

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

June 2009

(good-shepherd.us & little-lambs.us)

From The Pastor

GREETINGS IN CHRIST!

Pentecost is May 31 and is the third major festival of the Christian Church. Coming 50 days after Easter, it marks Christ's gift of the Holy Spirit to his followers. It is the official birthday of the Christian Church. In this way Pentecost should rank in an equal place with both Christmas and Easter. This year Pentecost could lose its impact because for us it is the weekend *after* Memorial Day. So for Pentecost 2009 let's make it special –

Confirmation of 3 young people will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. This concludes our study of Luther's Small Catechism. Include in your prayers Julia Blackburn, Justin DePalma and Hunter Dreuer and join us as these young people affirm the meaning of their Baptism on Pentecost.

"**THE SWORD OF THE LORD**" is our sermon theme for Pentecost and will be based on Acts 2:1-11 and Ephesians 6.

Red is the color of Pentecost and represents the fire of the Holy Spirit. *Wear something red for Pentecost.* A red dress, jacket or tie will add to the festive mood of the day.

Prepare now to worship on Pentecost and invite someone to come with you!

Let's glorify Jesus who is Lord of everything! As the Holy Spirit guides us he will teach us the truth about Jesus that we may worship and praise his Holy Name.

As Martin Luther writes in the Small Catechism:

"The Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, and sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it united with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church day after day he fully forgives my sins and the sins of all believers."

Peace and Joy,

Pastor Ed

Council Meeting Minutes (Draft copy, not reviewed by council) May 11, 2009

In attendance were the following:

Pastor Ed, Gil Vatter, Mike Carp, Garry Westerweller, Tom Tehve, Andy Mathisen, Steve Miller, Lil Nemcik, and Barbara Benson.

Lou Medici, Pat Miller, and Sharon Oberkehr were excused. Karl Tourjussen was also not in attendance.

Gil opened the meeting with prayer

Devotions were led by Pastor Ed discussing Psalm 2. Discussion about the dialogue between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit regarding the Nations moving against the Lord, The Lord basically laughing at this notion, the Son saying the Nations will be defeated, and the Holy Spirit saying we should embrace the salvation.

"Happy are those who put their trust in him"

April Minutes as taken by Andy were accepted as revised.

Reports

Treasurer's Report presented by Tom Tehve.

- Holding our own on a YTD basis
- Bulletin should include a reminder to keep up contributions during the slower summer months
- ELCA world hunger collected \$671.00 which we will submit to Thrivent for matching funds. (further discussion on this topic in New Business.)

Christian Education Report

- VBS will probably be scheduled for the second week of August.

Finance Committee Report

- There was no report at this time

Little Lambs Report presented by Barbara Benson

- Repeated attempts to contact Middletown Township to gauge their interest in an after school program has been frustrating as calls have not been returned.
- Barbara will investigate possibility of Bayshore Jointure program using the space
- Little Lambs program is winding down, Continued prayers for Mrs. Benson and Mrs. Wagner during this emotional time.
- Potters farm visit Being scheduled

Property Report was presented by Steve Miller

- Pastor's bath has been painted, (Thanks to Mike Carp and Bill Nemcik)
- Parking lot weed control has been done. (Thanks to Karl Tourjussen)
- Basement replacement window project is underway
- Replacement glass for coffee serving table is ordered and cost will be reimbursed to the church from the "glass breaker"
- Fred Oberkehr to hire plumber to repair drinking fountain
- Another work day is in the works for sometime in June.

In addition to his property report, Steve presented the council with the draft for May's Member of the month. (Barbara HaHer)

Social Ministry Report was presented by Gil

- 11 Full bags of toiletry items have been contributed so far by members of the congregation. Dish washing detergent seems to be the short item for now. This will be reviewed early June so we can decide what else we need to complete the sets.
- We received a letter from the Faith Fellowship Community Development Corp. announcing a Foreclosure Summit to be held on 6/5/09. An announcement with full details to be placed in the Voice.
- We received thank you notes from Family Promise, St Marks, Lunch Break and Calico Cat for our Souper Bowl of Caring donations.
- Council also received a thank you from Pat Dunn.
- All April food collections will go to St Marks.
- May's focus will be on collecting canned goods.

Worship and Music Report was presented by Andy

- Andy wished to acknowledge the great job that Nancy Hergenhan with the candles, wine and accessories.

