

Portal ght

the monthly Newsletter of West Portal Lutheran Church and School

APRIL 2024

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West Portal Lutheran Church Website:

westportallutheran.org

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From Pastor Binz

The LORD is my Shepherd

"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside still waters" Psalm 23:1-2.



Probably the best known verses in the Bible and yet filled with profound truth as we understand our LORD to be our Good Shepherd. The Shepherd provides and cares for the sheep. The Shepherd is aware of the dangers that the sheep face day in and day out. The Shepherd restores the soul and leads in righteousness.

As stubborn sheep we at times stray from God and His Word and like the lost sheep in the parable of the ninety-nine and the one lost, God seeks and saves us. In our sin when we get caught in the thickets or deep ravines God in His mercy and grace pulls us out to himself and rescues us from sin, death and the devil.

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" John. 10:11. Jesus has laid

down His life for us. Going to the cross to suffer, die and rise on Easter morning this is the Good Shepherd accomplishing the work so that we receive the goodness that God brings to us by His grace through faith. *"I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me" John. 10:14.*

In the waters of our baptism God calls us to Himself. We know God through faith and we are the ones who receive this goodness from God because of His great love for us. *"He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake" Psalm 23:3.*

Henry Baker who wrote the beautiful hymn *"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"* puts it this way, *"Where streams of living water*

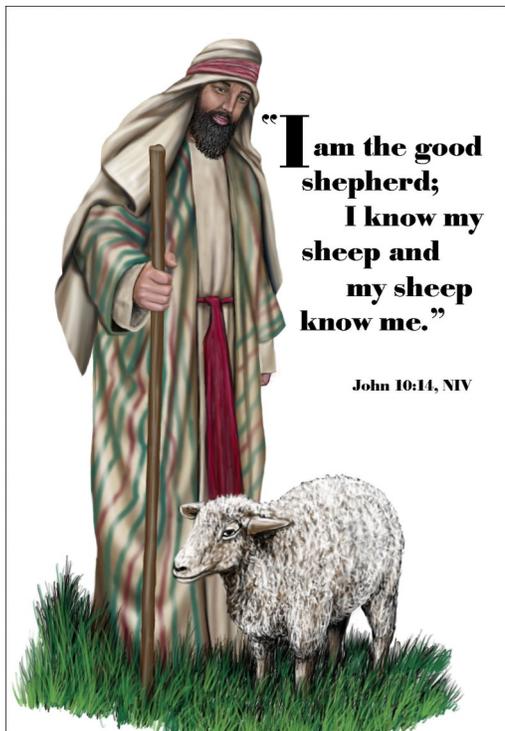
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flow, My ransomed soul He leadeth and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth." LSB #709.

God provides for us through His Word and Sacraments and He is the exalted LORD Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd now and into eternity.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Binz



LET US PRAY TO THE LORD GOD for those who are ill, homebound, or recovering from recent hospitalization: Vincent Ammann, Beatrice Priest's father; Elfriede Bonfert; Paul Brase; Charlene Bruggemann-Wong; William Chen; Angie Cheung, Helen Bok's sister-in-law; Bill Eves, Virginia Ferry's cousin; Jimmy Fong, Evelyn Fong's father; Karen Goeglien, Bob Bok's cousin; Ted Jones; Annissa Ma, Julia Tom's dear friend; Jan Lundquist; Susie Marzolf; George Mogyorossy, Gilbert Mogyorossy's father; Sigrid Rogge; Art Spleiss, Ruth Stresow; Lisa Westermann; Cheryl Wong; Marilyn Wong; Franklin Yee.



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www.westportallutheran.org

Rev. Curtis Binz, Senior Pastor

Ms. May Luu, Administrative Assistant

Ms. Angie Holt, Church Secretary, PortalLight Editor

Ms. Sherise Lee, Principal

Ms. Amy Kao, Music Director

Worship Schedule

5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service-Lord's Supper

9:00 AM Sunday - Sunday School - Sanctuary

9:00 AM Sunday Adult Bible Study - Parish Hall

10:00 AM Sunday Worship Service - Lord's Supper

West Portal Lutheran Church is a member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Meet Our New Members



Desiree Pornphanukun was baptized on March 10, 2024



Katerina Atinaja was baptized on March 9, 2024



Dorothy

Landmark Birthday Celebration

We celebrated Dorothy Bridgeman's 103rd birthday on March 17th. She was born on St. Patrick's Day.

