

The Shepherd's *staff*

THE NEWSLETTER OF HOLY SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH — EARLY FALL 2024

433 MORAGA WAY, ORINDA, CALIFORNIA 94563 — www.holyshepherd.org — (925)254-3422

“There’s Light at the End of the Tunnel!”

The renovation of Gregersen Hall is finally drawing to a close!

It *sounded* like a reasonable project. “Nothing ‘structural’”, the architect said. “Just a remodel the back-half of Gregersen Hall so as to accommodate our new-expanded preschool program.” But then the authorities at the sanitation department, the building department, the fire department and the community-care licensing department got involved. And our project timeline went from being measured in weeks to being measured in months. A whole number of months!

But now — at long last — it would appear that the renovation of Gregersen Hall is coming to a close. As vice-president Joan Kiekhaefer reported at the August meeting of our Church Council, “Finally ... FINALLY ... there is light at the end of the tunnel!” Though Joan was hesitant to report an estimated date of completion, she did assure the Council that we would be able to celebrate a ‘Grand Opening’ of both our expanded preschool spaces and our renovated LARC spaces sometimes later this Fall. Joan gave a ‘shout-out’ to Tom Gilbertson and Steve Swanback for their steadfast efforts to rein in costs and press toward completion of the project. Thanks to all for their efforts in seeing this project through to completion.



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 September 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.

Tuesdays at 7 pm — Our ‘Adult Ed’ Zoom class resumes on Sept. 10th!
Zoom Meeting ID: 861 5874 8710
Zoom Passcode: 94563

Ministry Partner Update:

LARC (The Lamorinda Adult Respite Center)

On the evening of June 26th, LARC Program Director Kathleen Januszewski and Pastor John Valentine were invited to attend a reception hosted by the Community Foundation of Lafayette which honored impactful community service programs in the Lamorinda area — including our own Lamorinda Adult Respite Center!



Wow! We are feeling particularly grateful these days! The folks at the Community Foundation of Lafayette identified LARC as a 2024 Excellence Grant awardee — and generously gifted our program as the recipients of a \$5,000 gift in support of the daily operations of the LARC program! LARC was chosen after careful consideration for its stellar work done on behalf of some of our community's most vulnerable members.

Annually, the Community Foundation of Lafayette collects gifts from generous donors, business partners and sponsors, and then bundles those gifts to support local community service programs. This year (the 25th year of CFL's existence), the Foundation was able to provide a total \$150,000 to strengthen the work of community programs in the areas of human services, youth development, arts and culture, and senior services — including the aforementioned \$5,000 gift to LARC! Thank you, CFL, for your abundant generosity. Your thoughtful support will allow us to continue providing extraordinary care and daily live-music to folks facing a difficult journey.



While our congregation is rightly proud of our numerous ministry partners (each supported by our budgeted 'Giving Beyond Ourselves'), LARC holds a special place in our hearts.

Since LARC was founded in the mid-1990's as a community-service ministry of Holy Shepherd, it has grown to become the East Bay's premier care facility for people with mild to mid-stage dementia. LARC changes lives for the better by allowing participants to continue living at home longer, by providing substantive stimulation to program participants and much needed respite to their primary caregivers.



BIRTHDAYS

Jack Ch. — 8/2
 Russ R. — 8/8
 Diane O. — 8/9
 Debbie S. — 8/11
 Yvonne Ts. — 8/21

John H. — 8/22
 Julie H. — 8/23
 Lynne D. — 8/24
 Taryn L. — 8/24
 Janine C. — 8/31
 Joy Ch. — 9/4
 Ryan G. — 9/4
 Reni Y. — 9/8
 Barbara S. — 9/14
 Diana R. — 9/15
 Pam Sch-D. — 9/17
 Steve S. — 9/18

Sally Ch. — 9/21
 Robert Ch. — 9/29

ANNIVERSARIES

Merlins — 8/25
 Eismanns — 8/30
 Olsons — 8/30
 Coburns — 9/22
 McManamon & Humphrey — 9/25



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

For Healing & Strength

Tom G.
 Bob F.
 Yvonne G.
 Louise H.
 Ed Sz.
 MaryHelene W.
 Judy B.
 Judy H.
 Bill K.

For Those Serving

Meghan & Brian P.
 Peter K.

For Peace

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

Life Transitions

We Rejoice With:

Paul and Nikki Merlin at the birth of **Everett Quincy Merlin!** Happy grandparents are Chris and Lisa Merlin.

Betsy Swanback and Andrew Walker at the birth of **Glenn Gideon Swanback Walker!** Happy grandparents are Steve and Ellin Swanback.

Andrew and Hannah Lee at the birth of **Persephone Lee.** Happy great-grandma is Dorothy Lee.

We Grieve With:

Pastor Pam Schaefer Dawson and family at the passing of her father, **Pastor Marty Schaefer**

Lorraine Holmstedt and family at the passing of her beloved husband **Don Holmstedt.**

Judy Dybevik and family at the passing of her beloved husband **Dick Dybevik.**

Chris Merlin and family at the passing of Chris' mother, **Estelle Merlin** in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin.

Key Church Council Items

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING — SEPT. 22

It goes without saying that the pandemic knocked us out of a whole number of our traditional , including the practice of meeting on a twice-yearly basis to discuss (and act upon) the business of our congregation. And while we're exceedingly thankful for those folks who have remained in extended terms of service as elected Church Council members through those topsy-turvy days, it's time to "get back to normal". With that in mind, Church Council President Fred Schroeder had formally called for a meeting of the congregation on September 22 at 10:45am in our Center for Ministry building. Key items on that agenda will include:

- Review of the financial reports of our now-completed 2023/24 fiscal year.
- Approval of a budget and financial plan for the now-beginning 2024/25 fiscal year.
- Election / Re-election of members to the Church Council.
- Project review and financial update on our current Gregersen Hall development project.

