

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

October 2009

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

From The Pastor

Greetings in Christ!

The Celebration of Reformation Sunday (October 26) is a good time for us to review the basics of our faith and Reformation Heritage. The chief article of faith for us is that we are **JUSTIFIED BY GOD'S GRACE THROUGH FAITH.**

In Article IV of the **Augsburg Confession** on Justification, we read:

It is also taught among us that we cannot obtain forgiveness of sin and righteousness before God by our own merits, works or sanctifications, but that we receive forgiveness of sin and become righteous before God by grace for Christ's sake, through faith, when we believe that Christ suffered for us and that for his sake our sin is forgiven and righteousness and eternal life are given to us. For God will regard and reckon this faith as righteousness, as Paul says in Romans 3:21-26 and 4:5.

As we approach **Reformation Sunday** we continue our journey with Jesus through the Gospel of Mark:

Oct. 4 - Pentecost 18 - "**A CONFIDENT FAITH**" - Mark 10:2-16

Oct. 11 - Pentecost 19 - "**WHAT DOES GOD WANT?**" - Mark 10:17-31

Oct. 18 - Pentecost 20 - "**PERSEVERANCE IN FAITH**" - Mark 10:35-45

Oct. 25 - Reformation Sunday - "**STEADFAST IN THE WORD**" John 8:31-36

Coming in November -- a sermon series; "**THE ABC's of STEWARDSHIP**". You will be receiving a letter about this year's Stewardship Emphasis in mid-October. Then you will have the opportunity to present your Pledge Cards with your commitment for 2010 on **Decision Sunday - November 22.**

Just a reminder of our two Bible Studies:

Sundays at 9 -- "**Major Messages from Minor Prophets**"

Wednesdays at 1 and 7: pm - "**The Book of Revelation**"

Looking forward to seeing you this week as we move toward a greater Good Shepherd.

Peace and Joy,

Pastor Ed

Council Meeting Minutes For 9/14/09

In attendance were the following:

Gil Vatter, Garry Westerweller, Tom Tehve, Andy Mathisen, Steve Miller, Lil Nemcik, Pat Miller, and Lou Medici.

Sharon Oberkehr, Mike Carp, and Pastor Ed were excused. Karl Torjussen was also not in attendance.

Gil opened the meeting with prayer

Minutes from the 5/11/09 meeting were distributed, read, and approved.

Reports

Treasurer's Report presented by Pat Miller.

- Giving in August was lower than our expenses

- YTD income is currently lower than our expenses

Report was approved as submitted

Christian Education Report

- VBS was a tremendous success with 32-36 kids attending.

Finance Committee Report presented by Lou Medici

- Working on the proposed budget for 2010
- Letter for pledging will be sent to the congregation in October
- Commitment Sundays are scheduled for November 1, 18, and 22.
- Discussion ensued about the need for a memorial gift procedure.

Property Report was presented by Steve Miller

- Basement window project is ongoing
- Need still exists for plumber to fix the drinking fountain in the main hall
- October 8th will be the next property work day

Worship and Music Report was presented by Andy

- Altar Guild Committee has yet to meet.
- Good participation in the Guild
- Discussion ensued about intinction vs pouring for communion.
- October 1st there will be a Thrivent Dinner where Chuck Schweitzer from Thrivent, will discuss the “State of the economy”
- Great progress on the Memorial Garden, Still researching cost of engraved stones.

Social Ministry/President’s Report was presented by Gil

- Received thank-you letter from Evangelical Lutheran Church of America for our gift for world hunger
- Received thank-you letter from project Paul
- St. Marks continues to need as much food as we can give them. We delivered 112 cans of food to them in August.
- Gil will be presenting the sponsorship program again for 2010 for St. Marks. Cost of sponsorship to stay at 75.00 per month.
- Lou expressed the need for Men’s Pants as a donation. Donations to be made to “your grandmother’s cupboard” in Toms River.
- German school user agreement letter was presented to the council. Some minor revisions were suggested to some of the language in the letter. Gil then moved that the revised letter be approved, Garry seconded, and council unanimously approved.
- 3 donations of \$50.00 each were presented for the following organizations;
 - Holmdel First Aid Squad
 - Holmdel Fire Company #1
 - Holmdel Fire Company # 2

Lou issued the motion on all three, Tom seconded all three, and council unanimously approved all three.