Trinity Lutheran High School Choir from Bend, Oregon performed for the Sloat students on March 14th



3-17-24 Choir Sang and students Samantha Lau, 6th Grader and Nathan Chau, 5th Grader played the flute.



Choir and Children's Band sang: "Filled with Excitement" on March 24th under the direction of Amy Kao



We welcome all children to join the Children's Band. For more information, please contact Amy Kao, Music Director, at amy.kao@wplsf.com.

Easter Sunday Celebration



Easter Brunch

Thanks to Ed and Becky Chan, and Helen Bok for organizing the Easter Brunch and Egg Hunting and the Elders (Alex Lew, Bob Bok, Stanley Tom) and Dan Holt and Lucy Lew for preparing the delicious Easter brunch! Special thanks to Donald Woo for taking incredible pictures!







Egg Hunting





West Portal Lutheran
Church & School

SPRING SOCIAL

Celebrating our community!
Sunday, May 5, 12-3 p.m.
\$50 adult / \$35 child

Games & Prizes



Parklab Gardens:
1379 4th St., SF (at Mission Blvd N.)

Register:

SCAN ME

West Portal Lutheran's School Board has organized an afternoon of fun, games, and prizes for the extended WPL community. Our Spring Social will be held on Sunday, May 5 from 12pm to 3pm at The Lawn in the Parklab Gardens, at 1379 4th Street, in San Francisco's Mission Bay neighborhood. This event is for current students and their families, alumni, faculty, and Church members. It will serve both as a fundraiser for improving our teachers' access to professional development programs, and also as a means of strengthening relationships throughout our extended community!

Delicious food from dozens of food trucks and games of mini-golf can be purchased at SPARK Social SF & Stagecoach Greens, adjacent to Parklab Gardens. Enjoy entertainment, water, juice boxes, and cookies/cupcakes at our reserved Lawn space!

REGISTER today!!! Please visit this Google Form link: <https://forms.gle/yCbJbHNCWR2nYPZa9>

Please note: If you wish to attend but are unable to register via the above Google Form link, please fill out a registration form on page 13 or located in the back of the church. To pay your registration (\$50 per adult, \$35 per child), please write a check payable to "West Portal Lutheran Church," write "Spring Social" on the memo line, put your registration form and payment in an envelope marked "WPL Spring Social," and place it in Beatrice's church mailbox. Payment in cash is also accepted.

For more info, please contact: Kyle Johnson, WPL Church member and School Board Fundraising Chair, at kyle@kyle-p-johnson.com, or Beatrice Priest, WPL Church member and WPLS Alumni Outreach Coordinator, at beatrice.priest@wplsf.com or (415) 661-0242 extension 227.

Kyle and Beatrice will be available at the church each weekend in April to coordinate carpools to the event. Please contact them if you would like to drive or if you need a ride.

If you are unable to attend, but would like to donate to the WPLS Professional Development Fund, you can do so in one of three ways:

1. Make a check payable to "West Portal Lutheran Church." Write "Donation to WPLS Professional Development Fund" on the memo line. Put your donation in an envelope and place it in the offering plate or in Beatrice's church mailbox.
2. Visit <https://www.wplsf.com/ways-to-give>. Click on the yellow "Donate" button to view WPL's PayPal donation page. Enter the amount you wish to donate. In the "Use this donation for" box, click the down arrow, and select "Professional Development Fund" from the drop down menu. Choose whether you want to add an amount to help cover the fees.
3. Scan the QR Code on page 13. Follow the instructions as in #2 above to donate via PayPal on your mobile device.

West Portal Lutheran Church & School "Spring Social" Registration Form
Celebrating our Community on Sunday, May 5, 12-3 p.m. at The Lawn in the Parklab Gardens,
at 1379 4th Street, blocks from SF's Chase Center!

Registrant's Contact Information:

First & Last Name:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Check One:

I am a parent of a currently enrolled student at West Portal Lutheran School 2023-24.

I am a West Portal Lutheran Church member.

I graduated from West Portal Lutheran School.

I am a friend of West Portal Lutheran Church and School.

