



The Shepherd's *staff*

THE NEWSLETTER OF HOLY SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH — EPIPHANY / WINTER 2023
433 MORAGA WAY, ORINDA, CALIFORNIA — WWW.HOLYSHEPHERD.ORG — (925)254-3422

A NEW COMMUNITY MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP IS BORN!

President Fred Schroeder called it 'an unexpected opportunity'. Vice-President Joan Kiekhaefer called it 'an invitation to make a tangible difference to families in our community'. Pastor John Valentine called it a way to live into our mission of 'building up households of faith. And at our special meeting of the congregation on December 4th, we called it a piece of our future!

On Sunday, December 4th, the people of Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church gathered for a special congregational meeting to consider a strategic combination of our Preschool ministry (Holy Shepherd Christian Preschool) with the Preschool ministry of our near neighbors on the other side of the fire-house at St. Mark's Nursery School. Though it was an unfortunate set of circumstances that led the St. Mark's school community to our doorstep, the members of our Executive Committee detailed both why this combination made sense from both a financial and a missional perspective. And those who gathered for the meeting overwhelmingly expressed support for that action.

In the days since that congregational meeting, staffs of both schools and the members of our Church Council have been hard at work to help ensure a soft landing for the Saint Mark's school community with minimal interruption to our own preschool families. To that end, the Executive Committee has vetted our new school name (Holy Shepherd Community Preschool), the Finance Team has secured funding for necessary facility redevelopment through the ELCA's Mission Investment Fund, and our combined administrative team has begun the arduous task of bringing our newly-expanded program into alignment with state licensing requirements. Not surprisingly, Directors Claire Peterson (St. Mark's) and Amy Cabiles (Holy Shepherd) reported last week that upwards of 60 families have expressed strong interest in enrolling their children in our new preschool ministry this August! Wow!

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 10am — Sunday School for Kids happens twice-monthly following KidTalk. (Next class dates are January 22 and February 6)

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

Sundays at noon — Our weekly 'Worship Video' is up at www.holyshepherd.org or on 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:

The New Life Band

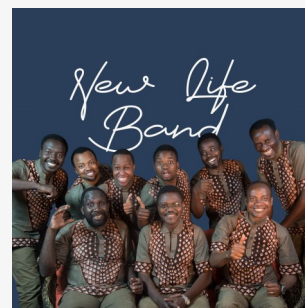
Here's an exciting and heartfelt word of thanks from Band Member James Kiphizi and his family for our steadfast and years-long scholarship support to the kids of New Life Band members. It really DOES make a difference!

Jambo! (That's the Swahili word for 'Hello!')



Just want to send our sincere thanks to you, our friends, the congregation of Holy Shepherd Lutheran in Orinda for your love and support to NLB KIDS SCHOLARSHIP. God bless you so very much.

The scholarships you offer have helped our kids to attend schools that would not be available to them without your help. For instance, our son Prince has been studying at Kilimanjaro College of Pharmaceuticals Sciences (one among few colleges we have in the country) and just graduated with FIRST CLASS in Diploma of Pharmacy! Currently he is volunteering at a government hospital here in Arusha, and will begin studying a bachelors degree in Pharmaceuticals Sciences at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences this coming spring. His hopes and goals is to work with Pharmaceuticals industries since the government is constructing/building Pharmaceutical industries and will need more people who have knowledge in this field in future instead of depending only on foreigners. Thank you, thank, you thank you!



For more than four decades, the New Life Band has served a vital role as a music ministry team in the country of Tanzania. The Band helps to transform the lives of youth and students in East Africa by sharing the hope of the Gospel. These talented musicians have become ambassadors for peace and forgiveness, performing throughout Tanzania and in Africa, Europe and the United States.

Earlier this month, we were able to share a Christmas gift of some \$5300 with the New Life Band, drawing on both budgeted support from our congregation and individual members. Our gifts support band member salaries and scholarship funds for the children of band members — gifts that are life-changing. Your generosity is MUCH appreciated by them and by us!

WINTER Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

1/11 Ellin S.	1/28 Nina B.	2/18 Austin McM.
1/12 Arwen Ch.	1/30 Scott G.	2/21 Lori O.
1/15 Sharon T.	2/1 Mitch Ch.	2/24 Ben M.
1/19 Alexandra D.	2/4 Bryant Ch.	2/26 Nadine C.
1/19 Chris M.	2/10 Joan K.	2/26 Bob V. (97!!)
1/19 Craig W.	2/11 Mary Ann B.	2/28 Stacey R.
1/20 Matt V.	2/13 Lauren K.	2/29 Karen R-K
1/21 Mary D.	2/15 Barbara P.	<u>Anniversaries</u>
1/22 Otto Ts.	2/16 Claire S.	1/5 Rose-Kalvasses
1/25 Elaine N.	2/17 Marci B.	2/3 Hurleys
	2/18 Alanna L.	

PRAYER list

For Healing

Yvonne G.
Nadine C.
Henry K.
Gloria E.
Donna Z.
DoLoris T.
Doug T.
MaryHelene W.
Carole W.
Suzi M.
Judy B.
Bill K.
Mark Z.

For Peace

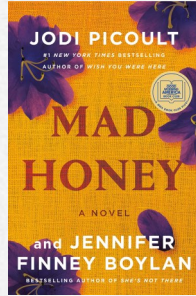
Bob & Kristi L.
Marian McG.
DeLane R.
Marilyn N.
Diana N.
Igor & Rita S.

For Those Serving

Meghan P.
Brian P.
Peter K.

This and That

The Women's Book Club is slated to meet on Saturday, February 4th at 10am in the Center for Ministry to discuss their latest read — Mad Honey by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan. If you'd like more information about the Women's Book Club, you're invited to speak with Bethany Valentine (or email at valentinebzbv@gmail.com).



