

# The Shepherd's *staff*

THE NEWSLETTER OF HOLY SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH — LATE FALL 2024

433 MORAGA WAY, ORINDA, CALIFORNIA 94563 — WWW.HOLYSHEPHERD.ORG — (925)254-3422

## "GROWING BY GIVING"

*Here's a note from Steve Swanback, our recently-retired church treasurer and member of this year's Stewardship Team. As we enter the final months of 2024 and prepare for 2025, Steve's words seem particularly fitting!*

The recent sermon series which Pastors John and Pam and Vicar Meagan all collaborated on about stewardship has been especially timely to me. It has given me the chance to reflect upon what it means for me to be a good steward of my time, talents and resources — as I step away from a six-year term as your treasurer and take on a new role here at church.

But before I step out of my Treasurer role completely, I'd like to remind you of one part of our being good stewards – the financial part. As we approach the year's end, we may look back and see a mix of blessings and heartaches and good fortune. But this isn't just a time to look back, it is also the time to start looking forward. It is a time to look forward with a desire to strengthen our commitment to our Holy Shepherd Community, a vow to invest ourselves in our three ministries and to yearn to renew our focus on our faith outreach.

You are all probably well-aware of some of the ways you can support the work of our church — through weekly offering-plate donations and (increasingly) through 'electronic giving' (one-time or recurring donations through such platforms as our Vanco direct-deposit programs and our Givelify gifting program on our church website.) But there are other options available to you as well!

Did you know that donating appreciated stock may provide you with significant tax relief from capital gains? Did you know that those of us over age 73 can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) which provides tax relief on both the IRA contribution and the account gains? Our new church treasurer (Chris Merlin) is quite knowledgeable about some of these giving/gifting opportunities, and you may wish to speak with him about it.

But however you choose to support the amazing work of Holy Shepherd, know that we are thankful for the ways in which you share your time, talents and treasure to support for the ongoing and growing ministries of our congregation!

## WEEKLY EVENTS SCHEDULE

*We encourage you to join in!*

**Sundays at 9:30 am** — In-person worship with Holy Communion happens in our Sanctuary

**Sundays at 9:30 am** — Our in-person worship services are live on 'Facebook Live' @HSLCORinda.

**Sundays at 10am** — Sunday School for Kids happens twice-monthly following KidTalk. (Upcoming dates include November 10 and November 24.)

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

**Sundays at noon** — Our weekly 'Worship Video' can be found at [www.holyshepherd.org](http://www.holyshepherd.org).

**Tuesdays at 7 pm** — Our 'Adult Ed' Zoom class happen online!

*Zoom Meeting ID: 861 5874 8710  
Zoom Passcode: 94563*

# Ministry Partner Update:

## International Health Partners (TZ/US)

During a recent visit to Holy Shepherd on the weekend of October 6<sup>th</sup>, Paula Lofstrom shared the latest progress report on the development of IHP's fourth hospital – the newly-named Chihoni Medical Center. The following is an excerpt from a follow-up letter we received from Paula after her visit.

Dear Friends at Holy Shepherd, you are such a special people. Thank you so much for your warm welcome! Thanks to Karen and George (Rose-Kalvass) for their amazing hospitality and thanks to those many folks who took us to lunch or had us over for a meal. Being among you always feels like a bit of a 'homecoming'.

Your regular (and much-appreciated!) gifts are currently being used to pay salaries for our local health care team and construction crew. And the extra gifts you've been able to provide are going to make a big dent in the cost of cement and aggregate to make the 35,000 blocks we need to complete the first phase of construction at Chihoni.

The needs in the Chihoni area are huge, especially among mothers and babies, and the elderly. As many people from rural areas have left to go find work in the cities, the elderly are left alone, away from medical help and no way to get it. But with your support, we continue to demonstrate the Good News of Jesus, by bringing quality healthcare to the hurting people.



While we are rightly proud of all of our congregation's Ministry Partners, we're blown away by the work of International Health Partners: TZ/US"

Founded in 2001 by Dr. Denny and Paula Lofstrom, IHP TZ/US seeks to improve health care for the people of Tanzania by integrating medical knowledge, techniques, and best practices within the East African culture. IHP particularly works to provide vital health services to the underprivileged and to improve the overall health of communities through communal health education.



This list includes a number of belated October celebrations.

Sorry!

### **BIRTHDAYS**

Bob Sch. — 10/7

Carys Ch. — 10/19  
 Julia V. — 10/20  
 Herb W. — 10/20  
 Marian McG.— 10/21  
 Belle L. — 10/22  
 George K. — 10/23  
 Dr. Joe Z. — 10/25  
 Marilyn N. — 10/26  
 Catherine D. — 11/4  
 Pr. P. Chung — 11/6  
 Judy B. — 11/7  
 Caety K. — 11/11

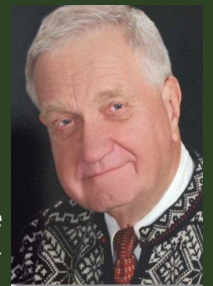
Bob Fl. — 11/12  
 Donna B. — 11/14  
 Joey W. — 11/14  
 Alta S. — 11/16  
 Mau O. — 11/23  
 Joyce H. — 11/24

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

Bauers — 10/6  
 Gardners — 10/12  
 P.&J. Chungs — 11/15  
 Schroeders — 11/18

## Life Transitions

We grieve at the news of the death of our beloved friend and long-standing Church Council member **Tom Gilbertson** on October 17th. Please continue to hold Tom's beloved wife



Juanita and daughters Laurel and Krista and their families in your prayers. A memorial service celebrating Tom's rich life will be held on Saturday, November 16th at 11am and will be followed by a lunch reception.

