City — received her Master of Divinity degree from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, and recently completed a twelve-year-long tenure as Bishop of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod (SEPA). It is anticipated that Bishop Burkat will serve as interim bishop until such time as a new bishop can be elected in our synod, presumably in mid to late 2023.
- ◆ At the recently concluded Churchwide Assembly held in Columbus, Ohio, Presiding Bishop Eaton formally apologized to the people of the community of Iglesia Luterana Santa María Peregrina, the Hispanic mission congregation in Stockton which was the tinderbox wherein ex-Bishop Rohrer's cultural insensitivity was revealed.



For those interested in more information, Pastor John and Pastor Pam will provide an update on the state of the ELCA and our Sierra Pacific Synod at an adult forum at 11am on Sunday, September 11 in our Center for Ministry.



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 ending August 2022 anticipates that Holy Shepherd will provide some \$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.

## P R A Y E R S

### For Healing

Yvonne G.  
Gloria E.  
Sharon T.  
Donna Z.  
DoLoris & Doug T.  
MaryHelene W.  
Carole W.  
Suzi M.  
Judy B.

### For Peace

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

### For Those Serving

Meghan and Brian P.  
Peter K.

### For Those Grieving

The Schmalz Family  
(at the passing of Carol)  
The Bliese Family  
(at the passing of Opal)

## In Loving Memory of Opal Bliese

We were saddened by the passing of longtime Holy Shepherd member Opal Bliese on June 25th. Opal is survived by her husband, Russell with whom she shared 73 years of marriage and their children; Sandra Hynek, Bryan Bliese, Mark Bliese, 4 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. A memorial service was held for Opal on July 22.

Condolences may be sent to:

**Russ Bliese**  
**429 La Salle Ave**  
**Ventura, CA 93003**



## Birthdays

8/2 Jack Ch.  
8/8 Russ Ro.  
8/9 Diane Ol.  
8/11 Debbie Se.  
8/15 Mara Ja.  
8/19 Henry Kr..  
8/21 Yvonne Ts.  
8/22 John Hu.  
8/23 Julia Ha.  
8/24 Lynne Da.  
8/24 Taryn La.  
8/28 Gabe Ja.  
8/31 Janine Cr.  
9/2 Anne Jo.  
9/2 Jesus Pa.

9/4 Joy Ch.  
9/4 Ryan Ga.  
9/7 Amanda Pe.  
9/8 Reni Ya.  
9/14 Barbara Sw.  
9/15 Diana Ri.  
9/17 Pam Sch-D  
9/18 Steve Sw.  
9/18 Amy Ca.  
9/21 Sally Ch.  
9/29 Bob Ch.  
9/29 Zachary Ku.

## Anniversaries

8/12 June & Harry Ho.  
8/16 Carol & Henry Kr.  
8/22 Cindy & Deepak Ku.  
8/23 Amanda & Erik Pe.  
8/25 Lisa & Chris Me.  
8/30 Diane & Terry Ol.  
9/12 Rita & Igor So.  
9/18 Diana Y & Bob S  
9/22 Nadine & David Co.  
9/25 Elizabeth Hu. & Doug McM

**And a belated June 12th birthday to June Howe!!**  
(Sorry about that, June!)

## C E L E B R A T E



## Faith in Life

*A Reflection by Council Member Elizabeth Humphrey*

*Most months, one of our pastors offers up a devotion piece for your consideration — but this month, Council Member (and Baseball Mom) Elizabeth Humphrey steps up to the plate! If you'd like to share a way in which your faith informs your life in a future newsletter, please speak with Pastor John.*

Baseball has been a part of my life since I can remember. My siblings and I all played T-ball and went on to play baseball or softball. I was a softball pitcher through the eighth grade and my brother was a pitcher on our local American Legion baseball team in high school. Fast forward 25 years...my son, Austin, 13, and my brother's son Matthew, 16, are both accomplished baseball pitchers. Baseball is on the TV almost every night in our home and we make frequent trips to San Francisco to watch our beloved Giants. All of this baseball reminded me of a book I bought for my son a few years ago called 'Dugout Devotions' by Del Duduit. The book contains interview-based devotions that recount personal stories of many Major League Baseball players about their walk with Jesus. I would like to share one with you about Michael Lorenzen, an American professional Major League baseball pitcher and outfielder for the Los Angeles Angels. Michael grew up in Fullerton, California with his parents and 3 older brothers. Both of Lorenzen's parents struggled with drugs and alcohol. According to Michael, police would show up at his house almost every weekend. He began using drugs and alcohol himself in the eighth grade but turned his life around at 17. His story is recounted in a reflection entitled "God Knows What He Is Doing":

