



The Shepherd's staff

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



It's been 2 1/2 LONG years, but thanks to the diligence of Elizabeth Humphrey and our Sunday School crew, we can finally say that Sunday School is Back!"

'Sunday School' has long been at the core of our congregation's efforts to live into our mission of 'Building Up Households of Faith' in our community. But when the COVID pandemic invaded our communities in March of 2020, it brought with it social distancing, masking and a whole lot of anxiety about how best to keep our kids safe — and COVID brought our long-standing Sunday School program to a screeching halt. Nonetheless, some of our champions for Children's Ministry kept asking "What about our kids? We still need to teach them about Jesus. What's best for them?"

At long last, we are ready to say "Yes" to Sunday School once again. Our Church Council has said "Yes" (and one of our councilmembers even volunteered to provide the necessary funds for all curricula!) Our families have said "Yes" and are committed to having their kids involved. And a Teaching Crew has appeared and said "Yes", ensuring that our students will be safe and well-taught (though if you'd like to be a part of that Teaching Crew, we could probably make room for another more crewmember!)

Sunday School will be happening twice-a-month on Sunday mornings, beginning right after KidTalk. And our kids will be learning about the same Bible lessons that we read during worship, so adults and kids will be able to talk about what they each learned from the same texts. Join us on October 30th as we say "Yes" to our kids and "Yes" to our teachers and "Yes" to Sunday School being back!

Upcoming Sunday School Dates

October 30th
November 6th
November 20th
December 11th

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 our Facebook page @HSLCORinda.

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

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

Tuesdays at 7 pm — Our weekly 'Adult Ed' class meets online via Zoom.

Zoom Meeting ID: 861 5874 8710

Zoom Passcode: 94563

Social Ministry Update:

International Health Partners (IHP)

Here's the latest from IHP's Managing Director — and our dear friend — Paula Lofstrom.

Fall is in the air here in Overland Park, and we're realizing that when spring comes, we will be back in Tanzania. We're excited to be planning for that. Yay! We're expecting some Mayo Clinic medical students in March or April. We always enjoy having students and watching them learn about medicine in a developing world. In May we'll be hosting a team from Salt Lake City that has come to Zinga several times. And we're now booking teams into 2024. Hooray! Life is returning to "normal."

Covid has held us in its grip for almost three years. Denny and I have not spent this much time in one place since we got married! We moved a few times in Minnesota, we went on mission trips to Guatemala. We worked in Antarctica. We thought we'd retire in Arkansas, and we started going to Tanzania in 2002. Goodness, it's been twenty years. When you say, "Yes" to God, fasten your seatbelt.

Your donations to the mission of IHP have made possible the most rewarding times in our lives. Thank you! The rewards of doing this work are certainly not monetary, but having the purpose of doing God's work, of doing the best we can for the beautiful people in this world is the best work one could choose to do. Thank you, God. Thank you to each one of you for making it possible. Blessings and gratitude!



International Health Partners seeks to improve health care for the people of Tanzania (East Africa) by integrating medical knowledge, techniques, and best practices within the East African culture. They employ and train local health care professionals and rely on the generosity of others to build resource efficient facilities without sacrificing care for their patients.

In 2021, Holy Shepherd contributed \$3449 to the work of International Health Partners through the "Giving Beyond Ourselves" portion of our budget and an additional \$3450 in direct support gifts! IHP is most appreciative of our faithful support of their mission!

PRAYERS

For Healing

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

For Peace

Diana N.
Donna G.
Bob & Kristi L.
Marian McG.
DeLane R.
Marilyn N.
Igor & Rita S.
Mark Z.

For Those Serving

Meghan and Brian P.
Peter K.

For Those Grieving

The Howe Family
(at the passing of Harry)
The Kramer Family
(at the passing of Carol)
The Anderson Family
(at the passing of Dorothy)

FOR ALL THE SAINTS

On Sunday, November 6th, we will be remembering those saints of God who have died during the past year. Sadly, our litany of saints has two recent additions.

Harry Howe passed away on Friday, October 14th, following an extended battle with bone cancer. He was a proud veteran, having served as a pilot in both WW2 and the Korean Conflict, and a proud Lutheran (one of the last original members of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church!) A family interment service is scheduled at the VA Cemetery in Dixon. Please hold Harry's beloved wife June up in prayer!

Dorothy Anderson passed away in mid-October, as reported by her daughter Carole. Though Dorothy and her husband Ken moved out of the Bay Area a number of years ago, they still felt very connected to our Holy Shepherd community. Dorothy was both a regular reader of our pastors' sermons and an occasional online worshipper.



Birthdays

10/3 Alexandra He.
10/7 Bob Schm.
10/10 Zachary He.
10/19 Carys Ch.
10/20 Julia Vi.
10/20 Herb. We.

10/21 Marian McG..
10/22 Belle Lin.
10/23 George Ka.
10/25 Joe Zin
10/26 Marilyn No.
10/30 Jordan Ku.
11/4 Catherine Dem.

11/7 Judy Bu.
11/11 Tom Gil.
11/12 Bob Flei.
11/14 Donna Ben.
11/16 Alta Ste.
11/24 Joyce Hur.
11/27 Reagan Sha.