How many **adults** are you registering for the Spring Social? _____

Names (first and last) of your party's adult attendees:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How many **children (under 18)** are you registering for the Spring Social? _____

Names (first and last) of your party's child attendees:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

To pay your registration (\$50 per adult, \$35 per child), please write a check payable to "West Portal Lutheran Church," write "Spring Social" on the memo line, put your registration form and payment in an envelope marked "WPL Spring Social," and send to WPL Church, 200 Sloat Blvd., SF, CA 94132 or place it in Beatrice's church mailbox. Payment in cash is also accepted. If you are unable to attend, but would like to donate to the WPLS Professional Development Fund, you can do so in one of three ways: (over please)

1. Make a check payable to "West Portal Lutheran Church." Write "Donation to WPLS Professional Development Fund" on the memo line. Put your donation in an envelope and place it in the offering plate or in Beatrice's church mailbox.
2. Visit <https://www.wplsf.com/ways-to-give>. Click on the yellow "Donate" button to view WPL's PayPal donation page. Enter the amount you wish to donate. In the "Use this donation for" box, click the down arrow, and select "Professional Development Fund" from the drop down menu. Choose whether you want to add an amount to help cover the fees.
3. Scan the QR Code here. Follow the instructions as in #2 above to donate via PayPal on your mobile device!



Thanks and blessings!

West Portal Lutheran Church & School

West Portal Lutheran School: News from the Principal's Desk

Dear West Portal Lutheran Family of Faith,

[1] *Praise the LORD!*

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

[2] *Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.*

[3] *Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.*

[4] *He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful.*

(Psalm 111:1-4)

Standing on the playground yesterday and watching the students at recess playing and having fun, I had a moment of feeling true gratefulness, especially in the pursuit of seeing our children positive, healthy, and whole. I praise God for His good work in them at West Portal Lutheran - He is indeed gracious and merciful!

In this month of April, we are highlighting teamwork. One of our schoolwide learner outcomes is to have our students be strong collaborators who work well together towards a shared goal. This requires clarity on the roles we each play and the humility to know that it's not just about the individual. Thankful that we have a Savior who demonstrated the greatest humility of all in coming not to be served, but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45)!

In celebration of teamwork and commUNITY, we will be gathering for a Spring Social

on Sunday, May 5 at Parklab Gardens (1379 4th Street, San Francisco). We invite you to join us as a supporter of our school. It will be a fundraiser to invest in our teachers' Professional Development Fund.

Blessings in Christ,

Sherise Lee
Principal



PTL sponsored "Dinosaurs Rock" presentation at Sunset Campus



Sunset Campus Book Fair



6th Grade, 6A, leads Chapel with the theme of Palm Sunday



8th Graders with their lockers decorated with words of encouragement before receiving their high school acceptance notifications.



Upcoming Kindergarten Class of 2033 student, Astrid, joins the Wildcat family!



8th grade boys are CYO volleyball champions!

WPL School 75th Anniversary

During 2021, as we celebrated the 70th anniversary of West Portal Lutheran School and look forward to the 75th Anniversary in 2026, we have asked a number of former students, faculty, staff and friends to share their memories of WPL School. This month we feature: **Antonella Demartini (Alumni 1996)**



ANTONELLA DEMARTINI

Attending West Portal Lutheran School was a blessing and privilege that shaped the life I live today. Below is a recounting of some of my memories as a student, including lessons learned, and my path beyond middle school.

Classroom Recollections Turned Life-Long Lessons

In 1993, when I was 11 years old, my parents enrolled me at West Portal Lutheran School. Mrs. Finley was my first teacher. She welcomed me, listened to me, and made me feel a part of the school. Each morning, we began class with a prayer which was sung: "God has created a new day, silver and green and gold. Live that the sunset may find us worthy his gifts to hold." Mrs. Finley's summer school class was my first hands-on experience commingling faith with daily activities.

In 6th grade, Mr. Morris taught us how to diagram sentences grammatically. He would call on students to go up to the chalk board, listen to a sentence he would speak, and then diagram it in front of the class. Sometimes sentences were so long that they could not fit on one chalk board alone. When it was my turn, I felt nervous because I did not want to fail in front of the class. But once I stopped paying attention to the faces staring at me, and really focused on the sentence, I was able to draw the diagram correctly. The experience was not only a confidence booster, but a reminder to have faith in my ability.