- Carol and Larry Siep were kind enough to donate 200 bibles. A special thanks from the congregation of Good Shepherd for their generous donation. (copy of Gil’s thank-you letter will be attached to the final approved minutes)
- Life screening once again requested use of the Church facilities. When told of the cost, they decided to go somewhere else
- NJ State Youth orchestra has put in a request to use the facility. Lou motioned we accept their request, Tom seconded, the council unanimously approved request at the same rate as last year.
- Gil presented the idea for a new church directory. Council voted to hold on this for now.

- Deep Cut Orchard Society has requested to use our facility. The date they requested however, presents a conflict with the German school days. Gil will let them know that they will need to choose a different day that does not conflict with the German School.
- Gil will submit an article to the voice on the state of Little Lambs.
- We have contributed \$1600.00 To the Synod thru 8/31/09
- Wagner College has requested to use our facility on Friday November 6th. Council approved this request.
- Passing of the peace was discussed in relation to the flu problem and the possibility of spreading germs through handshaking. Lou suggested a hand over heart gesture in lieu of a handshake. Gil will discuss with Pastor Ed.

Old Business

- No Old Business

New Business

- Steve Miller requested a nomination for member of the month. Council suggested a candidate and Steve will follow through.
- Next meeting will be on October 12th at 7 PM

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Garry Westerweller

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

"What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill", and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead."

The Letter of James - Chapter 2, Verse 14

In the second reading for the 14th Sunday after Pentacost, I was surprised but pleased to read a perfect introduction to what I want to tell you today in this issue of the "Shepherd's Voice". The reading tells us succinctly why we collect money for food pantries and bags of food twelve months a year as part of the mission of this congregation, why we collect a part of what we have and then give it away to others. It also reminds us why we come to church in the first place and why we are obliged to tell others about the basics of our Christian heritage. It too, unfortunately, reminds us why a great many "church people" seem to constantly complain about "never ending requests for money and goods".

To be sure, the message of the Gospel is redundant. We hear it repeated Sunday after Sunday, we read its words week after week; so much so, that we find that it fades into the woodwork before we realize that it has happened. It is much too easy for us to let the urgency of the Gospel roll off us like water off a duck's back and, voila, we have relegated it to a dark place where we can easily ignore it, a compartment we have constructed in our minds to hide things that are difficult to manage or which make us uncomfortable.

The words above from the Book of James, are a wake up call to those of us who call ourselves Christians. It challenges and impels us to put our money where our mouths are, to respond to the needs of our brothers and sisters, who are not nearly so fortunate. "If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food and you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?"

Our newspapers and television news shows remind us that volunteering and other civic activities have waned during these recessionary times, giving to charity has ebbed as the people of this country find themselves in reduced circumstances and colleges and universities are scratching to make ends meet. Of these problems, I am concerned about the programs which churches and municipalities have traditionally sponsored to feed and clothe the needy in this country. At a time when the need is even greater than usual, are we to walk away from our neighbors and tell them to, "keep warm and eat your fill" yet fail to "supply their bodily needs". The least we can do is support local organizations, which are already working to alleviate hunger; Lunch Break, Project Paul, St. Mark's Food Kitchen, the Souper Bowl of Caring, Calico Cat, the Crop Walk, etc.

To my way of thinking, the churches, synagogues, temples and mosques of this country (and really the world) have an obligation to supply the poor with clothing, food and relief from disease and suffering. What projects or demands on our time and treasure are more important than the welfare of our fellow man?

