

# The Voice of the Good Shepherd

## February, 2009

### From The Pastor

Greetings in Christ!

February is a exciting month for us at Good Shepherd -- a new Bible Study begins, the Epiphany Season continues and Lent begins! Following our Annual Meeting on January 25 we can move ahead with a new vision and hope for the year ahead.

On Wednesday, February 4, we will begin a new Bible Study series on Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. The times will continue to be 1 and 7 p.m. I hope that you will plan to join us and bring a friend.

Ephesus was visited by Paul on his third missionary journey (Acts 18:24 - 19:41). He remained there for three years, the longest time Paul spent in any one place. Ephesians is addressed to a group of believers who are rich beyond measure in Christ but who are living as spiritual paupers - ignorant of their wealth. Ephesians is one of the four "Prison Epistles" -- Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon) -- written by Paul during his first imprisonment in AD 60-62. There will also be a surprise or two along the way. We have an exciting adventure ahead of us in this Letter. I hope you will place to join us each week.

Our Sermon Series: PRAYER POWER, continues during February, as we prepare for the Lenten Season:

Feb. 1 -- Epiphany 4

PRAYER POWER: "Strength for Body and Spirit" Mark 1:21-28

Feb. 8 -- Epiphany 5

PRAYER POWER: "Believing with Joy" Mark 1:29-39

Feb. 15 -- Epiphany 6

PRAYER POWER: "Doing What We Ought to Do" II Kings 5:1-12

Feb. 22 -- TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

PRAYER POWER: "Seeing Beyond the Turmoil" Mark 9:2-9

ASH WEDNESDAY -- February 25

HOLY COMMUNION AND GIVING OF ASHES 1 and 7 p.m.

Sermon: PRAYER POWER: "A New and Honest Heart" Psalm 51

I hope you will be a part of each of these opportunities to grow in your faith in the Lord Jesus.

Peace and Joy,

Pastor Ed

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## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please plan on attending on January 25<sup>th</sup> right after the 10:00 service.

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**Council Meeting Minutes** (*Draft copy, not reviewed by council*) **January 12, 2009**  
(submitted by Andy Mathisen)

The meeting was called to order by President Gil Vatter at 7:00 PM.

Attending were: Pastor Ed Schmidt, Mike Carp, Andy Mathisen, Lou Medici, Sharon Oberkehr, Pat Miller, Steve Miller, Tom Tehve, Karl Torjussen, Barbara Benson, and Gil Vatter. Absent was Garry Westerweller

The meeting was opened with prayer by Gil Vatter

Pastor Schmidt led with a gospel message concerning a temptation period in the old testament and the willingness to resist against external evils.

The council approved the minutes of the meeting of December 8, 2008

Pat Miller and Tom Tehve presented the Treasurer's report and a balance sheet. The December income was very positive and a \$10,000 check was received as well. A congregation letter from the Synod was passed to review by Tom Tehve.

Sharon Oberkehr spoke about successful Christmas program given by our children this past December. Many families in Christian Ed are inviting neighbors and children to attend church to increase our members and exposure to our church.

Lou Medici presented the Finance Report with a revised budget for income for 2009 lowered to \$122,500. Pledges to date are at approximately \$93,000. This budget will show a shortfall of \$11,655 for 2009.

Pink House committee will discuss what to do with this property. There is \$800 in the budget for '09 for this expenditure.

Steve Miller 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.

Barbara Benson – Little Lambs Open House advertising flyers to be displayed for January 17<sup>th</sup>, January 24<sup>th</sup> and January 31<sup>st</sup>. By February 1<sup>st</sup> we will know if we have enough enrollment for the Fall/09.

Gil – Social Ministry – Food Drive responses from the congregation have been excellent for '08. St. Marks monetary contributions will continue and have been pledged until August '09 so far.