In 7th grade, Mrs. Bruggeman-Wong, who taught humanities, helped us develop our reading and writing skills. One day she told us we were "ice-skating"

through assignments. Whether we were writing essays, short answers, or working on projects like a booklet about our ethnic heritage, I had never before considered comparing the process of assignment completion to ice skating. But that day, I experienced a light bulb moment: rushing through work just to "get it over with" was like wasting a chance to learn. My takeaway was that assignments required focus and engagement. They were to be completed meaningfully and to the best of my ability. Doing so was the first step to manage the stress of test taking: investing the time and effort into learning the material in the first place.

Educational Foundation and Social/Emotional Insights

In 1996, by the time graduation arrived, I had made academic strides and grown personally. I learned German, how to play the recorder, and participated in Speech. My report card showed strong grades and class ranking. I was accepted into Lowell and Mercy. I was awarded "Most Congenial Girl". In addition to an educational foundation, I departed West Portal Lutheran School with a number of insights that would serve me in high school and beyond: I gained confidence in my ability to think critically; I learned how to listen; I understood for the first time that no one is perfect, and that making mistakes is a natural part of learning; and I felt comfortable asking for help. Although I was sad to be leaving my friends and teachers, I was not scared. I knew that I was ready and prepared for whatever high school held in store for me.

High School: Classes and Youth Group

In Fall 1996, I entered Mercy High School, San Francisco. Freshman year academics were rather straightforward. In Sophomore year, I began taking honors

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classes. By Junior year, I was taking Advanced Placement classes. Having taken two years of German at West Portal Lutheran helped me learn how to go about learning another language: Spanish. Thinking about grammar structures and vocabulary came easily because I had done it before. There were a number of West Portal Lutheran students who went to Mercy, and some of my closest relationships were with them. In addition to focusing on academics, a group of us also ran Cross Country and Track and Field. Some of my closest friends were those with whom I studied and ran. In 2000, when our class graduated, there were four of us with grade point averages within a hundredth of a point of each other. The Mercy High School administration allowed all four of us to share the Valedictorian role, and three of the four of us were West Portal Lutheran School graduates.

I was welcomed into West Portal Lutheran Church's high school youth group led by Mr. Holt, my Youth Director. This group offered me service opportunities for four years. This membership was particularly special because my peers and I grew up together in fellowship. We attended Bible studies. We performed skits and staffed fundraising dinners and other events. Easter brunch was often directed by Mr. Holt. I was surprised to learn that not only could my 7th and 8th grade History and Religion teacher crack eggs with one hand, but he could orchestrate a delicious meal for the entire congregation. Youth group allowed us to travel beyond the city and state. We went to Portland, Oregon to participate in a program supporting inner city youth. We traveled to Couer d' Alene, Idaho, helping paint cabins for a local camp. We took summer trips to Lake Berryessa where we enjoyed swimming and water skiing. Connecting with my peers through fellowship activities for four years granted me a sense of belonging that was invaluable.

Coming of Age: College and Beyond

The support I received at home, at Mercy High School, and from the West Portal Lutheran

Church high school youth group helped me navigate coming of age. When I finished high school, although I knew there was growth to be had as a person, I did not have to manage the identity crisis that some young people experience. I comfortably chose for myself the type of person I was going to be in the world: a person who cared about my family, friends, and community and helped them when I could; a person who strived to observe both the golden and silver rules; a person who was humble. I knew that college and life beyond would necessitate hard work, yet I felt comfortable and ready to begin those next challenges because my sense of self was established.

As an undergraduate, I attended the University of San Francisco, studying abroad in Mexico (2002) and El Salvador (2003). I completed my Bachelor of Arts and Sciences degree in Latin American Studies and History in December 2003, graduating *summa cum laude*. I entered the labor market in the food and beverage industry. Years later, I went in a different direction into the legal industry. In 2013, while



working full time, I completed a Master of Arts degree in Public Administration with an emphasis in Non-Profit Management at San Francisco State University, graduating *cum laude*. Years after completing my second degree, I went in yet another direction into residential property management.

Although being an adult in the working world makes me feel accomplished and economically stable, I miss being a student and the sense of discovery that comes with learning in an academic setting. I do not discount the possibility of returning to school in the future. Right now, however, focusing on family makes the most sense. I am married, work full time, and have an 8 year-old daughter. She attends West Portal Lutheran School as a 2nd grader. I am so grateful that she has the opportunity to attend the school that shaped me as she begins her own social, emotional, and educational formation.



