



The Shepherd's staff

THE NEWSLETTER OF HOLY SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH — EPIPHANY SEASON 2025

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

The State of OUR Union

"The Lord is our Shepherd, we lack for nothing." (Ps. 23:1) Those oh-so-familiar words from the 23rd Psalm (albeit from an unfamiliar translation) seem particularly pertinent for us as we begin this new year:

- Having felt the pain of the passings of Tom Gilbertson, Doloris Timmons and now Fred Schroeder in recent days, we may wonder if we still have what it takes to carry on in our work in this community ... but the Psalmist's words are a reassuring reminder that God is our shepherd, and that — because of God's abundant goodness — we lack for nothing that we need.
- Having recently witnessed a 'building up of the Body of Christ' in our midst through no particular efforts of our own (I'm seeing those new faces in worship among us and also the face of Vicar Meagan — a gifted seminary intern that we didn't even make application for!) ... the Psalmist's words are an affirmation that God is the One who is watching out for both our present and our future as a community of believers!
- Having agonized over the ponderous construction project that we're engaged in, and knowing that patience is sometimes in short supply as we juggle the work of our congregation, our preschool program and our LARC program all at the same time ... the Psalmist's words are an invitation to 'take a deep breath' and remember that we truly do not lack for anything we need.

May we sense the Shepherd's presence in our own lives — and in our life together — as we walk boldly into the Year of our Lord 2025! May our anxieties be assuaged, may our hearts be joyfully surprised, and may we link arms with one another in trust and in community — in the awareness that, because the Lord IS our Shepherd, we truly do lack for nothing.

Love + Joy + Peace, Pastor John

WEEKLY EVENTS SCHEDULE

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 December 8 and 22.)

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.

Please note that our Tuesday evening Zoom Bible class has been temporarily discontinued.



Ministry Partner Update: The New Life Band

In late December, we received the Christmas card shown on the left from our friends at the New Life Band in Arusha, Tanzania. For the past nine years, our Holy Shepherd family has been the exclusive provider of scholarship funds to the children of NLB members. That means we together have substantially improved the life-prospects for no less than 20 kids — and ensured their fathers' abilities to continue doing musical mission work in Tanzania. They are EXCEEDINGLY grateful for what we've done and what we are able to continue to do on their behalf. We really have changed their lives and life prospects for the better!

Ban member James Kiphizi writes: "Just want to send our sincere thanks to you, our friends, and congratulations for your love and support to the NLB Kids' Scholarship Fund. The scholarships you offer have helped our kids to attend better schools and college/university that wouldn't be available to them without your support. The kids have been doing and excelling well in their studies in primary schools, secondary and college/university. Your steadfast and years-long scholarship support to the kids of NLB members really does make a difference and God bless you. "



We celebrate with those enjoying a 'Big Day' this January and February! (And apologize to those for whom these greetings are belated.)

Birthdays
1/11 Ellin S.

- 1/12 Arwen Ch.
- 1/15 Sharon T.
- 1/19 Chris M.
- 1/19 Craig W.
- 1/20 Matt V.
- 1/21 Mary D.
- 1/22 Otto Ts.
- 1/25 Elaine N.
- 1/28 Nina B.
- 1/30 Scott G.
- 2/1 Mitch Ch.
- 2/4 Bryant Ch.
- 2/10 Joan K.
- 2/13 Lauren K.
- 2/15 Barbara P.

- 2/16 Claire S.
- 2/17 Marci B.
- 2/18 Alanna L.
- 2/18 Austin McM.
- 2/21 Lori O.
- 2/24 Ben M.
- 2/26 Nadine C.
- 2/26 Bob V. (99!)
- 2/28 Stacey R.
- 2/29 Karen R-K

Anniversaries
1/5 Rose-Kalvasses
2/3 Hurleys

Transitions



It is with heavy hearts that we received news that **Fred Schroeder** (our Church Council president) passed away on New Year's Day following a severe stroke. Please uphold Fred's family in prayer amid these days of grief.

A funeral service honoring Fred's life is scheduled for 11:00am on Saturday, February 1st on our campus. A reception in Fred's honor will be held that afternoon at the Lafayette Park Hotel, beginning at 3:00pm.



To have a name included on our congregation's Prayer List or emailed Prayer Chain, please contact **Cristi Chow** at hslccristi@gmail.com

For Healing
Bob F.
Louise H.
Judy B.
Bill K.

For Those Serving
Meghan & Brian P.
Peter K.

