

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

January, 2009

From The Pastor

Greetings in Christ!

As we begin a new year together, the future looks exciting and challenging. Our ministry at Good Shepherd is based on the following Mission Statement:

The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd is a Christian community empowered by the Holy Spirit to witness to the good news of Jesus Christ through worship and service, in faith and with love, to all people.

The Epiphany Season gives us a chance to get started on our Mission. So -- let's look ahead to 2009:

+ **Bible Study** -- we will continue with the study of the **Psalms** on Sundays at 9 a.m. The Psalms have given us a challenging basis for our prayer life.

Daniel Study -- continues on Wednesdays at 1 and 7 p.m. We are almost finished and will conclude by the end of January.

Ephesians -- we'll pick up with Paul's Letter to the Ephesians in February, on Wednesdays at 1 and 7:30.

+ **Worship** - Sundays a 10 a.m. We continue with our series - **PRAYER POWER:**

Jan. 4 - Christmas 2

Sermon - **PRAYER POWER:**

"Filled with New Light" John 1:1-18

Jan. 11 - Epiphany 1 -- **Baptism of Our Lord**

Sermon - **PRAYER POWER:**

"Living Supernaturally" Mark 1:4-11

Jan. 18 - Epiphany 2

Sermon - **PRAYER POWER:**

"Praying for Healing" John 1:43-51

Jan. 26 - Epiphany 3

Sermon - **PRAYER POWER:**

"Empowering for Ministry" Mark 1:14-20

Let's **get excited about Good Shepherd**. **Share** the faith. **Invite** someone to join you for worship or Sunday School or mid-week Bible Study. Make 2009 a year to be guided and **empowered** by the Holy Spirit. I look forward to seeing you each week.

Peace and Joy,

Pastor Ed

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please plan on attending on January 25 right after the 10:00 service.

Council Meeting Minutes *(Draft copy, not reviewed by council)* **December 8, 2008**

(submitted by Garry Westerweller)

In attendance were the following:

Gil Vatter, Mike Carp, Lou Medici, Garry Westerweller, Tom Tehve, Clem Hergenhan, Barbara Benson, Pat Miller, Steve Miller, and Karl Tourjesson.

Gil opened the meeting with prayer

November minutes were approved.

Clem presented recommendations to council regarding the mutual ministry and staff support committees.

- Mutual ministry function was outlined according to the by-laws.
- Staff support function was also lined out according to the by-laws.
- Recommendations were made to put the same people on both committees
- Recommended appointments were put forth to be on the committees
Clem, Lea Smith, and Ernie Brinkman
- MM/SS committees to keep president informed of any activities.
- Recommend that staff support personnel reviews:
 - Choir Director – worship and music chairperson
 - Secretary – president and pastor
 - LL Director- LL governing board
 - LL employees- LL director

Treasurer's Report was submitted by Pat Miller

- General giving was up for the month

Fellowship Committee Report

- Christmas party was a success
- Thank you letter will be sent by Gil to Debbie Blackburn for all her hard work

Finance Committee submitted by Lou

- Sent out 123 Pledges, 35 families responded
- Amount of money we should send to Synod was discussed and \$200.00/ mo. was recommended and approved.
- Recommendation was put forth to form an ad-hoc committee to explore plausible possibilities of what could be done with the Pink house and property.

Barbara Benson reported on Little Lambs

- One open house scheduled in December
- Two open houses are scheduled for January (prior to congregational meeting). At this point an evaluation will be made to determine how many regular students would be signed up for Little Lambs. If the amount of students cannot, at the minimum, support salaries, then closing the school should be considered.
- Barbara discussed other possibilities for the possible rental of the facilities to Middletown for their program. (they have full day programs for special needs, lower income, and mainstream kids combined)
- Other issues discussed were licensing school with the State, with regard to the State wanted to get soil samples for parts of the property. This would be cost prohibitive unless we can claim provenance and qualify for the same.

Steve Miller presented the Property Report

- Steve presented a handout of items that were completed, in progress, and to do. The todo list was three pages long and was offered to the council members to read at their leisure.

Gil presented the Social Ministry Report

- First up was what to do with the funds that we have in place for Advent. Several different ideas were presented as to where to send the money. This discussion was tabled until next meeting.
- The COG program for the giving tree has been replaced by the Manna House program that Sharon introduced in Church on 12/07
- November food donations were taken to Calico Cat and Lunch Break
- Thank you letter was received from ELCA for our gift to World Hunger
- Crop walk netted us \$710.00 which included the matching funds from Thrivent. This was done with only three walkers.
- Mike reported that the first weekend in Feb. was the super bowl of caring. Will try to get the youth of the congregation involved.
- This will be immediately followed by the World Hunger appeal for the Lenten season. (Ash Wed – Easter)
- Pat Miller asked that an announcement be made as to who people should write checks to as they might feel more comfortable with this than with just putting cash in a plate or bowl.