Anniversaries

10/1 Belle & Frank Lin.
10/6 Marci & Bob Ba.
10/12 Yvonne & Scott Ga.
11/18 Marla & Fred Sch.

CELEBRATE

Important Updates from Our Church Council

President Fred Schroeder reported that — at a recent meeting of the Mount Diablo Conference — our own Pastor John Valentine was elected to serve as Dean of the Mount Diablo Conference. The Mount Diablo Conference (which is comprised of some 19 congregations in eastern Contra Costa and southern Alameda Counties) is 'the next level up' in the structure of the ELCA. Pastor John expressed a willingness to run for this position because he feels it is an important time in the life of the larger church, as we seek to resettle ourselves after some stormy times in our Synod.

Elizabeth Humphrey reported — following up on a council decision this summer to prioritize Stewardship and Children's Ministry — that our children's Sunday School program was on track to resume October 30th! For more information about this exciting development, see the article on the front page of this newsletter.

Vice-President Joan Kiekhaefer reported that there has been a VERY significant development in our congregation's Preschool. With the closure of St. Mark's Church (our Methodist near-neighbor on the other side of the Fire Station), St. Mark's thriving Preschool program is formally going out of business. St. Mark's preschool staff and preschool families have inquired about the possibility of combining forces with our preschool to create a vibrant new preschool ministry on our campus. This new preschool would be located on our campus and would serve between 50 and 70 Lamorinda families, offering both traditional preschool and full-day day care. In order to consider this substantive change to our preschool (and to authorize necessary campus alterations if approved), the Church Council called a special meeting of the congregation on Sunday, December 4th at 10:45am in the Center for Ministry.

Howard Harpham reported that our newest adult educational offering — New Testament 101 — has been very well received. Eleven enthusiastic students meet bi-weekly with Pastor John to discuss N..T. Wright's book The New Testament in Its World. Though the material is challenging, the conversations are worth the effort. We've even had a couple of new members get involved along the way!

Treasurer Steve Swanback reported that — while we are still a few weeks away from final fiscal year-end reports — we did close our 2021/22 Fiscal Year (ending August 31) on a good note. Our community-ministry programs (LARC and our Preschool) both ended the year 'in the black', and a shortfall in congregational receipts was more than offset by the ERC (Employee Retention Credit) funds offered by the federal government in its Pandemic Relief package. Stewardship of our congregational and individual resources will be a necessary focal point for our congregation as we move into the new fiscal year.

The Church Council has called a Special Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, December 4th at 10:45am in the Center for Ministry to discuss the significant expansion of our Preschool program.

A WORD FROM PASTOR JOHN

"Stewardship" is one of the most important words in the whole of our Christian vocabulary, for it refers to all that we do with all that God has entrusted to us.



Stewardship. The dictionary defines "stewardship" as "the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care. Nowadays, most talk of stewardship falls into one of two camps. In the realm of government, the word 'stewardship' gets bandied about when speaking of our national and natural resources — forests and grasslands and seas and skies. In the realm of the Church, the word 'stewardship' gets bandied about as a way to talk about money — and usually refers to annual funding drives and building campaigns and offering envelopes and the like.

But at the heart of the word "stewardship" are some key assumptions. Declaring ourselves to be stewards means that:

- **WE ARE MANAGERS, RATHER THAN OWNERS** To say that we are 'stewards' means that we have been entrusted with taking care of something that doesn't actually belong to us. The old saying "You can't take it with you" is a pointed reminder that IT (i.e., your money and possessions) exists apart from you and that IT will be entrusted to someone else after one's death. But really that old saying is a reminder that the question is not whether we are stewards or not, but whether we are good stewards or poor ones.
- **WE LIVE IN THE AWARENESS OF BOTH THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE** Good stewards don't hoard all their resources and simply attempt to amalgamate more. Neither do good stewards squander all their resources in the present without an eye on the future. Good stewards attempt to balance present realities and future realities. Jesus told a number of parables about stewardship, and he ridiculed both the prodigal son who wasted all his assets in the present and the farmer who hoarded all his assets building bigger barns and then died before he could enjoy them.
- **WE ARE UNIQUELY SINGULAR YET PROFOUNDLY PLURAL** As stewards entrusted with things by God, we live in the awareness that our management of God's gifts is not just for our own sakes, but for the sake of God and those whom God calls our neighbors. Our lives are NOT solos, but rather a chorus of individual voices that at its worst is a cacophony, but at its best is a beautiful symphony. Our stewardship is always "for the sake of the world".

May we live into our calling to be God's good stewards this day ... and always!

You're invited to the 2022 edition of our

MARTY PARTY

A light-hearted community celebration for all ages!

"Reformation Day" (the last Sunday in October) is a day Lutherans set aside to honor Martin and Katy Luther and their work to reform the Church 500 years ago. But a 'Reformation Day Celebration' sounds too stuffy, so we just call it our "MARTY PARTY"

Reformation Sunday, October 30th

11:00am to 1:30pm

at HSLC (433 Moraga Way in Orinda)

Bratwurst + Sauerkraut + Beer + Hot Dogs + Chips + Cupcakes

Bounce House + Cake Walk + Martin Luther Trivia Test

Join the whole of the Holy Shepherd Community – including our
Preschool and LARC families – as we celebrate together.

Questions? Call Cristi at (925)254.3422



Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church

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