Please plan to join us as you are able for this important gathering! (Note that no Zoom attendance is possible, per restrictions in our Constitution.)

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

Elizabeth Humphrey and Pastor John recently reminded the Council that the days of summer are now in the rear-view mirror, and opportunities for our congregation's youngest members are on the horizon.

- "Sunday School" for younger children returns after Labor Day, with twice-monthly class offerings planned for the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month this Fall. As has been our recent pattern, kids are invited to join in the beginning of our worship gathering and then head off to Sunday School in the Center for Ministry after KidTalk. Our amazing teaching team is planning for Sunday School on:

September 8th and September 22nd

October 13th and 27th

- Our current cohort of FaithBuilders students is wrapping up their extended Confirmation journey at long last! Alex and Austin McManamon (and their parents) have been amazingly patient in walking through our confirmation curriculum (interrupted by a global pandemic and by countless scheduling conflicts with youth activities!) with Pastor John, and anticipate a Service of Confirmation in late October. We are excited for them — and for the whole of our congregation — as they prepare to affirm their Baptisms!

Welcome, Vicar Meagan!



What started as a casual visit has blossomed into something that we wouldn't have even imagined!

It wasn't too many months ago that a young woman from Martinez joined us at worship one Sunday morning. She reported that she was a Lutheran seminary student — studying remotely at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa! — and that she wanted to connect with Pastor John (who serves as Dean of the synod's Mount Diablo Conference) about possible internship opportunities within the conference. Flash forward four months (and numerous phone calls to Iowa and voluminous paperwork to boot), and — lo and behold! — we're honored to be hosting Vicar Meagan Kim as our own pastoral intern for the academic year 2024-2025!

Meagan is originally from Des Moines, Iowa, and has been in the Bay Area since 2007. She earned her BA in African-American Studies from Indiana University and moved to Atlanta upon graduation to serve with AmeriCorps. She has a diversity of professional experience that includes Project Management, Legal Operations, and Executive Administration. She was trained as a goldsmith at the Revere Academy of Jewelry Arts in San Francisco and had a studio in Oakland for several years where she met with private clients and produced a collection of fashion jewelry. In her spare time, she loves creating arts and crafts projects with her children, Isaiah (8) and Lillian (6), often turning their dining room table into a colorful and bustling art studio. She has been married to her husband Dennis for 10 years, and they love exploring the Northern California coast (Fort Bragg is their current favorite).

Though it has been more than two decades since Holy Shepherd has hosted an intern (and more than two decades since Pastor John has been an internship supervisor), internship remains a vital component of a seminary student's pastoral education. Internship is a time to 'learn by doing'. It is a practical time of teaching and preaching, of visiting and worship leading, of learning the rhythms of life in a congregation. Additionally, members of the student's Internship Committee provide active support and feedback to the intern, so as to ensure that the internship year is a positive and growing experience.

We officially welcomed Vicar Meagan into our midst on the 1st Sunday in August, and look forward to connecting with her, learning with her (and from her!), and growing together in faith in the year that lies ahead! Welcome, Vicar Meagan!

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES THIS FALL

'ZOOM' ADULT EDUCATION

It started as a way to stay connected with one another and God's Word during the dark days of the Pandemic, but it's become so much more than that!

Our weekly (Tuesday evenings at 7pm) 'Zoom'-based online Adult Education has become both a great learning opportunity and community-building tool.

This conversational study opportunity focuses on the Scripture lesson read in worship the previous Sunday, and invites reflection both on what the text 'means' and what the text 'means for us'.

Each Tuesday night at 7pm on Zoom. (Weekly 'Zoom Adult Ed.' resumes Sept. 10th)

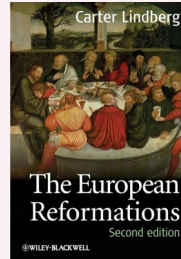
Zoom Meeting ID# 861 5874 8710

Zoom Password 94563

ACADEMIC STUDY GROUP

A number of folks recently completed a three-year-long sojourn through the New Testament with Pastor John, using a hefty tome by renowned scholar N.T. Wright. But no sooner than that course ended then they demanded to know 'What's next?'

In response to their insistence, Pastor John has identified "Church History" as our next field of study. Utilizing a beefy tome entitled The European Reformations, this twice-monthly study group will help participants to better understand the history of the Western church. This study group uses a 'hybrid' learning format, which can be accessed in-person in our Center for Ministry building or via Zoom.

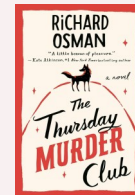


For more information, contact Pastor John or coordinator Bob Bauer at bobjbauer@att.net.

**'Church History 101'
begins September 11 at 7pm**

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

The Women's Book Club continues their regular meetings on Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. in the CFM (our Center for Ministry building). Besides discussing the current book, they sip warm beverages and nibble on treats. If you're interested in joining, they'd love to have you. Speak with Bethany Valentine or Juanita Gilbertson for more information.



September 7th Read:

The Thursday Murder Club

by Richard Osman

October 5th Read:

James

by Percival Everett



Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church
433 Moraga Way
Orinda, CA 94563

