

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

August 2009

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

From The Pastor

GREETINGS IN CHRIST!

trust you are enjoying your summer and have a chance to relax. Be sure to worship while you are in the area and while you are away. Our summer series will take us through the 6th Chapter of John. Here are the weekly themes:

July 26 - Pentecost 8

"IN HARMONY WITH GOD" John 6:1-21

Aug. 2 - Pentecost 9

"BREAD THAT SATISFIES" John 6:24-35

Aug. 9 - Pentecost 10

"GOD WANTS TO GIVE US MORE" John 6:35, 41-51

Aug. 16 - Pentecost 11

"STANDING ON THE PROMISES" John 6:51-58

Aug. 23 - Pentecost 12

"THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE" John 6:56-59

Just a reminder of a few things that are coming this Fall --

"MAJOR MESSAGES FROM MINOR PROPHETS" is the theme of our Adult Forum, starting Sunday, September 20 at 9 a.m. During this series we will look each week at one of the 12 "minor" Prophets in the Old Testament. They are called "minor" not because they were considered less important or less inspired, but because they are generally shorter than the five major prophets, especially books like Isaiah and Jeremiah. Plan to join us each week as we explore these interesting and exciting books of the Bible.

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THE BOOK OF REVELATION is the theme of our new Bible Study series, Wednesdays, 1 and 7 p.m., starting September 23. Just as Genesis is the book of beginnings, Revelation is the book of consummation. In it, the divine program of redemption is brought to fruition, and the holy name of God is vindicated before all creation. Join us each Wednesday for this exciting look into the future. Be sure to bring a friend.

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CONFIRMATION

Parents and young people in Grades 7 and 8 are asked to meet with Pastor Ed following the Service on Sunday, September 27. If you have not spoken with Pastor Ed about the Confirmation Program, please do so today! You can also call him at 856-845-3485. Confirmation Classes will meet on Wednesdays from 6 to 7 p.m.

FIRST COMMUNION

Parents and children, Grade 5 or above, who would like to receive Holy Communion are invited to meet with Pastor Ed following the Service on Sunday, October 4. Please speak with Pastor Ed before October 4 if your child would like to be a part of this series.

NEW MEMBERS

A NEW MEMBERS ORIENTATION will be held starting Sunday, October 4 at 11:30 a.m. This 3-part series is for anyone who would like to be a part of Good Shepherd. We will meet October 4, 11 and 18 and New Members will be received at the Service on Reformation Sunday, October 25. Please speak to Pastor Ed if you are interested in joining with us at Good Shepherd.

Have a blessed Summer. I look forward to seeing you this week.
Peace and Joy,
Pastor Ed

Council Meeting Minutes (There was no Council Meeting in July.)

Since we did not have a Council meeting on July 13, I am sending out this memo to keep everyone up to date. Please note also, there is a report on the Synod meeting from Pastor Ed at the end of the report. As always, please contact me if you have something to add or a question about anything on the list.

1. Pat Miller already sent out the June Treasurer's report. We continue to meet expenses and have enough left over to fatten up our treasury.
Concern: Will parish keep pledges up to date all summer?
2. Vacation Church School is scheduled for August.
3. Blue folders for visitors must still be prepared - Andy Mathisen, Lou and Elaine Medici.
4. The glass on the coffee server has been replaced and paid for.
5. Kurt Mathisen is making progress on his Eagle Scout project.
6. 45 bags of household goods were delivered to Calico Cat on June 22 by Barbara Benson, Pat Dunn, Pat and Gil Vatter.
7. Food was taken to Lunch Break in Red Bank and St. Mark's in Keansburg on June 29 by Larry Jackson and Pat and Gil Vatter.
8. We received a thank you letter from Project Paul for our gift of \$1,000.
9. Pastor Ed, Pat and Steve Miller and I met with the German School directors in early June. Pat Miller volunteered to prepare an "agreement letter", which both the church and the school will sign.
10. There was approval of the Resisting Aggression Defensively group and they will begin operations in the fall.
11. Pat Miller has closed out David Lauder's retirement fund and a check was sent to him in June.
12. We have received a request for a donation from:
 - a) Holmdel Fire & Rescue Co. #2
 - b) Holmdel Fire Co. No. 1Please advise your feeling about these groups.
13. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday August 10. I will advise you about this meeting.

Pastor's Report:-----

The 22nd Annual Assembly of the New Jersey Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's Work - - Our Hands

This year's Synod Assembly took place in East Brunswick on June 4-6. No delegate was present from Good Shepherd this year. A surprise for me - I met my sister, Dorothy Shields, who was a delegate from St. John Lutheran Church, Westville, N.J. During the Assembly we celebrated the 35th Anniversary of Ordination of Bishop E. Roy Rilet.