Gil Vatter

CHURCH WORK DAY (submitted by Steve Miller)

Church property work day is Thursday, Oct 8. Volunteers are needed for both inside and outside work. Show up anytime between 9AM and 4PM. The Ladies Luncheon noticed the sanctuary chairs are dirty, and offered to pay cleaning. This money could be saved by a volunteer willing to use the church commercial cleaning equipment, for this physically easy, but repetitive work. Need more information? contact Steve Miller for details 732-977-4370, stevemiller@comcast.net

MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Sharon Oberkehr is Good Shepherd's Member of the Month, October, 2009

Sharon is chair of Christian Education on the Good Shepherd church council. The last 3 years, Sharon used her education skills to ramp up the Sunday School program, and run the summer Vacation Bible School. Sharon (and the congregation) is especially proud of this past summer's VBS. She teamed with Barbara Benson to create a completely new enjoyable program.

Sharon finds the time to contribute, even while also the full-time mother of 3 young children. Typically Sharon teams with another volunteer, so the church program continues, even during child rearing emergencies.

Sharon loves education; her degree is human development, specializing in early childhood. For a dozen years, she taught kindergarten, 2nd and 3rd grades. (She also taught TLC during summer while pursuing her teaching degree.) When her first child was born, she suspended her career.

Sharon is grateful Pastor Louder re-launched her teaching by asking Sharon to run the Good Shepherd VBS. (Interestingly, halfway through that first summer VBS program, she gave birth.)

She says she thoroughly enjoys her church contributions, which she views as a step towards again teaching, once all her children are in school full day.

Jo Ellen Miller Makes Carnegie Hall Solo Debut (submitted by Pat Miller)

December 6, Sunday at 5pm, will mark Jo Ellen Miller's Carnegie Hall solo debut. She will be singing the Pierre Boulez chamber work *Improvisation sur Mallarme I and II* with Maestro James Levine conducting the Met Chamber Ensemble. Tickets are available (for \$95!!!) at http://www.carnegiehall.org/article/box_office/events/evt_12382.html?selecteddate=12062009. If you would like to attend (and are feeling rich), it is best to get your tickets very soon. The concert is likely to sell out, as it is being held in the smaller Weill Recital Hall.

Currently this fall, Jo Ellen is a Spectrum Resident Artist at the Virginia Opera in Norfolk and Richmond, covering the role of Mimi and starring in VA Opera's educational outreach tour of *La boheme*.

AROUND THE PARISH (submitted by Gil Vatter)

1. Say sayonara to ELLEN and TOM TEHVE who leave for a trip to the Far East on October 2nd. Watch out for that sake, guys.
2. A very happy birthday to MATTHEW "FRITZ" OBERKEHR, who reached the ripe old age of THREE in August. Many more, Matty.
3. PAT and PASTOR ED spent a part of September touring New England with friends from San Francisco.
4. PATTY VATTER and CHARLIE MILLER both underwent cataract surgery during the past weeks. Both are doing very well.
5. It was great to have PASTOR DAVE MANGIATE with us again while PASTOR ED was on vacation. PASTOR DAVE'S brother was a classmate of BILL WEHRLI at Wagner. PASTOR MANGIATE'S SERMON was, "What is life all about?".
6. A tip of the Good Shepherd fedora to CAROL and LARRY SEIP for supplying the new Bibles for the sanctuary.
7. MIKE CARP and ANDY MATHISEN will represent Good Shepherd at the annual CROP WALK on Sunday October 18th. Want to walk for a good cause? See MIKE or ANDY.
8. A tip of the Good Shepherd beret to all the folks who serve so faithfully in the ALTAR GUILD. BARBARA HAHER, NANCY HERGENHAN, SHIRLEY JACKSON, GAYLE McKNIGHT, VIVIAN SISLIAN and MARIAN WILLIAMSON. ANDY MATHISEN is chair of the Worship & Music Committee, which is responsible for the altar. What would we do without these people?
9. Our thoughts and prayers go to former members ERIC and MARYANN KLEMMER on the death of ERIC'S mother FLORENCE KLEMMER. And God will wipe away all tears.
10. A tip of the Good Shepherd fez to AMANDA WESTERWELLER who appeared again at Disneyworld's Epcot Center with her dance group in August.
11. Happy birthday to KIRSTEN and KURT MATHISEN, who turn 17 in October.
12. A tip of the Good Shepherd beret to BARBARA HAHER'S husband JOHN who was named SUPER SENIORS CHAMPION at Bam Hollow Country Club. JOHN will celebrate his birthday on October 6.
13. Thanks to PAT SCHMIDT, who sang "O, Magnify the Lord" by Melodie and Dick Turney at the Sunday August 30 service. PASTOR ED accompanied her solo on the piano. Nice duet, folks.

