

The Shepherd's *staff*

THE NEWSLETTER OF HOLY SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH — NOVEMBER 2025
433 MORAGA WAY, ORINDA, CALIFORNIA — www.holyshepherd.org — (925)254-3422

COME, YOU THANKFUL PEOPLE, COME!

Join us for a "Lamorinda Lutheran" Thanksgiving celebration at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Lafayette on Sunday, November 23rd at 4pm.

Once upon a time, there were three great holidays that defined the rhythm of the last three months of the year. October was all about Halloween, November was all about Thanksgiving, and December was all about Christmas. But nowadays, when the Halloween decorations come down, the Christmas decorations go up, and Thanksgiving has somehow gotten lost in the shuffle!

As people of faith, we can't help but notice that Thanksgiving is the one holiday on our civil calendar wherein the governmental calendar-makers have closest to getting things right! Long ago they set aside the Fourth Thursday in November as a day to practice one day a year something that we're called to practice EVERY day of EVERY year — giving thanks to the One whose abundant blessings define our very existence.

To get into the spirit of Thanksgiving this year, we would cordially invite you -- and your friends and neighbors -- to join us for a 'Lamorinda Lutheran' Thanksgiving celebration at 4pm on the afternoon of Sunday, November 23rd at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Lafayette (1035 Carol Lane). Pastor John is slated to preach a Thanksgiving-themed sermon, and Martin Morley and Bethany Valentine are working up a joint-choir musical offering. Rumor has it there may even be pie!

Let's reclaim Thanksgiving as an invitation to practice thankfulness every day of the year. After all, didn't Jesus once tell a story about ten lepers who were healed, only one of whom remembered to come back and say 'Thanks'?



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-Streamed" via Facebook @HSLCOrinda.

Sundays at 10am — Sunday School for Kids happens twice -monthly following KidTalk. (Upcoming class dates are November 2 and 23!)

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

Sundays at noon — Our 'Worship Video' is available at www.holyshepherd.org.

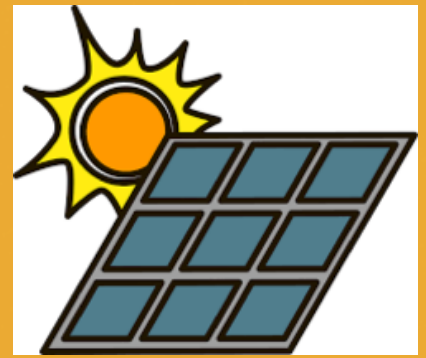
Solar Project Update

At our recent congregational meeting, we highlighted the unique opportunity our congregation faces regarding the installation of solar panels on our Center for Ministry building before year-end. Your response was overwhelming!

Wow! Who knew that we could embrace such a big opportunity in such a short time frame! At the September meeting of our Church Council, Jerry Perry outlined for council members the possible savings which could be generated by our congregation by installing solar panels on the roof the CFM. He also explained that one generous member-family was willing to match donations to the project dollar for-dollar up to the full installed cost of the system. Thus — with Church Council support, the idea of installing such a solar system was set before the congregation, with the understanding that — IF \$50,000 in pledges were received by October 5th — the project would be green-lighted.

Your answer was an overwhelming “YES!, PLEASE!” President Joan Kiekhaefer and Vice President Nina Berchtold report that a number of congregation member-families embraced this opportunity, and that a number of our preschool families saw the wisdom in this effort and supported it as well! To date, more than \$60,000 in pledges have been made to support the solar project, meaning that it is fully-funded and that work should begin by mid-November .

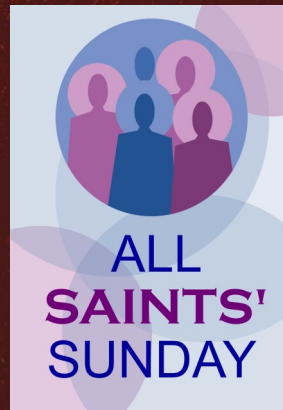
And a special word of thanks is extended to the anonymous member-family that provided the matching fund gift which spurred on this effort! Your support will benefit our congregation’s ministries for decades to come!



Power usage on our campus has been on the increase, due in large part to expanded program offerings by both our Preschool and our adult daycare center (LARC). (Per state regulations, we need to provide temperature -controlled environments in both those program spaces.) The average monthly electric portion of our PGE bill is roughly \$1,200 – a number that should decrease to less than \$200 when our solar panel installation project is finished!
Wow!

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY — Nov. 2

On Sunday, November 2, we will celebrate All Saints Sunday in the context of our worship gathering. We’ll remember and honor all the saints, known and unknown, who have gone before us and are in heaven with God. And we’ll recognize our unity with them in the Church Triumphant. Thanks be to God for ALL God’s saints and servants!



“Prayer isn’t about us getting God to see things from our perspective. It’s about God getting us to see things from God’s perspective, and about moving us from a place of self-focus to one of outward focus and community.”

Congratulations

We celebrate with those of you who have a ‘Big Day’ in November!