Youth and Family Report was presented by Mike Carp

- Bowling Nite to be scheduled so that we can talk to the kids about the upcoming planned retreat.
- Mike proposed the formation of a Men's group to meet once a month.
- Mike would like the Men's group to assist in the following areas:
 - Take charge of property concerns
 - Help finance the youth group
 - Involvement with annual fund raiser for some sort of outreach program

Pastors Report

- Bible study of Psalms now complete
- Discussion ongoing regarding the subject of cults
- Memorial proposal to sing patriotic songs
- 5/31/09 will see us confirm three of our young members.
- Month of November we will have a Stewardship theme starting on November 1st and continuing for the next 3 Sundays.
- November 22nd will be commitment Sunday where Pledge cards should be handed in.
- A letter will go out to the congregation sometime in Oct. to outline this program.
- During the fall Bible study will be on the book of Revelation
- There will also be a 12 week series on the Minor Prophets

Note on Kurt Mathisens project to clear out the old Memorial Garden. Proposing a work day on Saturday, May 23rd between 10-2. Kurt to announce this in Church.

Presidents Report presented by Gil

- We received a letter from the Sons of Norway thanking us for the use of the facility
- ELCA leadership directory now lists all Council Members.
- No summer Orchestra camp will be held at Good Shepherd this year
- Pat, Andy, Gil, and Garry will make up the Executive Committee that will handle any business that comes up during the summer months of July and August, as council will not be formally meeting in those months. (Will also look at the possibility of not meeting in June as well)
- Sharon has presented the query as to how to add Marcia Manns name to the Branch and Vines Plaque. (Voted on in new Business)

Old Business

- No Old Business

New Business

- Steve Miller proposed that the church pay for the replacement of the glass on the coffee table and request that the reimbursement of the cost be made to the church as a donation. This motion was passed unanimously.
- Barbara requested that she be allowed to remain in her office for a period of one year after the close of the Little Lambs School. She will be administering a new venture tentatively called the "Little Lambs Learning Service." This endeavor would address common early learning dilemmas. This proposal would be at no cost to the Church other than a small electric bill. This motion was also unanimously approved but noted for good order, that the situation will be reviewed in six months.
- 2 requests have been made by the Holmdel First aid squad for contributions. Gil will check the old minutes to see what we have given in the past.

- Gil moved to allow Sharon Oberkehr to add Marcia Mann's name to the Branch and Vines Plaque in accordance with the standard procedures that are currently in place. This motion passed unanimously.
- The copier and the amount of copies that are being made on a monthly basis continues to be a concern. It appears that by sharing the copier with the German School we continue to be over our allotted contract number of copies. This has caused additional expense and maintenance issues. The best and most equitable solution would be to respectfully request that the German School invest in an inexpensive copier for their own use. This would alleviate any cause for concern by either party. Gil will contact the school.
- In addition, the service contract for the copier is up and must be renewed. Council voted unanimously to do this.
- The gas contract with intelligent energy is being discussed as we are having a difficult time comparing and discovering what the "true" savings are with this company. Gil will ask Pat Miller to compare and get back to him.

Good of the order

- Mike asked if we should have a Sunday School Picnic this year. Seems it was well attended last year. Will discuss with Sharon to come up with a date.
- We have collected \$671.00 for World Hunger. Mike proposed we add \$1000 from the Advent fund, send the money to Thrivent for matching funds, and then send, \$1100 to ELCA and \$1000 to Project Paul which is a local food bank in Keansburg. This motion was unanimously approved.

Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Garry Westerweller

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

"I think that I will never see,
A poem as lovely as a tree."

These lines from "Trees", Joyce Kilmer's most famous poem, are especially appropriate for this time of year in central New Jersey. It is every year at this time that I am most happy for the beauty of the shrubs, trees, bushes and flowers that beautify our homes and countryside and that includes the "campus" at Good Shepherd Church. It's big and, right now, it's green. What we need to keep it that way is a landscape service to trim, weed and plant with new flowers and shrubs.

Wait a minute.....Can you imagine what it would cost us to hire a landscape service to keep everything in good shape for the summer months? Actually, it's pretty expensive just to have the grass mowed on a regular basis, so having a professional care for the campus is out of the question, for now.

Our only alternative, as usual, is to rely on volunteers to do the job. There are already a few people in the parish who care for the lawn, the shrubs and the trees each "Work Day". The problem here is that work days are few and far between, there are too few people to do the work that has to be done and those who do come out to work are needed for work in or around the building.

Just think, if we had a dozen folks who came to the church even once a month to care for obvious outdoor needs, our campus would look fairly good over the summer.

