

The Shepherd's *staff*

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

HOLY SHEPHERD COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL IS UP AND RUNNING!

It was just over six months ago that we voted to establish a new community-ministry partnership on our campus. Though the transition hasn't been 'seamless', some great things are happening!

At our Church Council Meeting on June 21, congregational Vice-president Joan Kiekhaefer was pleased to report that Holy Shepherd Community Preschool began operations on June 5, 2023. This full-day preschool and child-care program represents a significant expansion of our previous preschool programming and it will be a significant ministry for us as we move forward. Currently, we are able to accommodate 46 students in our program, and hope to see that number expand to 60 when we complete the renovation of preschool facilities in Gregersen Hall. Many hands have helped make for light(er) work during the days of transition, including (but not limited to):

- Dave Lausch assembled a number of modular storage units and a new climbing structure.
- Art Murray and his moving crew facilitated the transition of classroom and playground items from the old St. Mark's facility to our campus.
- Steve Swanback worked diligently to coordinate the merger of two finance and budgeting systems into a new unified program (along with Executive Director Claire Peterson and Accountant Mary Friese.)
- Tom Gilbertson worked with architect Chris Gilman and contractor Tod Bifulco to keep construction costs to a minimum.
- And Joan Kiekhaefer earned her stripes as 'Wonder Woman', doing everything from high-level administrative oversight to defrosting refrigerators to make sure school operations were up and running.

Bravo and thanks to ALL who've helped make this transition work!

WEEKLY EVENTS SUMMER SCHEDULE

We encourage you to join in!

Sundays at 9:30 am — In-person worship gatherings with Holy Communion happen 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 in-person worship.

Sundays at noon — Our weekly Worship Video is accessible at www.holyshepherd.org.

COMMUNITY PICNIC / BBQ

Join us after worship on Sunday, July 2nd — as we're hosting an old-fashioned Church BBQ in celebration of the Independence Day weekend. (See the back page of this newsletter for more information.)

Giving Beyond Ourselves

The Mount Diablo Conference

The Mt. Diablo Conference held its annual Conference Assembly on Saturday, June 2nd at Peace Lutheran Church in Danville. Led by members of the Synod's 'Election Committee', the primary purpose of the meeting was to begin a discernment process for the lifting up of our next bishop. The election of our next bishop will take place on the weekend of September 15-17, in conjunction with our annual Synod Assembly in Burlingame. Pastor John Valentine (who serves as Conference Dean) was delighted to report "This is the first time in all my years of ministry in the Sierra Pacific Synod that we have entered into a thoughtful conversation about what kind of leader we need to serve as our bishop, rather than simply asking 'Whom do we like?'" Fred Schroeder, Joan Kiekhaefer, Bethany Valentine and Donald Eismann are slated to join Pastor Pam and Pastor John as voting members at the 2023 Synod Assembly.



The Mount Diablo Conference is one of the nine geographic 'Conferences' of the Sierra Pacific Synod — comprising 18 congregations in Central Contra Costa and Southern Alameda Counties. Our own Pastor John Valentine currently serves as Conference Dean, aiding congregations in crisis and working with congregations in times of pastoral transitions. Holy Shepherd supports the work of the Mt. Diablo Conference through the 'Giving Beyond Ourselves' portion of our annual budget.

Congratulations

(We apologize that a number of events on this edition's 'Birthday and Anniversary List' are belated, but we celebrate with you nonetheless! Congratulations, one and all!)

