

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

September 2009

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

From The Pastor

GREETINGS IN CHRIST!

I hope you have had a great summer and are ready to get things going again at Good Shepherd. We have had a steady attendance during the summer and this has been very encouraging. Pat and I will be away the week after Labor Day for a trip through the New England states. However, we look forward to seeing you this week. Pat will be singing another solo on August 30.

Our Sermon Series for September takes us back to the Gospel of Mark:

Aug. 30 - "STRENGTH TO FOLLOW JESUS" - Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Sept. 6 - "FIRM IN THE FAITH" - Mark 7:24-37

Sept. 13 - The Rev. David Mangiante, Guest Speaker

Sept. 20 - **RALLY DAY** - "GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS" - Mark 9:30-37

Sept. 27 - "THE WAY OF SALVATION" - James 5:13-20

Please take note of the following opportunities to deepen your faith and trust in the Lord. I look forward to having you join us:

"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.

Pray about your involvement at Good Shepherd. I look forward to working with you in the weeks and months ahead.

Peace and Joy,
Pastor Ed

Thrivent Economic Presentation (submitted by Andy Mathisen)

We have arranged for Chuck Etzweiler, our Thrivent Resident Expert on the economy to do a presentation to all our members on Thursday, October 1, 2009 at 6:30pm at Good Shepherd. Your Thrivent chapter will provide a free dinner for all, food, drinks, desert, etc. from Boston Market.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Charitable Giving Declines, a New Report Finds

This headline introduced a recent article in the New York Times which warned that the downturn in the national economy was having an impact on charitable giving throughout the country. According to the report, charitable giving fell by the largest percentage in five decades. Individuals and institutions made gifts and pledges of over \$300 billion. Sounds like a lot of money. And it is. However, it was a decrease of almost 6% from last year.

Some experts expressed surprise that the drop was not even larger, given that most endowments fell by as much as 40%, the stock market fell by a similar amount, corporations posted unheard of losses and unemployment rose at a frightening clip. A study by the Giving USA Foundation found that the drop in giving is accelerating as the impact of the economic crisis and the deep decline of the stock market takes hold in the general economy.

Despite the drop in institutional giving, however, charitable giving by individuals was still pretty good. Many colleges and universities report alumni participation in their annual giving programs remained strong and bequests to the schools were larger than expected. Still, giving to educational institutions fell 9% to \$41 billion and most private schools have been hit by sharp declines in their assets.

About two-thirds of public charities saw donations decrease last year. Most surprising was the decline in gifts to organizations working to meet basic needs, such as food banks and homeless shelters, both of which are seeing a huge increase in demand for their services. Most fund-raising experts had predicted that donors would increase giving to these types of charities at the expense of others, like arts groups. But, gifts to public charities fell almost 16% last year to \$26 billion.

If there is a silver lining to all these statistics, it is the surprising news that contributions to religious organizations actually rose last year. Nationally, gifts to churches and other organizations affiliated with all kinds of religious groups was close to \$110 billion and appears to be headed for an even higher total this year.

So, most charitable giving continues down....church giving continues up. Go figure. Americans feel their church receives attention before their neighbors problems? The local church has to be repainted before the food bank gets anything? I am not trying to read an analysis of American morals or Christian ethics into these figures. Rather, I am simply presenting these statistics to you with the hope that you will read into them where your priorities ought to be. Giving is supposed to be a Christian trait. Need I say more?

Gil Vatter

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL COMPLETES ANOTHER "BANNER" YEAR

A team of volunteers, lead by Sharon Oberkehr, Chairperson of Christian Education, presented a week of Bible School at Good Shepherd Church from Monday August 10 to Friday August 14. About 35 children from the parish and the nearby neighborhood were met inside the front entrance by a large banner welcoming them to "WATERWORKS", the theme of the teaching for the week. Frank Hall became "Bible Bay" and sported beach chairs, beach towels, beach umbrellas, beach balls, etc. The narthex was hung with fish and every activity was planned around the topic of water in the Old and New Testaments, from Jonah and the great fish, Noah and his ark to Jesus using water to teach lessons to his disciples. The importance and meaning of water in the sacrament of baptism was also explained to the children. On Wednesday August 12, Pastor Schmidt spent time with the school, telling the children the importance of water in our lives and how much it meant during biblical times .