For Peace & Strength
Marian McG.
DeLane R.
Marilyn N.
Diana N.
Howard R.
Gail B.
MaryHelene W.
Mark Z.

A New Year Brings New Learning Opportunities!

'First Communion' Class!

We are excited to announce that a brief series of 'Communion Instruction' classes for our upper-elementary students will occur in early March! Classes are scheduled to be held on Sunday, March 2nd, and Sunday, March 9th, from 10:45-11:15 AM, and will culminate in the celebration of 'First Communion' during worship on Sunday, March 16th. If your child is in 3rd-5th grade, they are welcome to participate, even if they have already taken communion. These classes provide a valuable opportunity to deepen their understanding of what God does for us through this holy meal. To register or learn more, please email Vicar Meagan Kim at pastormeagankim@gmail.com or call the church office.

'FaithBuilders Confirmation' Cohort!

We are excited to announce the development of a new FaithBuilders cohort!

FaithBuilders — our updated version of Confirmation — is a time for middle and/or high school students to make sense of some of the key stories from Holy Scripture and to own for themselves the faith which is at the heart of Christianity. Utilizing a curriculum created by our own Pastor Valentine, we're beginning a journey which lasts roughly a year-and-a-half — with 40-minute classes held twice a month that are anything but boring!

If you have (or know of) a middle or high school student ready to begin their Confirmation journey, please contact Vicar Meagan Kim at pastormeagankim@gmail.com or call the church office to join the list. Once we've identified interested families, we'll coordinate availability and finalize the schedule. We look forward to this meaningful time of growth and learning together!

A New Devotional Email Series

Janine Crowe is putting together an emailed devotional series for women starting on January.

Drawing on a devotional series from the organization "Love God Greatly", devotional essays will be sent to group participants each Monday, Wednesday and Friday for your consideration and reflection. The topic of this quarter's study is "A Firm Foundation" and lasts for 6 weeks. If you would like to be added to Janine's email mailing list, please contact the church office with your name and email address. It's not too late to sign up!

Women's Saturday Book Club

Just a reminder that the Women's Book Club meets on Saturday, February 8 at 10am in the chapel space in our Center for Ministry. (Note the change of date due to a location conflict! On the first Saturday of the month.)

This month's book is The Trackers by Charles Frazier.

Some Words of Thanks from Our Pastors

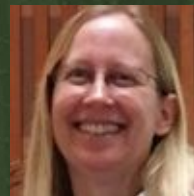
Annually, our congregation invites members and friends to share an end-of-year gift with the members of our pastoral staff. This year, your generous gifts left them with much to be thankful for ... and a tad overwhelmed!

Dear Amazing Holy Shepherd People!

I am deeply humbled by the generous gifts of money you gave during the holiday season. The incredible welcome that you have shown to me and my family over these last six months has flooded my heart with joy and lightened my load. I am truly overwhelmed with gratitude. I pray that God fills your hearts with joy and grants you a lightened spirit, just as you have blessed me.



With heartfelt gratitude, Vicar Meagan Kim



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 us as your pastors. Throughout the entire year, however, I do also feel your love, your care, and your support. While you have called us as leaders in the congregation, we too are 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! Peace, Pastor Pam

Beloved Holy Shepherd Members and Friends,

Bethany and I are both humbled by and grateful for 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 as we strive to serve among you! It is truly a joy and a blessing for us to be part of the Holy Shepherd family.



Thank you ever so much!
Love + Joy + Peace! Pastor John

● OUR 2025 DRIVE-THRU CRAB FEED IS HERE!

Our annual 'Drive-Thru Crab Feed' is happening on Saturday January 25th (2:00p to 4:00p) or Sunday January 26th (10:30a -11:30a) in support of Holy Shepherd's Preschool Programs. Each meal is priced at \$75 (and includes a \$50 tax-deductible receipt.)

Each Crab Meal includes 3 lbs. of cracked/cleaned crab, fresh-baked Semifreddi's bread, a serving of Kinder's pasta salad and a fresh-baked cookie!

Food Pickup — Swing by our parking lot at 433 Moraga Way between 2p and 4p on Saturday, January 25 (or after worship or Sunday, January 26) 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!

Contact Crisi Chow in the Church Office or visit www.holy shepherd.org for more information

PLEASE NOTE THAT PRE-ORDERING BY THURSDAY, JANUARY 23RD IS REQUIRED!

JANUARY 25TH AND 26TH IN SUPPORT OF OUR PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS



Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church
433 Moraga Way
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