Christmas Thanks from Pastor Pam

To all of the dear people of Holy Shepherd — Thank you so much for your Christmas gift and for your incredible generosity! Every year, I am absolutely blown away by this concrete manifestation of your care for me (and for PJ) as your pastors. Throughout the entire year, however, I do also feel your love, your care, and your support. While PJ and I are called to lead the congregation and its ministries, we are also members of Holy Shepherd. I, for one, feel very blessed to have the loving care of my congregation during all of the seasons of my life. That's what we do for each other in Christian community: we love, uplift, pray for, and care for each other. Thank you for ministering to me all year long!



Peace, Pastor Pam

Thursday Lunch Bunch Did you know that Cristi Chow hosts a weekly Lunch Bunch fellowship opportunity in the Center for Ministry? Most every Thursday at right about noon, Cristi welcomes a number of Holy Shepherd members and friends to share a simple meal and light-hearted conversation. To save a seat at the table, contact Cristi at hslccristi@gmail.com or call her at 925.254.3422.



Thanks from the Valentines Too!

Beloved Holy Shepherd Members and Friends, Bethany and I are both humbled and grateful by the plentiful gifts you shared with us as part of this year's "Gifts for the Pastors" campaign. You never cease to amaze us with your generosity. You never cease to amaze us with your spirit of partnership. You never cease to amaze us with your support and love! Thank you ever so much!

Love + Joy + Peace. Pastor John (and Bethany)



A Word from Pastor John



We often end our worship service with the very 'Lutheran' exhortation to "Go in peace to love God by serving your neighbor". At a recent congregational meeting, you folks did just that!

I don't think that I have EVER been prouder to be a pastor to the people who are Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church than I was on the morning of December 4, 2022. Seriously! I'm NOT kidding.

On the morning of December 4, 2022, we met for a special meeting of the congregation following our worship service for the 2nd Sunday of Advent. We did so to consider a single item put forward by our Church Council — that of expanding our preschool program and our preschool facilities to accommodate a strategic combination with the preschool community from St. Mark's Church (our near neighbor on the other side of the Fire Station.) And you stepped up as a community and said 'Yes' to an ambitious project that will stretch our leadership and stretch our facilities — a project which will make us the most prominent provider of preschool and day-care services in all of South Orinda. But what made me ever so proud of your action that day was not so much what you chose to do, but WHY you chose to do it.

You see, the members of the Church Council had run the numbers and considered the financial impact of that action — and they were well-prepared to explain how and why this action may be good for our congregation in the long run. But you didn't decide to take action because the numbers worked out. Nor did you decide to take action because it might be good for our campus in the long haul, nor even because it might raise our visibility in the community. No — as you asked questions and voiced your concerns and articulated your support for the proposed action — it became clear that the primary reason you supported it was (and is) to care for anxious households in our community who are about to find themselves without child care and preschool services for their young children.

As I listened to the conversation at that meeting, I found myself thinking of that story Jesus told about the Good Samaritan, that fellow who selflessly stepped forward in service not because he was going to get something out of it, but simply because it was the right thing to do. The Good Samaritan wasn't focused on anything except making sure that someone who was hurting got the care which that someone needed, care which the Good Samaritan could provide. And at the end of that story, Jesus invites his friends and followers to 'Go and do likewise.'

So let it be known that on the morning of December 4th, you did just that. You went and did likewise! You took the words of Jesus seriously, caring for hurting neighborhood households at significant cost to ourselves — simply because it was the right thing to do. I am proud to be numbered as one of your pastors, for you are people who really do listen to Jesus!

Our 2023 "Drive-Thru Crab Feed"!

Support our Preschool on the first weekend in February



Please join us for our 'Drive-Thru Crab Feed' on Saturday February 4th (2:00p to 4:00p) or Sunday February 5th (10:30a -11:30a) in support of Holy Shepherd's Preschool Programs. Each meal is priced at \$75 (and includes a \$45 tax-deductible receipt.)

- **Your Crab Meal** -- Each meal includes 3 lbs. of cracked/cleaned crab (*your choice of regular or marinated crab this year!*), fresh-baked bread, a serving of pasta salad, a fresh-baked cookie and one free raffle ticket!
- **Food Pickup** -- Swing by our parking lot at 433 Moraga Way between 2p and 4p on Saturday, February 4 (or after worship or Sunday, February 5) where you'll be greeted by our Crabby Crew! They'll hand you your prepackaged / bundled meal kit so that you can take it home and dig in in the comfort of your own home.
- **This Year's Crabby Raffle** -- This year's Crabby Raffle prizes are outstanding! Five themed gift-baskets, including:
 - ♦ San Francisco Giants basket -- including tickets to a 2023 Giants game
 - ♦ California Wine basket -- with 4 premium bottles of wine from our Golden State
 - ♦ Gift-Card Gift basket -- with gift cards from both local stores and national chains
 - ♦ Children's Book Basket — an assortment of children's books for preschoolers and young readers
 - ♦ Amazon Fire basket -- including a brand-new Fire tablet!
- **Additional Raffle Tickets** may be purchased online or at the time of your food pickup @ 1 for \$5, 5 for \$20 or 10 for \$35, with all proceeds being used to support Holy Shepherd's existing and emerging preschool programs! (Please note that — per current IRS rules — we are unable to provide a tax-deductible receipt for the purchase of raffle tickets.)
- **Pre-ordering is REQUIRED!** To ensure that your crab meals are ready and waiting for you, ALL meal orders must be placed by Sunday, January 28th! There will be NO day-of-event sales. **To order, visit our website at www.holyshepherd.org or contact Cristi in the church office at (925) 254-3422.**

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church

433 Moraga Way

Orinda, CA 94563