Mike Carp presented the Youth and Family Report

- Meeting to be held next Sunday after Church to gauge interest
- Would like to have the youth of the Church discuss their vision of group
- Discussion was held regarding some type of event that would possibly stimulate more involvement from the youth of the Church.

January 25th will be the Congregational meeting – Gil will send out a letter

Gil reported the following

- Chairpersons need to prepare their annual reports for their respective committees.
- Narcotics Anonymous will not be using our facility
- No reply to the request for a Narthex enhancement committee
- Question was raised as to who scheduled the Stroke prevention event and if the Church receives any donation or compensation for use of the facility
- General discussion then ensued regarding policies about requesting use of the facility, charging a user fee for the facility, scheduling, etc...
- Pat suggested we come up with some sort of fee rate for different rooms. Steve will research going rates
- Gil presented the suggestion that we charge more per student for the German School
- Steve Miller volunteered to come up with an instruction sheet as to how to open and close the Church.
- Procedure for following up with Church visitors was sent to council members to review and will be resent by Gil. We will discuss at next meeting
- We are switching to Fios. Steve will coordinate installation.

Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Garry Westerweller

NARTHEX ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

The Church Council is looking for a few people to form an ad hoc Narthex Enhancement Committee. This committee is charged with the responsibility to improve the appearance of the entry to the church.

The narthex is the first thing visitors to Good Shepherd see as they move from the parking lot into the sanctuary and is the last thing they see as they leave the church.

If you wish to participate in this important assignment, please talk to a member of the CHURCH COUNCIL or PASTOR ED.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

In a few days, whistles will blow, fireworks will arch into the sky and, with a kiss or a handshake and the singing of "Auld Lang Syne", all of us will wish for the other a happy new year, as anno domini 2009 makes its appearance. I have never been completely sure what the expression, "auld lang syne" really means, but my handy Noah Webster informs me that it's a Scottish expression meaning, "old or long friendship" or "times fondly remembered".

Be that as it may, either meaning seems appropos when I consider the faithful remnant here at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd during the Christmas season and as the new year begins. I cherish the long time friendships I have made during more than thirty years of membership in this congregation and I will always fondly remember so many dear friends who once were stalwart members of this church but now have relocated or have been welcomed into the church triumphant.

I welcome 2009 as an opportunity for the continuation of outreach to our neighbors in Monmouth County, which Good Shepherd began this year. Under Pastor Schmidt's leadership, I look forward to the growth of the congregation and a return to our place in the life of our cluster as well as the New Jersey Synod.

Lots of folks begin a new year by listing "New Year's Resolutions", which they hope will make life better for them in the coming year. Now would also be a great time for this parish to make a list of "resolutions" for 2009, a list which reflects our resolute desire to be a meaningful place of worship in this corner of Monmouth County.

Let us "drink a cup of kindness yet, for auld Land syne". Happy New Year to you all.
Gil Vatter

SOCIAL MINISTRY REPORT (submitted by Gil Vatter)

1. December was "pasta month" and we collected all kinds of pasta, along with the necessary sauce, etc. Please remember your hungry neighbors when you shop for groceries.
2. In December, all collected food was shared by Lunch Break in Red Bank and St. Mark's Food Bank in Keansburg. The amount was enhanced with the help of the New Jersey State Youth Orchestra, which continued to bring food to rehearsals during the month. Thanks to Larry and Shirley Jackson for helping to distribute the food.
3. Good Shepherd will participate in the SOUPERBOWL OF CARING in February. See Mike Carp for more information.
4. Good Shepherd contributed over \$900 to St. Mark's Food Kitchen in 2008. If you would like to be a "sponsor" for St. Mark's in 2009, please see any member of the CHURCH COUNCIL.

Youth Orchestra To Play January 10 Concert (submitted by Pat Miller)

The 2009 concert of the Chamber Music Players of the New Jersey State Youth Orchestra (NJSYO) at Good Shepherd will take place on Saturday, January 10, at 2:00 pm. The concert will benefit the Little Lambs School. Since we scheduled the concert to coincide with the Epiphany season, the musicians will include some Christmas favorites in their selection of music. The 2009 concert is the fifth year for this annual event.

Previous programs performed at Good Shepherd have included selections by classical composers such as Handel, Mozart, Vivaldi, Schubert and Telemann, as well as more contemporary popular pieces. Last year a program favorite was Zaerr's *Celtic Suite* for harp and orchestra.

The Chamber Music Players has been in existence since the fall of 2004 and consists of talented high school string and flute players, with special guest musicians. Concerts typically include works for chamber orchestra, small ensembles, and soloists, both with and without a conductor.