Mike Carp – Souperbowl of Caring scheduled for February 1<sup>st</sup> has been advertised over these past few Sundays. A note has been placed in the bulletin to make checks payable to Good Shepherd marked for the "Souperbowl of Caring". Expected donations of approximately \$600 is the goal for our church with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans matching \$200 which is a 3 to 1 contribution. Crop walk held last year was given \$175 matching funds from Thrivent. \$1,000 from the Advent fund will be added to the Souperbowl of Caring as well.

Worship and Music – Altar Guild is still in need of volunteers. Usher and Lay Reader volunteers are adequate at this time. New Lenten program to start February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Youth Activities – Mike Carp and several adults and teens met with Jason Reed from our Synod on January 4<sup>th</sup> at Good Shepherd. Jason spoke about what has really worked for our church in developing Youth programs and offered some ideas for future growth. A follow up meeting is being planned for February / March timeframe.

Pastor reported that our Christmas Eve Services were well attended with 17 people at the 7pm service, 72 at the 10pm services for a total of 87. Michael Ganz funeral service was well attended by several Good Shepherd members. Bible Study continues of Wednesdays with 2 more weeks left with studying the book of Daniel. Next bible study will cover the book of Ephesians which will be a 12 week study starting in February. January 25<sup>th</sup> we will hold our Congregational meeting. Ash Wednesday service will be held of February 25<sup>th</sup>.

All Annual Reports by council members are due to Pat Dunn by January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Narthex enhancement committee has 2 volunteers to assist

Thank you note will be sent to Wendel Smith for his generous contribution

Budget amendment will be publicized in the Voice to show expenditures for '09 projected to be \$134,155 with income of \$122,500 and therefore a shortfall of \$11,655

Steve proposed a new room rate schedule for outside groups / organizations using our facility. Steve proposed to increase the German School rate from \$6/hr to \$8/hr. Second by Andy Mathisen. Approved by all. Gil to write a letter to the German school for their approval. NJ Symphony use of Frank Hall, motion to charge \$20 per person per year x 30 people or \$600 annually. Second by Andy Mathisen. Gil to write letter to NJ Symphony to advise.

The council proposed the following room rate fees for Profit Organizations:

- \$35 for small classroom for 4 hours
- \$100 – use of Frank Hall for 4 hours
- \$25/hr for 2 kitchens

For Non-Profit Organizations, ½ of profit rate:

Begin using this fee schedule on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

- \$50 – Frank Hall for 4 hours
- \$20 – small classroom for 4 hours
- \$15/hr for 2 kitchens

\$100 janitorial Service for clean-up  
All in favor – passed.

Procedure for recording and follow-up for church visitors was revised with minor change.

Next meeting will be held on February 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm with the recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

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## **THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

"Ask, and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened." - Luke 11-9

For a variety of reasons, 2008 was a difficult year for the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. Of course, the resignation of our pastor in early May, soon followed by the resignation of the Council president and the disappointing loss of several members during the same month, contributed to our frustration and concern. It had also been evident over several months that worship services, as well as other activities in the parish were reflecting a feeling of discontent and dissatisfaction.

Fortunately, this quickly changed by July, after reorganization of the Congregation Council and the arrival of Pastor Ed Schmidt, who became our interim pastor. The welcome change in the atmosphere of the worship services and the parish organizations was clear, was noticed by returning former members and has continued through the balance of the year.

Now, after a lot of hard work by so many people, we can look back at the second half of last year with a sense of achievement and, at the same time, a feeling of relief. We look forward to 2009, anticipating an even better year. Financially, we seem to be finally moving in the proper direction:

- The net loss, accumulated during the first half, ended up less than budgeted.
- Expenses were less than budgeted.
- Income in 2008 exceeded the budget.