If you think this is a good idea, but you aren't sure what needs to be done, ask Steve Miller or follow these few suggestions:

1. Buy a bottle of weed killer and spray the weeds in the parking lot, the bed next to the front door or the lawn itself or pick up some "Roundup" to eliminate growth in the parking lot or the flower beds.
2. If you're a gardener, pick up a flat of annuals or perennials at the supermarket or a local nursery and plant them out front or replace one of the old, spindly shrubs with a new one.
3. Pick up the twigs and branches from the lawn and from under the trees
4. Prune the trees and shrubs.
5. Rake the stones back in place around the parking lot.
6. Sweep the walkway in front of the church.
7. Assist Kurt Mathisen with his memorial garden project.

There must be a myriad of things that should be apparent to you, once you look at the outside of the church. We have inherited our church from those who planned, planted and cared for it in the past. Now, it's our responsibility to care for what we have been given.

Something even better; we could improve on this wonderful gift from the past.

Gil Vatter

GOOD SHEPHERD VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH.



Barbara HaHer

Barbara has been a long-term member of the Altar Guild. For years and years, she was on the Fellowship Committee, and continues to usher. She is proud of her accomplishments, for instance planning the poinsettia flowers, and purchasing the stands that allow the lovely poinsettia arrangements.

Barbara served on the church council, and was council secretary when Pastor Frank was here.

Barbara loved to play golf on outings with Beth Gebhart and others when Pastor Gebhart was here.

Barbara started and continues to lead the Good Shepherd women's Friday luncheons, whose purpose is to get to know the person next to you. Money donated from Women's luncheons has purchased the coffee server and the magazine wall rack in the Narthex. A future project is to enclose the closet of the "Cry Room" (behind the sanctuary viewing window).

Others report Barbara "Never has a bad word to say about anyone".

Barbara reflects the ideal person, in the May 10 sermon: smiling, and setting an example for others.

Barbara emphatically says she loves Good Shepherd - and wants the church to continue forever.

AROUND THE PARISH (submitted by Gil Vatter)

1. Former member BILL THEUNE retired from Greif, Inc. as of the first of May. Enjoy!!!!
2. Hooray for DIANE AND ANDY MATHISEN who recently celebrated 22 years of wedded bliss.
3. A tip of the Good shepherd beret to SHARON OBERKEHR and the children from our Sunday School for the Calico Cat poster in the narthex.
4. ELSA SNOW has moved from our area. We'll miss you Elsa.
5. RANDI STETZ is spending four weeks in Norway with family and friends.
6. A tip of the Good shepherd panama to CLEM HERGENHAN for sending an e-mail reminder about the Calico Cat Evening Food Pantry collection.
7. TRUDE and CHARLIE MILLER were present when their Connecticut grandson received his first communion in April.
8. Former member JOAN HORLACHER (DEBBIE BLACKBURN'S mother) is the proud owner of a brand, spanking new knee as of May 12.
9. A tip of the Good shepherd fedora to everyone in the congregation who has been bringing in items for the Calico Cat over the past few weeks.
10. REV. DAVID LAUDER was recently transferred to the North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA. He has relocated to Kalamazoo, Michigan.
11. PASTOR ED announced at the May Council meeting that the "Minor Prophets" were probably all under 21. (Barum-bum).
12. Congrats to MIAE PARK'S son JON for winning a spot in the ALL STATE ORCHESTRA. Way to go, JON!!!!
13. Nice to see VIV SISLIAN'S son Dave at the service on May 17.
14. REV. FRED NEIDERHISER was recently placed on "leave from call".
15. It was great fun to sing "Happy Birthday" to ERNIE BRINKMAN at a recent Sunday service. ERNIE turned 80 on May 6. To boot, there was even cake at Wednesday afternoon Bible study, thanks to GRACE.
16. A tip of the Good Shepherd fez to KARL TORJUSSON for applying weed killer around the parking lot.
17. PASTOR ED advised the congregation during the service on May 17 that if the Book of Ruth had not been written, we would be a "Ruthless people". (Barum-bum).
18. PATTY VATTER should probably be given a medal for putting up with yours truly for the past 56 years. We celebrate on May 30.
19. A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan, in which a man was beaten, robbed and left for dead. She described the situation in vivid detail so that her students would catch the drama. When she finished, she asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?" A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, "I think I'd throw up."-
20. The pastor noticed little Bobby staring at the large plaque that hung in the narthex of the church. It was covered with names and small American flags were mounted on either side of it.

The seven year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood by the little boy and said quietly, "Good morning Bobby."

"Good morning, pastor," replied the young man, still focused on the plaque. "Pastor, what is this?" "Well, Bobby, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service."

Soberly, they stood together, staring at the plaque. Little Bobby's voice was barely audible, trembling with concern, when he asked, "Which service, the 9:45 or the 11 o'clock?"