*"It just didn't make sense to me," Michael Lorenzen said. "I was doing all the right things, but nothing was going my way." He gave his heart to the Lord soon after he heard the gospel from a man on Huntington Beach Pier. He was seventeen and high on marijuana at the time, but he knew he needed to make a change. A bright baseball career awaited the high school junior star player. He had never been exposed to Christ before that evening on a California beach. But he was a new creature when he went back to school that fall. Big and strong in the physical sense, he remained a babe spiritually, and the devil knew about his weaknesses.*

*Michael did not perform the way he had hoped his senior year. He envisioned himself as an All-Star player with scouts pouring over him to sign. This didn't happen. "I used to struggle and think God was punishing me for some reason," he said. "Here I was trying to live right for God and stuff wasn't going my way at all."*

*Other athletes who lived sinful lives yet excelled on the field baffled him. The 2010 MLB draft drew near and Michael had high hopes but he wasn't chosen until the 7th round. Lorenzen opted not to sign and instead enrolled at California State University, Fullerton, to play baseball for the Titans. "I thought I should have been drafted in the first round," he said. "I kept thinking, 'Why is everything going great for someone else in the draft and I'm overlooked?' I knew I was better than some of those guys."*

*But the Lord did not overlook him. Instead, God used the opportunity to make him humble as He prepared him for greatness. "We can turn desires of the world into things that reveal where our heart is," he said. "At that time, I was looking at those and not God. He made me see that." In 2012, he earned All-American honors and played on the United States national collegiate baseball team. The next year the Cincinnati Reds took him in the first round of the MLB draft. He learned to wait on the Lord. He anticipated his journey to the big leagues would happen earlier, but God's timing prevailed. "Just trust God because He is in total control," he said. "I know that now. But back then, I was confused." He realized his own selfish behavior and attitude while in college. "God is not a genie in a bottle," he said. "He doesn't grant wishes. You have to show him you are willing to follow."*

*God was in charge of the master plan for Michael's life, and He delayed his professional career because He had more work to do to mold and shape his attitude. Once that was done, the Lord delivered him in a big way. Michael played for the Cincinnati Reds until he was signed with the Los Angeles Angels after the 2021 season.*

*Perhaps you are in a similar situation. Step back and listen to the Holy Spirit. God knows the future, and he may be protecting you. The big picture is hard to see at times, but put your head down and plow through."*

## OPPORTUNITIES ABOUT!

### IT'S A GARDEN PARTY!

On Sunday afternoon, September 11th, you're invited to the home of Steve and Nina Berchtold from 1p to 3:30p for a Garden Party! (Recently, the Berchtolds completed a major backyard renovation and they're ready to show it off!) To save your spot, please utilize the sign-up sheet on the table in the entryway of the CFM or contact Cristi Chow in the church office. The Berchtold home is located at 3339 Moraga Blvd. in Lafayette. Beverages and nibbles will be provided.



### PARSONAGE WORKDAY

In order to facilitate a change of renters, Property Chair Marla Schroeder has scheduled a Work Day at the Parsonage on Saturday, August 27 beginning at 10am. Tasks include light gardening, gutter cleaning, mulch spreading and minor in-home repairs. If you're able to help out, please contact Marla Schroeder and get your name added to the 'Work Crew' List! Thanks!

### SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED!

Following a two-plus-year pandemic driven hiatus, we are again able to think about offering Sunday School and Nursery care for our youngest members beginning later this Fall! If you'd like to be part of an awesome teaching team and shape the faith of our youngest members in a positive way, please contact Pastor John!



# FALL INTO FAITH EDUCATION!

Because 'Back-to-School' isn't just for kids

## WEEKLY ADULT ED.

We can't call it 'Sunday School' anymore because it happens on Tuesday evenings, and we can't quite call it a 'meeting' because it happens via Zoom .... but our weekly Zoom-based Adult Ed. Gatherings resume on Tuesday, September 13 at 7pm. Throughout the Fall, one or both of our pastors will be leading our weekly reflection and conversation on the Scripture lesson from the previous Sunday, and we would love to have you join us!

Tuesday evening at 7pm

Zoom Meeting ID: 861 5874 8710

Zoom Passcode: 94563

## NEW TESTAMENT 101

Pastor John's "New Testament 101" Bible/book study resumes on September 7th following its Summer break! This bi-weekly study group — which utilizes N.T. Wright's hefty tome The New Testament in Its World as a conversation guide — helps participants to better understand the history, literature and theology of the first Christians. This 'hybrid' learning class can be accessed in-person in our Center for Ministry building or via Zoom.

"New Testament 101" meets on the first and third Wednesdays at 7pm. For more information, contact class coordinator Bob Bauer at [bobjbauer@att.net](mailto:bobjbauer@att.net).

## WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

The Women's Book Club has 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:

**September 3**

CARNEGIE'S MAID

by Marie Benedict

**October 1**

NIGHT CRAWLING

by Leila Mottley

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