A number of issues were covered at Assembly including the Bishop's Strategic Mission Plan for 2009-2013 which is being posted on the Synod website; the Synod's "response to economic realities" which addresses the decline in giving to support mission across the Synod and beyond; and six resolutions and their dispositions as follows:

- A Resolution Concerning Senior Ministry encourage ministry among and for the senior members of our congregations and communities and take steps to celebrate the gifts of seniors in our midst. The resolution was adopted.
- A Resolution Concerning Guidelines for Weekly Days Off For Pastors and Rostered Persons requiring that all rostered people take two days off per week as a matter of personal and professional stewardship. This resolution was referred to Synod Council for further discussion.
- A Resolution Concerning Maternity and Parenting Leave for Rostered Persons of the New Jersey Synod clarifying and amending the current guidelines. This resolution was referred to Synod Council.
- Resolution: Ushering in Fullness of Leadership in the ELCA For All People requiring the Synod and all expressions of the Church take steps to abolish racism in this Church, particularly in the areas of leadership. This resolution was adopted.
- A Memorial Concerning Human Sexuality From the New Jersey Synod to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly supporting the adoption of the proposed Social Statement on Human Sexuality and the four parts of the proposed Recommendation on Ministry Policies. This resolution was adopted.
- A Resolution Concerning Comprehensive Immigration Reform calling on congregations to become educated about and active in seeking justice and caring for the stranger in our midst. This resolution was adopted.

The Synod received with great joy the newly-organized St. Stephen's Grace Community Lutheran Church in the Ironbound section of Newark. This congregation has been over ten years in birthing and now enjoys full status in our Synod.

Many other items of business were reviewed and discussed. Anniversaries of congregations and ordinations were celebrated. Elections were held. There were opportunities for education and connection, all completed in 48 hours.

-----Pastor Ed

Any additions or corrections to these notes should be sent directly to me for inclusion in the next "Action List" or meeting minutes.

Gil Vatter

ALTAR GUILD IS IN NEED OF NEW MEMBERS. IF YOU CAN HELP PREPARE THE CHURCH FOR WORSHIP AND SPECIAL OCCASIONS, PLEASE SEE ANY MATHISEN, PASTOR ED OR ANY MEMBER OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

"That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind"
Neil Armstrong - July 20, 1969

Forty years ago, three very brave, very dedicated men rode a rocket to the Moon. Two of them reached and walked on the lunar surface and all three returned to our planet unharmed. Those of us who watched the journey of Apollo 11 on television (it was black and white in 1969) were filled with awe and wonder at this exciting, triumphant achievement by mankind. At this time in history, even though our nation was involved in a debilitating, divisive foreign war and many of its citizens were openly protesting that involvement, our Moon voyage convinced us that we could accomplish anything, if we made up our minds to do so.

Now, two decades later, Good Shepherd parish is not exactly NASA and you and I are certainly not Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins, but I want to use their feat of derring-do to help me illustrate how a daunting task, when properly planned, adequately manned and carefully carried out with determination and spirit, will produce positive results.

The outline of our pilgrimage over the past year is reassuring. Pastor Ed Schmidt has been with us for a year and his knowledge and experience have contributed much to the progress of the parish. The Church Council has been dedicated and tireless and their guidance has guaranteed that the life of the church has been undergirded. Those who staff the committees have continued to provide skillful and meaningful activity to such things as our building and property, our worship experience, our outreach to others and in many other areas of church activity. In other words, little by little, we are growing and we are improving financially.

As our kids say, "Are we there yet?" The answer is, "Not yet." There is still a great deal of work remaining before we can confidently support a full time pastor, pay our existing bills, continue our important outreach and seek new challenges in our obedience to the Gospel.

So, congratulations and thank you all for the progress we have made over the past year. Now we must follow the command to bring lost sheep into our parish and take the Gospel to our neighbors. Let us emulate Armstrong and Aldrin and leave our footprints in the "fine, sandy particles" of this congregation.

Gil Vatter

GOOD SHEPHERD MEMBER OF THE MONTH.



Gil Vatter

Gil spent most of his life helping others through both private and church-related work. Earlier in his life, Gil served on the Vestry in Lancaster, PA. That Lutheran Pastor was very successful in expecting and receiving the congregation's support to serve others. The memory of this pastor has continued to serve as Gil's role model.

Gil believes every church member should do something for others. He tries to set an example by doing himself, and also believes in leveraging his church council leadership to proactively ask and push, in order to make things happen.

Gil was also molded by his career success in running companies and leading programs such as "Zero Defect Program". This experience currently drives Gil to ensure Good Shepherd procedures are in place, for instance, publicizing and running the church memorial program.

In 34 years at Good Shepherd, Gil served 4 times on the council (two to six years per term). Each of the 4 terms, Gil was voted council president. Gil says he can't say "no"; he is retired and has the time. He feels confidence in the "good bunch" of council members.