We rejoice with **Alex & Austin McManamon**, who affirmed their Baptismal vows in the Rite of Confirmation on Sunday, October 27th. Proud parents are



Doug McManamon and Elizabeth Humphrey. Congrats, Alex and Austin!



To have a name included on our congregation's printed Prayer List or emailed Prayer Chain, please contact Cristi Chow at [hslccristi@gmail.com](mailto:hslccristi@gmail.com)

### **For Healing**

Bob F.  
 Yvonne G.  
 Louise H.  
 Judy B.  
 Bill K.

### **For Peace & Strength**

Marian McG.  
 DeLane R.  
 Marilyn N.  
 Diana N.  
 Doloris T.  
 MaryHelene W.  
 Mark Z.

### **For Those Serving**

Meghan & Brian P.  
 Peter K.

## Preschool Construction Update

We're in the home stretch now! Our general contractor (Todd BiFulco) anticipates a final construction inspection in early November, and the connection of our fire suppression system to EBMUD's water main should happen not too long after that. Then we can begin to move preschool equipment and supplies into the newly constructed classrooms to prepare for the state's Child Care review and inspection. As Pastor John recently noted, "We've all given up on the idea of 'counting the days', but we do see lots of signs that this long construction journey is just about over!"

## Church Council Elections

At the semi-annual meeting of the congregation on September 29th, we elected a number of new and returning members to serve terms on our church council. But our congregation's constitution requires that the Council members then elect a slate of officers from among themselves to serve one-year terms in the council's officer roles. During a recent meeting of the Council, the following persons were elected to one-year terms in the following positions:

**Fred Schroeder** — President  
**Joan Kiekhaefer** — Vice-President  
**Chris Merlin** — Treasurer  
**Dave Lausch** — Secretary

Thanks to each of them for saying 'yes' to these important roles in the life of our community!

Chromatica Chorale (the community chorus which identifies Holy Shepherd as its 'homebase'), presents a



new concert series "RISING STARS" — celebrating the next generation of American Chorale Composers. The series-closing concert takes place on **Sunday, November 17th at 3pm** here at Holy Shepherd. Speak with Bethany Valentine for tickets or more information.

It's "All Hands on Deck" for a **Property Work Party** on Saturday, **November 9th from 9a to noon!** There are plenty of projects to be done, including everything from light housekeeping to gardening and window washing and general clean-up, and it will go a whole lot easier if we have an abundance of helping hands! Your efforts will help make sure we're ready for both winter storm season and our many holiday celebrations.



## The Promise of All Saints Day



*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith..." Hebrews 12:1-2*

All Saints' Day (Nov. 1) and All Saints Sunday (Nov. 3 this year) draw near, and as they do, we remember those who have gone before us in faith—the saints. Some of these saints are famous, their stories inspiring believers for generations: saints like Paul, Augustine, and Teresa of Avila. But many are everyday saints, people whose faith shaped our lives in quiet, powerful ways: family members, friends, mentors, and community leaders. They may never have their names in books or on church calendars, but their lives have left a lasting impression on our hearts.

The society in which we live only remembers All Saints Day as 'the Day after Halloween', but society has it a bit mixed up! Did you know that the word "Halloween" is really just a contraction of "All Hallows' Eve"? It should rightly be called "The night before All Saints Day.", because "hallows" means "saints" or "holy ones"!

This year and every year, may we set aside time to remember those who have gone before us. May we remember that we are surrounded by a "cloud of witnesses," encouraging us through Christ to persevere in our own journey of faith. May we recall their stories and how they testify to God's faithfulness, love, and grace.

*Dear Lord, as we celebrate All Saints Day and All Saints Sunday, help us remember that we are part of a much larger story—a story that stretches back to the beginning of time and reaches forward into eternity and includes all people to whom you have revealed yourself. As we run our race, we do so in the company of saints, past and present, with our eyes fixed on Jesus, the originator and perfecter of our faith. You are leading us every step of the way and have not left us to run this race alone. Amen*

# Upcoming Events

*You may wish to save these important dates!*

## **All Saints Sunday** (November 3 @ 9:30a)

All Saints Sunday is — annually — a moving worship experience for our congregation. We remember particularly those beloved of our congregation who have entered into the ranks of the 'Saints Triumphant' over the past 12 months, and we thank God for the life and gifts that they shared with us, and the promise of life which they now share with the Creator of Heaven and Earth. Join us as we remember.

## **Commitment Sunday** (November 17 @ 9:30a)

Our worship on Sunday, November 17 highlights the many gifts (and the many givers!) with which our congregation has been blessed. It's a time to say 'Thanks' to God for the abundance of God's blessings that come to us each day, and a time to commit ourselves to the sharing of our abundance with others. No other Sunday on the calendar more pointedly invites us to truly 'Love God by serving our neighbors.'

## **Advent Music Fest** (December 15 @ 9:30a)

Advent brings with it a spirit of hope and joy and excitement, and our annual Advent Music Fest strives to make those feelings come alive! Join our gifted musicians and music teams, as we celebrate the great Good News of the Christmas season. This is also a wonderful opportunity to invite family members, neighbors and friends to join in the celebration of Christmas in a meaningful and energetic way.

## **Christmas Eve Worship 2024** (December 24)

Its not too early to start making your plans for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Last December (when Christmas Eve fell on a Sunday), we discovered that many of you really appreciated an earlier-in-the-day opportunity to celebrate Christmas Eve and so we're going to make that happen! Our 2024 Christmas Eve Worship schedule includes worship opportunities at noon and 5pm on December 24th. Plan to join us!

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church

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