In other words, the "faithful remnant", plus new attendees, plus Pastor Ed have provided the means for us to finish 2008 in better shape than expected. Hallelujah!!!! Not only have we managed to pay our bills in a timely fashion (staff, heat, electric, water, etc.), we also have been able to share with others outside the parish. We gave about \$8,100 to house a family in Red Bank, about \$3,000 to ELCA World Hunger, ELCA Disaster Relief, the Heifer International project, the Crop Walk and four area food pantries. In addition, the amount of food collected and distributed by Social Ministry throughout the year was outstanding.

So, despite our limited size, limited budget and limited outreach, we enter 2009 with a determination to continue our mission here in Holmdel and a resolve to do even better in the coming year. We are challenged by the Gospel to overmatch the past and, with God's help and the effort of all of you in the congregation, we will succeed.

Gil Vatter

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**SOCIAL MINISTRY REPORT** (submitted by Gil Vatter)

"Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." - Matthew 25:40

By the time you read this article, there will be 12 "sponsors" for the 2009 St. Mark's Kitchen project. The response has been great and we have already begun to duplicate the 2008 program by sending a January check to the kitchen. St. Mark's along with all the food "kitchens" and "pantries" in Monmouth county are struggling to keep up with the increased demand for food from some of our neighbors who are not as fortunate as we are. We thank every one of you who signed up to participate. This is truly "outreach".

We thank those who have been responsible for bringing the tremendous amount of food that has been distributed to the local food pantries over the past year. You really have been faithful and the reaction of the pantries has been wonderful. We will continue to distribute food to local food pantries this year and hope that we can provide enough to help offset the large increase in the families needing help to feed themselves.

While we are thanking people, we must include all those who gave checks to World Hunger, Disaster Relief, the Heifer Project, the Crop Walk and gifts for the Manna House Christmas project. The congregation has been generous in supporting these ministries and we look forward to your continued help in the coming year.

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**A Letter from Lois and George Frank**

Dear Friends:

Now that we are back in Florida and unpacked, it is time to unpack the fond memories of our week in New Jersey at Christmas.

We thank all of you at Good Shepherd for the warmth of your reception as we worshiped with you. And a special thanks for the way in which you shared in our 50th Anniversary! The card shower, being remembered in the prayers, the cake reception following the service and your personal words of congratulations meant so much to us.

We look back with joy on the years we spent with you and it was wonderful to realize again why we always considered Good Shepherd our "second family".

In Christ and with Gratitude,  
Lois and George Frank

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## **AROUND THE PARISH** (submitted by Gil Vatter)

1. Thanks to GRACE BRINKMAN for faithfully providing baked goods for everyone to enjoy each Sunday morning after the worship service with our coffee.
2. Many happy returns to KIM WHERLI, BILL WHERLI, BILL THEUNE and FRED OBERKEHR, all of whom celebrated birthdays in January.
3. Happy 50th anniversary to LOIS and GEORGE FRANK. It was a treat to see the Franks at the December 28th worship service, along with all four daughters and their families.
4. Our prayers go out to the Stetz family on the death of Randi's sister in Norway and to the family of Mike Ganz.
5. LILLIAN NEMCIK has been staying close to home since she injured her leg. Get well, Lil, we miss you.
6. Have you noticed the long faces on our resident Eagles fans and "Big Blue" rooters? Since New York and Philadelphia were eliminated from Super bowl consideration, we notice lost enthusiasm from PASTOR ED, DICK ALBERTI, CHARLIE MILLER and FRED OBERKEHR. Just wait'll next year.
7. MARIAN WILLIAMSON has been having more trouble with her teeth than anyone deserves. Hope it's over soon Marion.
8. GRACE and ERNIE BRINKMAN spent a week in California with their kids in early January and experienced an earthquake at no extra charge.
9. It was great to see JONATHAN, MIAE PARK'S son, playing his cello during the January 4 worship service, even with a cast on his wrist. Sounded good, Jon.
10. The Christmas Eve candlelight service was a beautiful conclusion to Good Shepherd's celebration of the birth of Jesus. Silent Night always sounds a little bit better, when sung with candles.
11. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd stetson to everyone who signed up to put poinsettias on the altar during the Christmas season and thanks so much to the ALTAR GUILD for their usual fine job in dressing up the church for the holidays.
12. Another tip of the G.S. boater to everyone who agreed to underwrite the program at ST. MARK'S KITCHEN in Keansburg.
13. Did you know, according to the "Gallup Poll", a weekly measurement of church attendance in the United States detects no increase because of the continuing nationwide economic downturn.
14. Congrats to AMANDA WESTERWELLER, whose dance troupe recently performed at half time for the NEW YORK NETS.
15. Remember in your prayers, BRIAN DUNN, husband of PAT DUNN, who was unexpectedly hospitalized on January 19. Get well soon, Brian.