The children learned from each story, what God wants them to do; listen, obey, have faith, follow, trust. But, all was not study and learning. Each day there was time for music, fun and games, much of which was also based on the weeks emphasis on water and its part in thier lives.

To top it all off, the families which supported the Vacation Church School were requested to support our collection of food for St. Mark's by bringing canned vegetables throughout the week.

In addition to Sharon Oberkehr, the teaching staff also included Karen Rajala, Kirsten Mathisen, Kurt Mathisen, Diane Mathisen, Barbara Benson, Patty Vatter, Trudy Miller, Julia Blackburn, Debbie Blackburn, Theresa Hague, Emily Hague and Pat Dunn.

AROUND THE PARISH (submitted by Gil Vatter)

1. Happy birthday to LARRY JACKSON who celebrated in mid-August and finally is older than Jack Benny.
2. Check out DICK ALBERTI who is as brown as a berry from all the time spent on the golf course.
3. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd beanie to MAUREEN BARTLETT who prepares coffee so faithfully every Sunday morning and GRACE BRINKMAN who bakes up a storm every week and SHIRLEY JACKSON who brings us a weekly CARE package so that we can have a nosh with the coffee.
4. Great to see ALAN BRUBAKER in church. Alan, his daughter and his grandson were with us for the service on Sunday August 16. Hang in there Al.
5. The MATHISEN family spent their vacation basking in the sun on the Jersey shore.
6. If you were absent from the service on Sunday August 16, you missed PASTOR ED at the piano, while MIAE PARK played the organ to accompany our second hymn, "Standing on the Promises". The congregation really responded. Can't wait to see what's next.
7. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd panama to SHARON OBERKEHR and her crew who presented "WATERWORKS" as the theme of the Vacation Bible School from August 10 to 14. About 35 kids were busy learning and having fun in our building for a whole week and, on top of everything else, the school collected a pile of canned food for our food bank collection.
8. Our thoughts and prayers go out to former members EDITH KIBLER and TRUDI LENZ who have been ill.
9. Bienvenido!!!! to RACHEL (that's pronounced ROCK-L) MATHISEN who recently returned from Alicante, Spain, where she studied Spanish up close and personal.
10. Did you know.....Samson slew the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles?

11. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd sombrero to VIVIAN SISLIAN'S son DAVID CORSELLO who played his guitar for the service on Sunday August 16. What a great sound. Come back again DAVE.

12. DON'T FORGET - SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20.

13. MARK YOUR CALENDAR - CHOIR STARTS THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 10 AT 7 PM.

14. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd stetson to VIV and BOB SISLIAN fro enhancing the front of the building with new plants and flowers. Looks great.

15. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd fez to NANCY AND CLEM HERGENHAN for their tireless work on the "SHEPHERD'S VOICE". Thanks so much for making it happen.

16. It was like "old home week" to see former members SUE and PAUL GRAJEK from Freehold with two of their children in church on August 9. Paul still works for the Navy in Lakehurst.

17. A little girl had just finished her first week of school. "I'm just wasting my time", she said to her mother. "I can't read, I can't write and they won't let me talk."

18. A first grade teacher gave her class a "show and tell" assignment. Each student was told to bring in something to share with their classmates that represented their religion.

On "show and tell" day, a little boy rose and said, "My name is Benjamin, I am Jewish and this is called a Star of David."

The second student stood up and said, "My name is Ali, I am a Muslim and this is our holy book, the Koran."

The third child announced, "My name is Mary, I am a Catholic and these are prayer beads, called a rosary."

The next little girl got up and said, "My name is Karen, I am a Lutheran and this is called a casserole."

ELSA SNOW THANKS GOOD SHEPHERD FRIENDS FOR SUPPORT

Dear Friends at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd,

Thank you all so very much for the many cards, calls and get well wishes over my recent surgery and recuperation. I am grateful to have been a part of Good Shepherd's loving church family.

Most of all, thank you for your prayer support and encouragement. God is good and he hears us.

Thanks be to Him!

Sincerely,
Elsa Snow

GERMAN SCHOOL PLANS OKTOBERFEST CELEBRATION

The German School of Monmouth County is presenting an Oktoberfest celebration on Saturday September 27, 2009 from Noon until 5:00 PM at the Elks Lodge on West Front Street in Red Bank (next to Riverside Gardens). The funds from the Fest will go to support the school's educational programs, mincluding books, music and DVD's for the library.