Since 1993, Gil has volunteered to drive for MCOSS Monmouth County Social Services. Passengers are assigned by Social Services, and are typically poor, live by self; and can't drive to their doctor, or dentist. Gil has had memorable passengers over the years. Gil used to drive up to 10 times per month; and now limits himself to driving 2 or 3 times/month.

Gil taught reading to illiterate adults who can not get a drivers license nor get a job. Gil taught at libraries, and then helped with reading at restaurants, or supermarkets. Gil cites the pleasure of seeing a work promotion of one multi-year client.

Gil's biggest "outreach" motivator is making sure people get something to eat. He feels Good Shepherd is heading in the right direction with a multitude of church programs: St Marks soup kitchen support was started

by Pastor Mike Gebhart. For 10 years, one Tuesday per month, Gil, his wife Patty, and several other Good Shepherd members purchased food, which they cooked and served. In the last two years, Gil and Patty continue to enlist volunteers to contribute money each month.

Gil feels positive about Good Shepherd's progress. He points out recent positive events that include a baptism, and a new member class to begin this fall. The church is sending money to the Synod, for the 1st time in years (at a time when other congregations can not meet their Synod pledge). The congregation has contributed to Souper Bowl of Caring, ELCA Hunger Drives, Project Paul in Keansburg, and other outreach programs. However, Gil won't be satisfied until Good Shepherd has sufficient budget for a full time pastor and other professional employees, and has the funds and people to "reach out" to others!

AROUND THE PARISH (submitted by Gil Vatter)

1. A tip of the Good Shepherd stetson to our "shepherd", Pastor Ed Schmidt, who officially completed one year as our pastor on July 1. His first sermon was on June 29, 2008, "Molded by the Word". Thank you Pastor.
2. More than 60 persons greeted the newest member of Good Shepherd parish on Sunday July 19, when ABIGAIL GRACE HAFER, daughter of NICCI and KEITH HAFER was baptised by Pastor Ed. Welcome ABIGAIL.
3. Good to see JANICE and PAUL KRAUS back from Florida for the summer.
4. CHARLIE MILLER is doing well after undergoing laser eye surgery for cataracts on July 8.
5. We welcomed JOAN and BOB HORLOCHER in church on Sunday June 28. JOAN is walking very well with her new knee.
6. We all want to know; BILL WEHRLI read the words of Jesus in the presentation of the Gospel on Sunday June 28. Was this "type casting"?
7. RACHEL MATHISEN is still in Spain studying, of course. Spanish. She expects to return home in early August.
8. A special tip of the Good Shepherd fedora to all of you in the congregation for your response to the Calico Cat household and personal goods drive. YOU DID JUST GREAT!!!!
9. KIRSTEN MATHISEN has been chosen as drum major for the Monmouth Regional High School marching band and will attend a "Drum Major Camp" at West Chester University next month.
10. A tip of the Good shepherd straw to GRACE and ERNIE BRINKMAN, who celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary on June 26. Congratulations and many more.
11. Our thoughts and prayers go out to BUNNY and HERB KUHL on the death of their son-in-law in Florida. And God will wipe away all tears.
12. Put a note on your calendar-----VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS IN AUGUST.
See Sharon Oberkehr for details.
13. Have a bicycle you don't need and don't know what to do with? Love INC is collecting bikes for local and foreign needs. If you have one to give, it can be dropped off at the Jersey Shore Rescue Mission, 701 Memorial Drive (between Asbury & Sewell), Asbury Park or call 732-542-7012.

14. A little boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he leafed through the fragile pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old maple leaf that had been pressed between the pages. "Mama, look what I found", the boy called out. "What have you got there, dear?" With astonishment in the young boy's voice he answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear!"

Ethel Eloise Carr Stemple, 83, mother of Pat Miller died Friday, June 12, 2009 at her home at Heritage Green in Mechanicsville, VA. Many at Good Shepherd remember her singing in our choir until she moved to VA 3 years ago.

She grew up in Princeton, WV, and graduated with a BMus degree in music education from West Virginia University. She was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. She taught private piano lessons in her home for many years. She also taught Sunday School and directed the children's choirs at the Berwind (WV) and Morris Memorial (Charleston, WV) Methodist churches while raising her family. She was always active in choir and the music program, as well as women's circles, at every church she attended, and served several years as president of the Women's Society for Christian Service. She was active in the WV Music Teachers Association and in her children's school activities.

After retirement, she was active in the Palm Coast (FL) Methodist church. She lived with daughter Pat and Steve Miller in Middletown, NJ, for several years and sang in the choir at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. In Mechanicsville, she attended Broadus Baptist Church. Her loving and caring spirit attracted friends wherever she went. Music was her first and last love, and all her children and grandchildren inherited it.