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## **Lenten Soup Suppers**

If you would be interested in gathering at church Thursday evenings for an hour or so to share soup and Lenten devotions, please contact Nancy Hergenhan ([nancyh@comcast.net](mailto:nancyh@comcast.net) or 732-946-9084)

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## **Greeting Visitors** (submitted by Gil Vatter)

Greeting visitors, making them comfortable and inviting them to return is one of the factors which will help us increase the size of the congregation as well as enable us to expand our mission and service to the community.

The Congregation Council has drafted a procedure to remind us all of our responsibility to greet visitors and show them that they are welcome to be a part of this parish.

### **PROCEDURE FOR GREETING AND FOLLOW-UP FOR CHURCH VISITORS**

The corps of USHERS is the first line of observation of new and repeat visitors, while the MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION play an important role in greeting visitors, orienting them to our worship form and making them feel at home after worship.

USHERS should arrive at church at least 15 minutes before a service is to begin in order to assure that all necessary preparations for the service are made. When an USHER notices a stranger or a repeat visitor, they will welcome them with a smile and introduce them to other members of the congregation who are nearby. It is also the responsibility of every USHER to be a first line representative of the church, since their initial greeting reflects how Good Shepherd responds to visitors in the eyes of visitors. The USHER should remind every visitor to sign the Visitors Book in the narthex, with name, address, phone number and/or e-mail address for follow-up contacts.

The USHERS on duty will check the Visitors Book each Sunday, after the service, in the event a visitor has recorded any information in the book. All available information from the book will be placed on the CHURCH SECRETARY'S desk, marked "visitor" with a note to the CHURCH SECRETARY to provide a copy to the PASTOR, the EVANGELISM CHAIR, and the EDITORS of the "Shepherd's Voice". The USHERS will make sure that there are pencils and information cards throughout the sanctuary, to assure that visitors may record information or requests during or after the worship service.

A copy of the Good Shepherd information folder, along with a letter from the PASTOR, the EVANGELISM CHAIR or the COUNCIL PRESIDENT will be sent to the visitor at once, inviting them to worship with us again.

The PASTOR also has an important role in greeting visitors at the beginning of each worship service and will call on visitors to make themselves known as well as sign the Visitors Book in the narthex.

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY and the COUNTERS will record the names, addresses and phone numbers from the offerings made by new or repeat visitors. All available information will be placed on the CHURCH SECRETARY'S desk, marked "visitor", with a copy to the PASTOR, the EVANGELISM CHAIR, the EDITORS of the "Shepherd's Voice" and the COUNCIL PRESIDENT.

A copy of the Good Shepherd information folder, along with a letter from the PASTOR, the EVANGELISM CHAIR or the COUNCIL PRESIDENT will be sent, at once, to the visitor, inviting them to worship with us again.

The CHURCH SECRETARY will add the name, address and any other information about all visitors to the master membership list, so that any general communications from the church may be sent to them.

Enacted by Congregation Council - January 12, 2009

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## **Youth Concert for Little Lambs Cancelled**

The concert scheduled for January 10 by the Chamber Music Group of the New Jersey Youth Orchestra had to be cancelled because of snow. It was to have been a benefit for Little Lambs School. We may be able to schedule another concert for the spring.