BIRTHDAYS

Johanna B. — 5/3

Linda G. — 5/4

Julie C. — 5/5

Terry O. — 5/10

Linda H. — 5/13

Carol S. — 5/13

Rita S. — 5/16

Bethany V. — 5/24

Dave L. — 5/26

Tom H. — 5/28

David C. — 6/2

Alex. McM — 6/8

Cristi Ch. — 6/9

June H. — 6/12

Gloria E. — 6/14

Maddie V. — 6/15

Andy Ch. — 6/18

Donald E. — 6/18

John V. — 6/20

Amanda Ch. — 6/25

Gerald P. — 6/29

Christopher D. — 7/2

Fred S. — 7/9

Paula E. — 7/11

Elise A. — 7/13

Doug McM. — 7/18

Tracey B. — 7/26

Claire W. — 7/31

ANNIVERSARIES

Berchtolds — 5/14

Tschudis — 5/27

Kiekhaefer/Rosenzweig — 6/2

Klingmans — 6/2

Goetzes — 6/5

Swanbacks — 6/6

Hamres — 6/12

Yasudas — 6/14

Churches — 6/18

Chows (A&C) — 6/19

Perrys — 6/20

Gilbertsons — 6/24

Demoses — 6/26

Oczkuses — 6/29

Howards — 7/4

Stensons — 7/4

Valentines — 7/20

Heuers — 7/24

Henry/Dockter — 7/30

In Memoriam

HSLC member Martha Billman passed away on April 29th following a brief illness. She was interred at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery next to her husband Glenn, who had died in 2019. Martha was remembered by her family as a woman of deep faith and persistent love, who was always working in service to others.



We grieve with long-time LARC staffer Carolyn Bauer at the passing of her beloved husband Mark Bauer on June 6th, as the brain cancer. Against which he battled in recent years finally took its toll. Please uphold Carolyn and her family in prayer amid these difficult days.

Judy Hunter shared the tragic news of the passing of her grandson Mack Hunter in a single-car accident on June 6th, two days before he was to have graduated high school. Please uphold Judy and her whole family in prayer in the face of this tragedy.



Our Summer Sermon Series

Our summer sermon series on Revelation takes us through some texts of the Bible which we might think unfamiliar. But those texts have served as inspiration for many of the great hymns and songs and liturgical refrains of the Church. Don't be surprised if one or more of these familiar songs or hymns shows up in our Order for Worship as we walk through Revelation!

Week One / June 11 / Revelation 1:9 -2:7

The great Easter hymn "The Strife is O'er, the Battle Won" is rooted in the promises of Revelation 1:17-18

Week Two / June 18 / Revelation 4:1-11

The lyrics of the classic "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty" are a direct quotation of Revelation 4:8

Week Three / June 25 / Revelation 5:1-14

Chris Tomlin's contemporary praise song "How Great is Our God" is a paraphrase of Revelation 5:9-13

Week Four / July 2 / Revelation 6:1-8 and 7:9-17

The imagery of the triumphant hymn "For All the Saints" is drawn from Revelation 7:9-17

Week Five / July 9 / Revelation 14:1-13

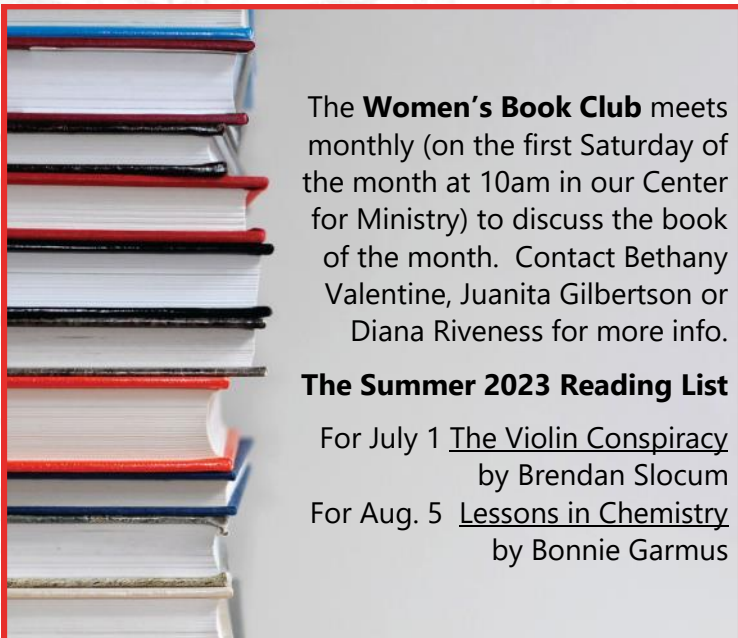
All that talk of 'Trampling out the vineyard' in the Battle Hymn of the Republic is found in Revelation 14:17-20

Week Six / July 16 / Revelation 19:1-16

Both "Crown Him with Many Crowns" and "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" find their basis in Revelation 19:1-16

Week Seven / July 23 / Revelation 21:1-6 and 22:1-5

The classic American hymn "Shall We Gather at the River?" draws on the word-picture that is Revelation 22:1-5



The **Women's Book Club** meets monthly (on the first Saturday of the month at 10am in our Center for Ministry) to discuss the book of the month. Contact Bethany Valentine, Juanita Gilbertson or Diana Riveness for more info.