14. A tip of the Good Shepherd stetson to JONATHAN KIM (cello) and ROBERT KIM (violin) who played for the Sunday September 13 service. JON also played the offering music, a beautiful cello solo, "Be Still" by David J. Evans. Come back soon guys.

15. Happy birthday to RANDI STETZ who celebrates at this time of the year.

16. Did you know.....the epistles were the wives of the apostles?

17. On the first day of Sunday School, a six year old handed her teacher a note from her mother. The note read, "The opinions expressed by this kid are not necessarily those of her parents".

KUHL FAMILY THANKS GOOD SHEPHERD CONGREGATION

August 2009

Dear Friends at Good Shepherd,

We want to thank you for all your cards, prayers and sympathy in the death of our son-in-law in Florida. You have comforted us before and now again. It means so much to us to be part of such a caring family.

Thank you and God bless you.

Herb and Bunny Kuhl

LUTHERAN SOCIAL MINISTRIES OF NEW JERSEY ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR

The Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey is hosting its annual Craft Fair on Saturday December 5, 2009 at Crane's Mill Continuing Care Retirement Community in West Caldwell, New Jersey. The event will take place from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM.

There will be crafts of all kinds on display and for sale during the day. All proceeds will be for the benefit of Lutheran Social Ministries in New Jersey.

For more information, contact Barbara Carriere, Development Manager of Lutheran Social Ministries at 609-699-4102 or go online at wwwq.cranesmill.org or www.lsmnj.org.

In Memorial

Florence H. Klemmer, 86, mother of Eric Klemmer former member of Good Shepherd, entered into eternal life on Aug. 23, 2009. Florence was a frequent visitor to Good Shepherd over the years and traveled with Pastor Frank and numerous members to Israel back in the 1980's. Florence enjoyed her visits to Good Shepherd and the friends she made here.

A memorial service is being held on Oct 3, at 11AM at St. Matthews Lutheran Church, 318 Chester Ave. Moorestown, NJ. Luncheon to follow.

SOCIAL MINISTRY REPORT

The Social Ministry Committee delivered 112 cans of vegetables to Saint Mark's Food Pantry in Keansburg, New Jersey at the end of August. This represents the total number of cans brought to Good Shepherd Church by members of the congregation for the month. There were also several bags of miscellaneous food, which were also given to Saint Mark's. The directors of the Food Pantry requested that we collect canned vegetables for

several months, since vegetables always seem to be in short supply and are included in every bag of food distributed by the Pantry.

Good Shepherd congregation will be asked to support the "Souper Bowl of Caring" again at the end of this year. More information will be released later. The total reached last year for local food banks will be difficult to match, but the Church Council is already working on plans to help the 2009 "Bowl" a success.

Make plans now to participate in the 2009 CROP WALK. See Mike Carp or Andy Mathisen for details.

Gil Vatter

YOUR GRANDMOTHER'S CUPBOARD COLLECTS MENS TROUSERS FOR THE HOMELESS

Your Grandmother's Cupboard, Roslyn Plaza, 173A Highway 37 West, Toms River, New Jersey (08755) has begun to collect men's trousers. All clothing given to the center will go to the homeless, the hungry and the other adults in our midst with special needs.