She was predeceased by her husband, David Townsend Stemple, and by her parents Daniel Thomas (DT) and Ethel Hoke Carr and her two brothers Daniel and Robert Carr. Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, David Carr and Marcia Stemple of Palm Coast, FL; two daughters and sons-in-law, Patricia and Steven Miller of Middletown, NJ, and Sarah and Duane Hunter of Mechanicsville, VA; four grandchildren, Kevin and Jo Ellen Miller, and Heather and Dustin Hunter; her sisters-in-law Edie and Nita Carr, and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held June 19, at First United Methodist Church of Princeton, WV, and burial was at Roselawn Memorial Gardens there. Memorial donations can be donated to the WVU Foundation - Rockefeller Neurosciences Institute, PO Box 1650, Morgantown, WV 26507.

**Please keep your pledges up to date during the summer months.
Remember – our bills do not take a vacation!!**

SOCIAL MINISTRY REPORT

In June all collected food was delivered to LUNCH BREAK in Red Bank and ST. MARK'S PANTRY in Keansburg. Thanks to LARRY JACKSON and PATTY VATTER for helping with the delivery. Please keep bringing food to church during the summer months.

The members of Good Shepherd did a terrific job gathering household goods for the Calico Cat in Middletown. Not only did we deliver 45 bags of cleaning and personal supplies to the Evening Pantry on June 22, but we also included several bags of extra items, beyond the 45 bags. The directors of the Calico cat project were completely amazed at your generosity. Thanks to PAT DUNN, BARBARA BENSON and PATTY VATTER for helping to load and deliver the merchandise. We have helped a lot of needy families in the Middletown area. We expect to repeat this project next spring.

We need one family to act as a St. Mark's "sponsor" for the month of November. This involves writing a check to the St. Mark's Pantry for \$75. Easy, isn't it? If you can help, see me. We will be asking for 12 "sponsors" to cover the months of 2010 in late fall.

Gil Vatter

LUNCH BREAK THANKS GOOD SHEPHERD FOR GROCERIES

Red Bank, New Jersey
July 3, 2009

Dear Friends,

Everyone at Lunch Break appreciates your most recent contribution, on July 1, 2009. It is your generosity that makes it possible for us to make a real difference in the lives of our neighbors in need. Your help has made a difference for so many men, women and children.

Thank you for your continuous support!!

Sincerely
Gwen Love

A WORD FROM THE MID-WEST FROM BOB MURPHY (submitted by Gil Vatter)

Former Good Shepherd organist and choir director, Bob Murphy, reports that he is doing well after six rounds of chemotherapy and thirty radiation treatments last spring and summer. To date, all his subsequent "scans" have been clear.

Despite his illness, Bob has had a very busy year:

- With three church choirs he conducted Robert Ray's "Gospel Mass" in three performances.
- Accompanied four school choirs in St. Paul, two high schools in Mendota Heights and a school in Maplewood, Minnesota, where he lives.
- Prepared and led the music for the Minneapolis/St. Paul Synod convention the last week of May.
- Playing piano for a local production of "The Music Man".

Bob relaxes by bicycling along the Mississippi River and some of the local lakes with friends and expects to visit his mother in San Francisco this summer, before beginning his 24th year as Minister of Music at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in North St. Paul, Minnesota.

Bob may be reached at - bobbym75@hotmail.com or at:

1215 Ferndale Street North
#5
Maplewood, MN 55119

SEA SUNDAY PLANNED BY SEAFARERS FOR SEPTEMBER

Sea Sunday is a day the Lutheran community sets aside to remember and pray for seafarers who spend weeks and months at sea, bringing many things to our shores to sustain and enrich our lives. Sea Sunday is also a day to celebrate the Port Ministry which nurtures and dignifies the seafarers.

This year Sea Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday September 27, 2009 with a cruise aboard the yacht Destiny at 3:00 PM. The cruise will board at Pier 81, World Yacht Marina, West 41st Street in Manhattan, will follow the Hudson River and will feature an open bar, buffet dinner and entertainment. Destiny will return to port at 7:30 PM.

Cost for the cruise is \$45.00 per person. You may obtain more information and make reservations for the cruise by writing to:

SEAFARERS AND INTERNATIONAL HOUSE
123 EAST 15TH STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10003-3557

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**

August 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	1
				6:30 – 8:00 German school		
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10:00 – Service				6:30 – 8:00 German school		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
10:00 – Service	9:00-11:30 Vacation Bible School	9:00-11:30 Vacation Bible School	9:00-11:30 Vacation Bible School	9:00-11:30 Vacation Bible School 6:30 – 8:00 German school	9:00-11:30 Vacation Bible School	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10:00 – Service		7:30 – 9:00 Compassionate Friends		6:30 – 8:00 German school		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
10:00 – Service				6:30 – 8:00 German school		
30	31					
10:00 – Service						