Several members of the congregation donated baked goods for the reception (which we enjoyed after church the next day). And a few people showed up for the concert anyway. However, we were counting on the money that would have been raised at the concert for the ongoing operation of the school. We also applied for matching funds from Thrivent. The orchestra has already agreed to contribute money toward this.

And we are hoping that our members who had planned to donate at the concert will consider making that donation now. You can make the check out to Little Lambs School or else make a note on your regular giving envelope that an amount is designated for Little Lambs, and then either drop it in the offering plate any Sunday or mail it to the church. Anything you give will be matched 1/3 by Thrivent Care in Communities. For those who are Thrivent members, there are Giving Plus forms in the rack in the Narthex for getting matching funds from that Thrivent program.

Little Lambs thanks you for your ongoing support.

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## **LUNCHBREAK THANKS GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH FOR FOOD DONATIONS**

Lunch Break  
P.O. Box 2215  
Red Bank, NJ 07701

January 7, 2009

Mr. Gilbert Vatter  
The Lutheran Church of the Good shepherd  
112 Middletown Road  
Holmdel, NJ 07733

Dear Mr. Vatter & Friends,

Thank you so much for the extremely generous donation of food for Lunch Break. Your donation was overwhelming and a blessing to so many families and individuals in our area who need help at this time.

Your donation will also help us to continue the work we provide everyday to those in much need and at a time like this in our community, coupled with the winter months upon us, there are many needs to be met.

Again, thank you all for the support shown to Lunch Break. As the new director at Lunch Break, I look forward to future opportunities to work with you.

Sincerely,

Gwendolyn O. Love  
Executive Director

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## **UNITED WAY SEEKS VOLUNTEER TAX ASSISTORS**

The United Way of Monmouth County, along with Brookdale Community College, is looking for people to serve as Volunteer Tax Assistors. These volunteers will provide low to middle income residents with access to

VITA (Voluntary Income Tax assistance) from February 9, 2009 to April 15, 2009.

Volunteers will be trained to prepare and electronically file basic tax returns for thousands of Monmouth County residents. In 2006, over 20,000 residents were helped.

If you can help, please call 732-938-5988 or go to 1415 Wycoff Road in Farmingdale.

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### **Personal Ministries**

Congregation members often contribute to social ministry projects and do not expect recognition. Such personal ministries could be examples for others. Steve Miller is gathering social support examples (anything from simple to complex). If you are engaged in your own personal mission, community support, or social ministry, or if you are aware of other unrecognized contributions by congregation members, please contact Steve Miller ([stevemiller@comcast.net](mailto:stevemiller@comcast.net); 732-671-5917)

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### **GOOD SHEPHERD COUNCIL SETS FEE SCHEDULE FOR FACILITIES USE**

At the regular meeting of the Congregation Council of January 12, 2009, a schedule of fees for the use of church facilities was unanimously adopted. The schedule was prepared after research into charges for facilities usage by other churches in this area. The new fee list will go into effect as of February 1, 2009 and will remain in effect until modified by the Council.

This change in policy has become necessary because of the continuing rise in our utility costs, costs which continue to rise with no apparent end in sight. In addition, the limited income of the congregation prohibits us from completely underwriting the total cost of offering our facilities to organizations outside the parish and requires us to find funds to help defray these increased expenses.

The schedule is as follows:

#### **FOR PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS:**

- Frank Hall/Sanctuary - \$100 per four hours
- Small class rooms - \$35 per four hours
- Kitchen - \$25 per hour
- Janitorial service - \$100 deposit

NOTE - The \$100 deposit will be returned in full or in part as areas used are cleaned by the renting organization.

#### **NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS:**

- Frank Hall/Sanctuary - \$50 per four hours
- Small class rooms - \$20 per four hours
- Kitchen - \$15 per hour
- Janitorial service - \$100 deposit

NOTE: The \$100 deposit will be returned in full or in part as areas used are cleaned by the renting organization.