Saturday, 4/6	10:00 AM	Quilt Class-Fellowship Hall
Saturday, 4/6	5:00 PM	Worship Service-Lord's Supper
Sunday, 4/7	9:00 AM	Sunday School-Sanctuary
Sunday, 4/7	9:00 AM	Adult Bible Study-Fellowship Hall
Sunday, 4/7	10:00 AM	Worship Service-Lord's Supper
Sunday, 4/7	11:15AM	Altar Guild Meeting - Fellowship Hall
Sunday, 4/7	11:15AM	Elder's Meeting
Wednesday, 4/10	11:00 AM	Midweek Bible Class
Saturday, 4/13	5:00 PM	Worship Service-Partner in Faith
Sunday, 4/14	9:00 AM	Sunday School-Sanctuary
Sunday, 4/14	9:00 AM	Adult Bible Study-Fellowship Hall
Sunday, 4/14	10:00 AM	Confirmation Sunday-Lord's Supper
Wednesday, 4/17	11:00 AM	Midweek Bible Class
Saturday, 4/20	5:00 PM	Worship Service-Lord's Supper
Sunday, 4/21	9:00 AM	Sunday School-Sanctuary
Sunday, 4/21	9:00 AM	Adult Bible Study-Fellowship Hall
Sunday, 4/21	10:00 AM	Worship Service-Lord's Supper
Wednesday, 4/24	11:00 AM	Midweek Bible Class
Saturday, 4/27	5:00 PM	Worship Service-Lord's Supper
Sunday, 4/28	9:00 AM	Sunday School-Sanctuary
Sunday, 4/28	9:00 AM	Adult Bible Study-Fellowship Hall
Sunday, 4/28	10:00 AM	Worship Service-Lord's Supper
Sunday, 4/28	11:15AM	Altar Guild Meeting - Fellowship Hall





1 Wyatt Toloski	8 Fred Jacob	22 Kevin Chang
2 Kathryn Bersaglieri	9 Samantha Nulph	22 Mike Aymard
2 Eddy Tsang	9 Rachel Li	22 Matthew Kitagawa
2 Tim Bass	10 Amy Bohlen	22 Nicole Lee
2 Sienna Lo	11 Jennie Fong	24 Patty Tsang
2 Kendra Char	11 Dr. William Mason	24 Nathaniel Lew
2 Jeremy Keoni Chinn	12 Renata Otterbach	24 Christy Wood
3 Helen Bok	13 Aaron Adams	25 Cayla Szeto
3 Kailey Sjaufwoekloy	13 Carsten Nixdorf	26 Brenda Rumbaugh
4 Frank Ferry	14 Megan Yu	26 Viviana Soper
5 Marilyn Wong	14 Allan Uy	26 Kestrel Ueber
5 Dan Holt	14 Genevieve Cragg	27 Mariah Wright
6 Agnes Situ	15 Rico Ellis	28 Samantha Sun
6 Cynthia Tom	15 David Still	29 Chloe Fong
6 Carl Wildenradt	15 Rev. David Stechholz	29 Jennie Ho
7 Alex Lew	15 Kaileigh Willis	30 Eugene Quan
7 Diana Louie	16 Kvan Tsang	
7 Jessica Wong	16 Monette Yee	
8 Georgeanne Wedergren	16 Rose Leung	
	17 Nancy Eisen	
	19 Doris Fung	
	19 Penelope Esposto	
	19 Thomas Esposto	
	21 Kurtis Szu	
	21 Chloe Yeh	



2 Keith & Eliza Latimore
7 Dick & Audrey Bass
21 Christopher & Cheryl Leong

"Pray for one another" (James 5:16)

Let us follow this command of God's Word. Use the birthdays and anniversaries list each month to hold up one another to the Lord in prayer. You may wish to keep this list on your refrigerator, in your Bible, in your Portals of Prayer, or in some convenient place. What strength we receive from Almighty God when we sincerely pray for one another! And in these "interesting times," a call to a member wishing him/her birthday or anniversary greetings would probably be appreciated. It's particularly important that we keep in contact with each other when we're unable to meet in person.

Altar Flowers

Flower Charts for the year 2024 are posted in the Narthex. This is a very special way to help decorate the Altar, and to commemorate events or to remember loved ones. Flowers may be taken home or are delivered to our sick and shut-in members. Please call May Luu or Angie Holt in the church office, 415-661-0242, if you have any questions. The cost of a floral arrangement is \$55.00. We encourage you to sign up on the 2024 Flower Chart.