VOLUNTEER HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

Host homes are needed for the upcoming school year for 15 to 18 year old exchange students from Europe, South America and Asia. Share the world with your family and build lifelong international friendships.

Host families provide room, board and a once in a lifetime opportunity for their family and a lucky teen from another country.

For more information, please contact CASE toll free at 800-458-8336 or visit their website at www.case-usa.org

FAMILY PROMISE SENDS THANKS TO GOOD SHEPHERD

Family Promise of Monmouth County
PO Box 304
Keansburg, NJ 07734

May 4, 2009

Dear Friends,

We received your thoughtful donation of \$732.00 on April 17 and would like to extend our thanks on behalf of the families we serve. Both our board and staff appreciate your gift and want to assure you that we utilize all donations in meeting the needs of the families in our care.

If you have any questions about our programs, services or volunteer opportunities, please do not hesitate to contact our organization at 732-495-1050.

Most sincerely,
Family Promise of Monmouth County, Inc.

THANK YOU FROM ST. MARK'S KITCHEN

The Kitchen at St. Mark's, Inc.
P.O. Box 193
Keansburg, NJ 07734

May 3, 2009

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your very generous donation of \$1,000. Your gift helps us continue to meet the needs of the hungry in the Keansburg community.

In the last two weeks of April, we averaged 50-60 people a day in the kitchen, hitting a high of 65 at the very end.

Thanks again for all that you do to help our neighbors in need.

Sincerely,

Nancy Mester, Co-Director

Doreen Minuutella, Co-Director

SOCIAL MINISTRY REPORT

1. The contributions to the CALICO CAT Evening Food Pantry keep adding up in the "old kitchen". As matching sets are accumulated, they are placed in plastic bags and piled in the narthex so that everyone arriving in or leaving the sanctuary will see the progress we are making. Mid-June is not far away and we still have a lot to collect. Please support this project.
2. All collected food from April was taken to St. Mark's Food Kitchen in Keansburg.
3. The Council has approved a special contribution to "Project Paul" in June. Project Paul, located in Keansburg, operates the largest food pantry in Monmouth County and helps hundreds of local families. You will hear more about this later.
4. Please don't forget the continuing collection of food for the local food pantries. Keep them in mind each time you do your grocery shopping.

Gil Vatter

CALICO CAT FOOD PANTRY UPDATE (submitted by Pat Dunn)

As of May 19 we have completed 21 of the 45 sets needed for the Calico Cat Evening Food Pantry that we want to complete by June 14th. The following items are still needed for the remaining sets:

- 19 rolls of Toilet paper
 - 16 bottles of dish detergent
 - 19 bottles of laundry detergent
 - 47 boxes of tissues
 - 18 boxes of sandwich bags
 - 24 kitchen/bathroom cleaner
 - 16 bottles of shampoo
 - 06 tubes of toothpaste
 - 14 bars of soap
-

MARCIA MANN'S DIES AT AGE 67

Marcia E. Manns, a long time member of Good Shepherd Church, died on April 22, 2009 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville, New Jersey.

She was an avid bridge player and Life Master player and was the organizer and chair of the Good Shepherd Bridge Group, which was a part of the adult social activities in the parish during the 60's.

She was a member of Faith Lutheran church in New Providence after moving to Edison from Colts Neck in 1996.

She is survived by her husband, Hank, a former Council President at Good Shepherd, two daughters, Jenifer and Stacy, both of whom were confirmed here and were active in Youth Group activities, and four grandchildren.

A FEW NOTES FROM THE SENIOR CHOIR

Pentecost, Confirmation Day, Sunday May 31, will be the final appearance for the Senior Choir this season. After preparing and singing more than 40 anthems, the choir will take a three month vacation and will not lead the Sunday services again until next September.

The final choir practice will take place at the home of Miae Park on May 21, featuring a picnic supper followed by a short rehearsal. The Choir thanks Miae for all her hard work this past season. We look forward to September with new music to enhance the service.

Voice Newsletter Articles

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

Past issues of the Voice along with other information can be found at our websites

good-shepherd.us and **little-lambs.us**

June 2009

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7:00 – Fin Cmt Mtg		1:00 & 7:00 Bible Study	6:30 – 8:00 German School		9:00 – 12:00 NJ State Youth Orch
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10:00 – Service	7:00 – Council Mtg			6:30 – 8:00 German School		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10:00 – Service		7:30 – 9:00 Compassionate Friends		6:30 – 8:00 German School		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10:00 – service				6:30 – 8:00 German School		
28	29	30				
10:00 – service						