The Summer 2023 Reading List

For July 1 [The Violin Conspiracy](#)
by Brendan Slocum
For Aug. 5 [Lessons in Chemistry](#)
by Bonnie Garmus

A Word from Pastor John



Summer brings with it a pause from our regular cycle of worship readings known as 'The Narrative Lectionary'. This summer, our pastors are using that pause as opportunity to take a deep dive into the most misunderstood book of the Bible — the book known as 'Revelation'.

Of all the sixty-six books in the Bible, the last one has to be numbered among the most confusing. That book — handed down to us with the title 'The Revelation to John' (not 'Revelations'!) — has long been the playground of doomsdayers and apocalypticists and those who hold up signs declaring 'The End is Near!' Whole series of books have been written about things like 'The Rapture' and 'Armageddon' and 'The Apocalypse'. In fact, many sober-minded students and scholars of the Bible have avoided touching upon Revelation with even the proverbial 'ten-foot-pole'. But to those who dare to look a bit deeper — to those who approach Revelation in a spirit of faith rather than a spirit of fear — that book may speak a surprisingly contemporary and unexpected message!

You see, the Book of the Revelation to John is rooted in a key question and a key concern:

- The key question is "If the Easter message is true — if God in Christ has defeated sin, death and the power of the devil on the cross — then why is the world in which we live still so messed up?" Put more simply, "If God has already won, why does it feel like we're losing?"
- The key concern has to do with what it means to live as people of God in such a time as this.

And I can't but imagine that — if we dare be honest about it — that question and that concern aren't too far from our thoughts even today.

John's answer to that question and that concern take the form of a letter. It is a letter in which he shares a vision with his audience. And that vision makes it clear that — even now — God is at work to bring about the final victory. John's message to both his initial audience and to us is that the Kingdom of this world is in conflict with the Kingdom of our God, and that that conflict is manifested in political turmoil and geo-political turmoil and economic turmoil and cultural turmoil and ethical turmoil and even ecological turmoil. (It's not like we aren't living in tumultuous times!)

But people of God can rest in the assurance that — at the end of the age — God wins. And all will be put right. And creation will be at peace. And that assurance invites us to live as people of hope and peace and faith and love in a world that increasingly feels hopeless and faithless and lovelorn and conflicted. For we live in the promise that — at the end of the age — as Handel's 'Messiah' so triumphantly declares 'Hallelujah! The Kingdom of this world has become the Kingdom of our God. Hallelujah!'

LET'S CELEBRATE

You're cordially invited to join in an Independence Day weekend cookout on **Sunday, July 2nd!** Following our morning worship gathering that day (at about 11am), we're firing up the grill and putting on some bratwursts and hot dogs (and maybe even a few Weisswursts — which are purported to be Henry Kramer's favorites!)

We've had numerous people already sign-up to bring potato salads and beans and desserts and other fixings, all you need to do is show up and join in the fun!



For Healing

Yvonne G.
Nadine C.
Henry K.
Ed Sz.
Bev. R.
Donna Z.
DoLoris and Doug T.
MaryHelene W.
Judy B.
Bill K.

For Those Serving

Meghan P.
Brian P.
Peter K.

PRAYER
list...

For Peace

Kristi L.
Marian McG.
DeLane R.
Howard R.
Don H.
Marilyn N.
Diana N.
Rita S.
Marty S.
Mark Z.

Congratulations, Dr. Chow!

HSLC member Bryant Chow recently graduated from the Medical School at Touro University. In June, Bryant began serving a three-year residency at Highland Hospital in Oakland!



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