Members of the congregation who have questions or comments about this fee schedule, should contact any member of the Church Council for clarification.

Gil Vatter  
For the Council

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## **A FEW NOTES FROM THE SENIOR CHOIR**

The Senior Choir met for rehearsal and to enjoy a holiday party at the home of Patty and Gil Vatter in early January. Everyone brought a special dish and the food was delicious. We ate, we sang, we ate some more and a good time was had by all.

The choir has been preparing new anthems for the 10:00 AM communion service:

"The Peace of God" by John Rutter

"Walk With Me , Lord" by Mark Weston

"To God Be Joyful" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Come join us. Singing is an enhancement of the worship service and it's fun!

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### **ROBERT MARSHALL, FORMER LCA PRESIDENT DIES AT 90**

The Rev. Dr. Robert J. Marshall, an ecumenist who in the 1970's led the Lutheran Church in America, then the nation's largest Lutheran church, and helped pave the way for its merger with two other denominations, died in December in Allentown, Pa. He was 90 years old.

A pastor and biblical scholar who lectured on the Old Testament in Lutheran theological schools in Chicago and Columbia, S.C., Dr. Marshall was a lifelong advocate of interfaith and interdenominational cooperation.

Elected as president of the LCA in 1968 after the sudden death of Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, Dr. Marshall served in the post for 10 years

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### **SOUPER BOWL OF CARING MARKS TWENTY YEARS OF SHARING**

February 1, 2009 will mark the 20th anniversary of the SOUPER BOWL OF CARING. In 1989, the youth of Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina addressed the issue of hunger in their community. They invited 21 other congregations to join them in collecting \$5,700, which was donated to local charities that provide assistance to those in need.

Over the past 20 years, more than \$50 million has been raised in cash and food for organizations that fight hunger. From a single youth group, the SOUPER BOWL OF CARING has become a powerful nationwide movement that touches more lives each year.

You can be a part of this movement that begins in our own back yard and reaches across the nation, sharing god's love with those who need our compassion and care.  
Please give generously on Super Bowl Sunday.

**EVERY PENNY COLLECTED WILL GO TO HELP OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED**

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**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](mailto:clem@csfcorp.com) [nancyh@comcast.net](mailto:nancyh@comcast.net)

Past issues of the Voice along with other information can be found at our websites  
**good-shepherd.us** and **little-lambs.us**

# February 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 10:00 Service	<b>2</b> 7:00 Fin Cmte Mtg	<b>3</b> 10:00 -12:00 & 5:30 – 8:00 German School	<b>4</b> 1:00 & 7:00 Bible Study 6:00 Conf Class	<b>5</b> 7:30 – 9:00 Choir Practice 4:00 – 8:30 German School	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9:00 – 12:00 NJSYO
<b>8</b> 10:00 Service	<b>9</b> 12:00 – LL Board Mtg 7:00 Council Mtg	<b>10</b> 10:00 -12:00 & 5:30 – 8:00 German School	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 7:30 – 9:00 Choir Practice 4:00 – 8:30 German School	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9:00 – 12:00 NJSYO
<b>15</b> 10:00 Service	<b>16</b> Presidents Day – office closed	<b>17</b> 10:00 -12:00 & 5:30 – 8:00 German School 7:30 – Compassionate Friends	<b>18</b> 1:00 & 7:00 Bible Study 6:00 Conf Class	<b>19</b> 7:30 – 9:00 Choir Practice 4:00 – 8:30 German School	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9:00 – 12:00 NJSYO
<b>22</b> 10:00 Service	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10:00 -12:00 & 5:30 – 8:00 German School	<b>25</b> 1:00 & 7:00 Bible Study 6:00 Conf Class	<b>26</b> 7:30 – 9:00 Choir Practice 4:00 – 8:30 German School	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9:00 – 12:00 NJSYO