The conductor of the Chamber Music Players is Katherine Swierczewska-Roselli. Katherine began playing the violin at age 6 while living in her native Poland. She moved to the US when she was 16 and played in orchestras in high school and college. She earned her MBA and worked on Wall Street. After the events of September 11, 2001, she decided that life was too short and that she should be doing something she loves to do; she wanted to share her passion for music with children. Today Katherine teaches stringed instruments in four elementary schools in Toms River. She plays with the Monmouth Symphony and the Garden State Philharmonic.

The relationship between the NJSYO Chamber Music Players and Good Shepherd comes as a result of Good Shepherd's having hosted the NJSYO rehearsals each Saturday morning, as well as its summer String Camp since 2004. As a thank-you to Good Shepherd for the use of its facilities, the NJSYO has performed in these concerts annually for the benefit of the Little Lambs School. The NJSYO is an orchestra open to young musicians, with an emphasis on string players, of all abilities by audition in Monmouth County.

Admission is free; there will be a freewill offering. Contributions will be matched by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans' Care in Congregations program. Refreshments will be served following the concert. Volunteers from the congregation are requested to contribute finger-food items (appetizers or desserts) for the reception.

AROUND THE PARISH (submitted by Gil Vatter)

1. ANDY MATHISEN and MIKE CARP announced that Good Shepherd's participation in the CROP WALK resulted in a gift of \$710.
2. Thanks to DEBBIE BLACKBURN and her FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE for a wonderful Christmas party on December 7. More than 60 people attended and a great time was had by all. Special thanks to MAUREEN BARTLETT and GARRY WESTERWELLER for their parts in the festivities. Garry's "quiz" was the hit of the evening.
3. The congregation was treated to the sound of children's voices on two recent worship services:

The children of the LITTLE LAMBS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
The children of the GERMAN SCHOOL

Everyone in attendance is grateful to the children for sharing their Christmas music.

4. Thanks to PASTOR DAVE MANGIAN for substituting for PASTOR ED on December 14. PASTOR DAVE has been with us several times before.
5. We were happy to greet ANNE (Rajala) and SCOTT MEDLING, visiting from Santa Cruz, California.

6. Congratulations are due to LIL and BILL NEMCIK on the birth of their first grandchild, LILY ANNA NEUMAN.

7. Sorry to hear that PAT and PASTOR ED'S riverboat cruise was unexpectedly cancelled. They tried to substitute for the lost "cruise" with a trip to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

8. Congratulations to LOIS and GEORGE FRANK as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

9. PAT and BRIAN DUNNE spent a week in Aruba earlier this month.

10. ALVIRA GILLE sends her best holiday regards to all her friends at Good Shepherd.

11. MIAE PARK'S son, JON fell and broke his wrist in mid December, just before his school concert and the Sunday he was to accompany our SENIOR CHOIR. We will miss Jon's cello until the bone heals.

GOOD SHEPHERD "SPONSORS" PROGRAM

The Good Shepherd "sponsors" program was established to help support the kitchen at St. Mark's Church in Keansburg. During 2008, the "sponsors" supplied over \$900 to the pantry and the program will be offered again in 2009.

There were twelve "families" supporting the program this year, including the attendees at the Ladies Luncheon Group. If you would like to become a sponsor for 2009, please speak to Patty or Gil Vatter.

Submitted by Barbara Benson



Christmas Greetings from His Little Lambs

It's getting very busy as Christmas approaches.

Just before Thanksgiving we held our 2nd annual Gift Auction and Basket Bazaar. It was an evening of fun! With 75 gift baskets and special prizes, I think everyone went home with something! The donations of baskets and gifts were fabulous and came from many corners. We are always amazed at the variety and the generosity of the donors that make up the event. It is not possible to list all who were so thoughtful in donating these outstanding items to the event, but please know that it is truly appreciated and won't be forgotten. I also want to acknowledge some special helpers who really made the day and evening of the bazaar go very smoothly. Mr. Napolitano and PJ Benson set up the tables. Ernie Brinkman set up the chairs and did table cloths, while Barbara Hahre decorated them. Grace and Colleen Wagner finished wrapping up baskets and put out the ticket buckets. At the event Elaine and Lou Medici collected donations at the door and Pat Miller (just landed from Germany) helped with the 50/50, the sweeps table and the Birthday Board. The German School wished to utilize Frank Hall for their St. Michaels Fest so they volunteered to put all the tables and chairs back so that everything would be nice for Sunday morning. I know I must be forgetting helpers (please forgive me...old brain) but it was really a special night and it would not have happened without the kind care of the congregation, the parents of our Little Lambs and friends of both.