Your Grandmother's Cupboard is a non-profit organization founded with the mission to provide food, clothing and other necessities of life to those in need throughout the state of New Jersey. Emphasis is always on items needed to maintain good health and hygiene. All items distributed by Your Grandmother's Cupboard are received through donations from area churches and charities.

If you can contribute one or more pairs of men's trousers to Your Grandmother's Cupboard, bring them to Good Shepherd in a bag marked YOUR GRANDMOTHER'S CUPBOARD. All contributions, not limited to men's trousers, will be sent to Tom's River.

For more information, talk with Lou Medici, phone 888-526-0860 or go on line at www.yourgrandmotherscupboard.org. E-mail messages may be sent to info@yourgrandmotherscupboard.org.

A FEW NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

The 2009 - 2010 season for the choir began with rehearsal in the sanctuary on September 10 at 7:00 PM with a very good turnout. MIAE PARK reviewed the anthems which the choir will present as their musical offerings for the next month and emphasized the anthem for September 13, "My Hope is in You" by Ruth Schram, which was presented with the organ and a beautiful violin accompaniment by RICHARD KIM, one of our guest musicians for that Sunday. The offering music for Sunday September 20 was "Be Thou My Vision" by Carlton Young.

Future Sundays will feature:

"Lord You've Searched and Known Me" by Douglas E. Wagner

"I Will Lift Up My Eyes" by Stan Pethel

"Here I Am Lord" by Daniel Schutte and Stan Pethel

Soprano PAT MILLER sang with a small group of singers from the Monmouth Civic Chorus at the Bayonet Farm Arts and Music Festival on Sunday September 13. The program featured spirituals and popular music. The group also offered a "warm-up" rehearsal at Good Shepherd prior to the concert.

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE BLANKET PROJECT NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The church has been contacted again by CHURCH WORLD SERVICE to present a BLANKETS+ drive. Blanket drives have been held in past years at Good Shepherd and a significant amount of support has been sent to CWS.

Church World Service offers a "congregation kit", which includes everything needed to present a BLANKETS+ campaign. Over 21,000 blankets have been distributed in the United States in the last year to assist those in need. From something as simple as a blanket, amazing things can happen.

If you want to volunteer to present this program to our congregation, please see Gil Vatter or check with Pat Dunn in the church office.

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**

October 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
				6:30 Thrivent Seminar "Economy & Markets" 4:00-8:10pm German School	9:15-10:45am German School	9-12 NJ Symphony Youth Orchestra
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:00 Adult Forum 10:00 Service, First Communion Mtg after service 11:30 New Members Mtg	7:00pm Finance Cmte Mtg	5:30-7:30pm German School	1pm & 7pm Bible Study	9:00-5:00 Property Work Day 7:30 Choir Practice 4:00-8:10pm German School	9:15-10:45am German School	9-12 NJ Symphony Youth Orchestra
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:00 Adult Forum 10:00 Service 11:30 New Members Mtg	7:00pm – Council Mtg	5:30-7:30pm German School 7:30 – 9:00pm Compassionate Friends	1pm & 7pm Bible Study	7:30 Choir Practice 4:00-8:10pm German School	9:15-10:45am German School	9-12 NJ Symphony Youth Orchestra
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:00 Adult Forum 10:00 Service 11:30 New Members Mtg		5:30-7:30pm German School	1pm & 7pm Bible Study	7:30 Choir Practice 4:00-8:10pm German School	9:15-10:45am German School	9-12 NJ Symphony Youth Orchestra
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
9:00 Adult Forum 10:00 Service & new members received		5:30-7:30pm German School	1pm & 7pm Bible Study	7:30 Choir Practice 4:00-8:10pm German School	9:15-10:45am German School	9-12 NJ Symphony Youth Orchestra