BIRTHDAYS

Catherine D. — 11/4
Pastor Paul Ch. — 11/6
Judy B. — 11/7
Susie K. — 11/10
Caety K. — 11/11
Bob F. — 11/12

Donna B. — 11/14
Joey W. — 11/14
Alta S. — 11/16
Joyce H. 11/24

ANNIVERSARIES

P & J Chung — 11/15

For Wellness

Yvonne G.
Louise H.
Donna Z.
MaryHelene W.
Judy B.
Judy H.

For Peace

Kristi L.
Marian McG.
DeLane R.
Diana N.
Mark Z.

For Those Serving

Meghan and Brian P.

For Those Soon-to-Be Baptized

Joey W.
Martin W.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Secretary Dave Lausch reports that — on the morning of September 21st — a congregational meeting was held in our Center for Ministry. Key actions items included:

- The election of Nina Berchtold, Elizabeth Humphrey and Bill Hunter to serve three-year terms as members of our Church Council.
- The appointment of Bob Schmalz and Paul Griessel to three-year terms as members of our Heritage Fund Board.
- A report from Preschool Director Claire Peterson highlighting the completion of preschool construction (at long last!) and our application to include a toddler component in our preschool program.
- The approval of a 2025/26 budget for our combined ministry program, including Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, Holy Shepherd Community Preschool and the Lamorinda Adult Respite Center.
- An appeal to take advantage of expiring federal solar power subsidies. (See page 2 for more info.)

Academic Bible Study

For a number of years now, Pastor John has provided a course-offering for folks who want to learn more about the Bible and more about the history of the Church.

Known on campus as our “Academic Bible Study” group, we dive into the story of Christianity with a bit of academic rigor. This year’s “Academic Bible Study” offering is a look at the earliest days of the Christian community, so as to see how their two-millennia-old questions and considerations might speak to our lives.

Over the course of the year ahead, the class will be reading three books:

The Roman Empire & the New Testament, by W. Carter,
When Christians Were Jews, by Paula Fredriksen, and
The Rise of Christianity, by Rodney Stark.

Each of those volumes will provide us with unique insights and unique challenges as together we learn how Christianity went from being an outlawed religion to the state-religion of the Roman Empire in less than 300 years.

Our Academic Bible Study group meets via a hybrid format. Some attend in-person in the CFM Conference Room and others attend online via Zoom. Courses regularly occur on Wednesday evenings at 7pm. For more information (or to become a part of our learning cohort!), please speak with Bob Bauer or Pastor John.

FROM PASTOR PAM

(One Final Time)



You are most likely aware that Pastor Pam Schaefer Dawson stepped away from service to our congregation following a seven-year stint as our part-time Associate Pastor. We received this letter from her following up on her send-off celebration on September 7th.

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the spreading of the gospel from the first day until now. Philippians 1:3-4

Dear Friends,

What a joy it has been for me to serve as one of your pastors for the past seven years! Together, we have walked through sorrows, through joys, through the daily-ness of life; we have learned new ways to worship together through the global pandemic and have enthusiastically embraced our in-person worship again afterward. We have done a new thing with our preschool, serving about five times as many students as we did before. We continue to serve our community through our LARC program. We have studied the Bible together, read books together, prayed together, and learned from one another.

You folks came into my life at just the right time. Holy Spirit knew that I needed more than just a bit more income: I needed healing, and I needed love and support as I began to embrace my calling as a pastor once again following a difficult first call. And heal me, you have – oh, boy! I will always be grateful to you for your genuine partnership in the gospel and for your unfailing love, support, and encouragement of me in my ministry among you.

Thank you for the amazing celebration on September 7, for the gift toward my retirement fund, and for all of your lovely cards written and words spoken.

You are in my heart forever,

Pastor Pam



**Trim
the
Tree**

Our annual “**Hanging of the Greens**” gathering is slated for Sunday, November 30th at 4pm. There will be plenty to do to get our campus ready for the upcoming days of Advent and Christmas! There are tasks appropriate for ALL comers, no matter how young or how old, how creative or artistically-challenged you believe yourself to be! Join us!

Our Friends at Chromatica Chorale are at it again!



An Evening of Choral Humor!

Saturday November 15th 3:00pm Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church 433 Moraga Way, Orinda	Sunday November 16th 7:00pm Peace Lutheran Church 3201 Camino Tassajara, Danville
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For more information — or to purchase tickets — visit chromatica-chorale.org or speak with Bethany Valentine

TIME CHANGE HAPPENS

ON NOVEMBER 2nd

Don't forget! Daylight savings time ends on Sunday, Nov. 2, 2025, at 2 a.m! Set your clocks back one hour ("fall back") on Saturday evening and enjoy your extra hour of sleep before worship on Sunday, November 2!



Fall back, not behind!

**In everything
give thanks; for
this is the will of
God for you in
Christ Jesus.**

1 THESSALONIANS 5:18

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church
433 Moraga Way
Orinda, CA 94563