Another event found us recently at a special book fair Barnes and Noble / Holmdel. This was an opportunity to do Christmas shopping and help Little Lambs at the same time. We had many shoppers and volunteer wrappers that came out and we are very grateful! Barnes and Noble will be sending us a check in the New Year for about

\$350 a percentage of our school's sales. The manager of the store said for a first time book fair, that was a very good result. Many thanks to everyone for coming to the store and for all those extra donations that went into the "wrapping" bucket for this year-end fund raising event.

The really fun things happen with the children. St Catharine's invited us over to their fellowship hall to see a visiting group of young ballerinas who danced most of the story of the Nutcracker for us. The children of both schools sat with eyes wide as the music played and these talented girls (no older than 13) spun this magical tale in dance. It was a fun "field trip" and so convenient! To my surprise, three of the dancers had been my students at King of Kings School. It was a joy to see them again and remember each other (even though they are now almost as tall as me!)

And I don't remember if I told you how the school bus came to visit. Mr. Lou stopped by one day to allow the children to experience a school bus, up close. Of course the wheels are bigger than the children are and they were excited to see the lights and the blinking stop sign (It's an octagon Mrs. Benson) One little boy was worried it was going to take him somewhere but when he was assured that the bus was not running, he relaxed and marveled at the really long seat belts and the really big seats. (he asked days later "The school bus isn't going anywhere is it?") We appreciate the time that Lou gives to us all the time, but this special visit was really a treat.

Christmas Care took place on Monday evening December 15. Volunteers from school babysat children and siblings of the congregation and school families (ages 3 to 11) while the grownups shopped for the holidays.. The children brought a boxed dinner and saw a Christmas video, sang songs and made Christmas crafts. It was a fun night.

As we approach the Christmas break we will be busy baking and getting everything ready just like we do at home. We will have a family get together on our last day when we will celebrate Jesus' birthday and SING and eat Christmas treats.

Our small group of families is very special. They are helping us with the Manna House Christmas outreach. They pay their tuition on time, contribute to our fund raisers and always tell of their love for us. We lost two children who moved, but then gained two children who found us during the potty training seminars. We are holding three open houses for registration. December 12, January 10 and January 17th all Saturdays between 10 AM and noon. Tell people with small children about us. They can visit our website at little-lambs.us.

We look with hope to the New Year and remember in this blessed season why we are called. We are all little lambs of the Good Shepherd.



Blessed Christmas to all !

Good Shepherd Outreach to other Organizations (submitted by Clem Hergenhan)

Just to keep everyone informed about ongoing activities at Good Shepherd.

- The German School meets on Tuesdays 10am – noon and 5:30 – 8:00 and Thursdays 4:00 – 8:30
 - The NJ State Youth Orchestra practices every Saturday, 9am – noon.
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A FEW NOTES FROM THE SENIOR CHOIR

The Senior Choir will sing several anthems during the 10:00 PM communion service on Christmas Eve and will lead the traditional singing of "Silent Night" by candle light an the end of the service.

At future worship services, the choir will sing:

"Eternal Rose" by David Lantz

"Be Born in Us" by David Gaines and Ruth Schram

"When Salvation Was Born" by Susan Naylor Callaway

"One Holy Night" by Gilbert M. Martin

You are invited to attend choir rehearsals on Thursday evenings at 7:30 PM. Come and see how much fun it is.

Holmdel First Aid Squad (submitted by Clem Hergenhan)

The Holmdel First Aid Squad is looking for new members to continue to provide excellent service to its neighbors They've asked us to make this need known to our members. If you think you can help please call 732-946-3239 or go to their website <http://HolmdelFirstAidSquad.org>

Voice Newsletter Articles (submitted by Nancy & Clem Hergenhan)

If you have articles or announcements for the Voice please email them to us at the addresses below or call us.

If you wish to receive the Voice via email, please send us your email addresses, or call us.

Home phone 732-946-9084 clem@csfcorp.com nancyh@comcast.net

January 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 10:00 Service	5 7:00 Fin Cmte Mtg	6	7 1:00 & 7:00 Bible Study 6:00 Conf Class	8 7:30 – 9:00 Choir Practice	9	10 2pm LL benefit concert by Chamber Orch Group
11 10:00 Service	12 12:00 LL Cmte Mtg 7:00 Council Mtg	13	14 1:00 & 7:00 Bible Study 6:00 Conf Class	15 7:30 – 9:00 Choir Practice	16	17 10:30 Monmouth Civic Chorus
18 10:00 Service	19	20 Compassionate Friends	21 1:00 & 7:00 Bible Study 6:00 Conf Class	22 7:30 – 9:00 Choir Practice	23	24
25 10:00 Service & Annual Cong Meeting	26	27	28 1:00 & 7:00 Bible Study 6:00 Conf Class	29 7:30 – 9:00 Choir Practice	30	31