The day will begin at Noon, when Mayor Pasquale Menna of Red Bank will officially open the festivities, followed by live entertainment; Alpine horn and yodeling demonstrations, the Bavarian Boys will play

Oktoberfest music, the Fred Astaire Dance Studio of Red Bank will teach some dance steps and there will be a DJ playing traditional music.

Family fun will be offered all day, including, a beer stein race, pretzel toss, sack races, face painting and a "bounce house". A German buffet will be available with something for everyone. If you have questions about the event, please contact Dorothea Drew at the e-mail address above or visit her at the school on any Thursday when the library is open.

Tickets for the event are priced at \$30 for adults and \$10 for children at the door, but may be purchased ahead of time for \$25 and \$10. Tickets may be purchased at the school's booth at the Red Bank street fair on Sunday September 13 or by e-mail at info@germanschoolmc.org.

SOCIAL MINISTRY REPORT

1. When the regular monthly delivery of food was made to St. Mark's at the end of July, they thanked us for everything, as usual, but mentioned that they always have a need for canned vegetables and would appreciate receiving vegetables in the future. For this reason, we expect to emphasize canned vegetables as our prime need for the balance of the year. Please remember this when you shop for groceries.
2. The Vacation Bible School contributed to our collection of food by requesting attendees to bring canned goods during the week of school. Thank you boys and girls.
3. In July all collected food was taken to Lunch Break in Red Bank and St. Mark's Food Pantry in Keansburg. Thanks to LARRY JACKSON and PATTY VATTER for helping with the distribution.
4. We still need a sponsor family to send a check to St. Mark's for the month of November. We will be signing up sponsors for 2010 in late fall.

Gil Vatter

BLUE CLAWS BASEBALL PLANS FAITH NIGHT IN LAKEWOOD

The Lakewood Blue Claws baseball team is planning a "Faith Night" which is aimed at religious groups in Monmouth County. On Tuesday September 1 at 7:05, religious organizations are invited to take advantage of special group rates for the ball game scheduled for that evening.

For tickets or for more information, contact Brad at the Blue Claws box office at 732-901-7000, ext. 172

A FEW NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

Please mark your calendars - The new 2009-2010 choir season will begin on Thursday September 10 at 7:30 PM in the sanctuary and will continue every Thursday at the same time. Everyone is welcome to come to choir rehearsal. Join us and see how much fun it is learning sacred music. This is your opportunity for service to your church while having a night out to enjoy singing.

Give it a try!!!

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THANKS GOOD SHEPHERD

Good Shepherd received a letter from the World Hunger and Disaster Appeal office of the ELCA, to thank us for our support of their recent request for funds.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.
8765 West Higgins Road
Chicago, Illinois 60631

July 10, 2009

Dear Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd,

Thank you for your gifts in June and July of \$1,300.00 to ELCA World Hunger.

Your gifts for ELCA World Hunger help fight hunger in over 50 countries - and in every synod of the ELCA - with a special focus on reaching people most in need and working efficiently and effectively.

In homes where children go to sleep hungry...your gift is providing healthy meals. In communities where farmers struggle to produce enough food...your gift is providing livestock, seeds and irrigation. In villages where women must journey hours to find clean water... your gift is building wells. In schools where students dream about a brighter future...your gift is providing teachers and scholarships. In countries that struggle with pandemic diseases...your gift is saving lives.

To neighbors near and far who struggle with hunger...your gift offers hope. Thank you for responding faithfully to the crisis of hunger. Your gift brings us another step closer to ending hunger in the world.

In Christ's service,

The Rev. Daniel Rift, Director
ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal

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**

September 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
		7:30-8:30pm MCC Rehearsal		6:30- 8:00pm German school		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10:00 – Service				7:30 Choir Practice		10:00-11am MCC Rehearsal
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
10:00 – Service 1:00-2pm MCC Rehearsal	7:00pm – Council Mtg	7:30 – 9:00pm Compassionate Friends		7:30 Choir Practice		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:00- Adult Forum 10:00 – Service		5:30 – 7:30pm German School	1pm & 7pm Bible Study	7:30 Choir Practice 4:00-8pm German School	9:15– 10:45am German School	
27	28	29	30			
9:00- Adult Forum 10:00 – Service + Confirmation Mtg After Svc		5:30 – 7:30pm German School	1pm & 7pm Bible Study			