

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

November 2009

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

The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd is a Christian community empowered by the Holy Spirit to witness to the good news of Jesus Christ through worship and service, in faith and with love, to all people.

From The Pastor

Stewardship is not just an investment of time, talent and treasure in the kingdom of God, but an investment of self.

Dear Friends in Christ,

November will be our annual Stewardship Emphasis at Good Shepherd. The sermon series will focus on: THE ABC's of STEWARDSHIP --

Nov. 1 - All Saints Sunday

THE ABC's of STEWARDSHIP: "ATTITUDE" Matthew 5:1-12

Nov. 8 - THE ABC's of STEWARDSHIP: "BLESSINGS" Mark 12:38-33

Nov. 15 - THE ABC's of STEWARDSHIP: "CONSECRATION" Hebrews 10:11-25

Nov. 22 - Christ the King

THE ABC's of STEWARDSHIP: "DECISION" John 18:33-37

Jesus talked much about money. Sixteen of the thirty-eight parables were concerned with how to handle money and possessions. In the Gospels, an amazing one out of ten verses (288 in all) deal directly with the subject of money. The Bible offers 500 verses on prayer, less than 500 verses on faith, but more than 2000 verses on money and possessions.

Martin Luther astutely observed, "There are three conversions necessary: the conversion of the heart, mind and the purse." Of these three, it may well be that many today find the conversion of the purse the most difficult.

A mature Christian has experienced that conversion and has become a good steward. Stewardship is the proper management of my life in order to enhance God's kingdom.

Commitment Cards for 2010 are being sent for you to use any Sunday during November. Simply place it in the offering plate. On November 22 all the Cards will be placed on the altar for a special prayer of Commitment for our work together at Good Shepherd for 2010. We would like to have all the cards returned by November 22. Extra Cards will be available in the narthex.

Thank you for your continuing support for our work and ministry at Good Shepherd. I know we can count on you to continue your faithfulness. Please pray for our work together.

Peace and Joy,
Pastor Ed

Council Meeting Minutes For 10/12/09

In attendance were the following:

Pastor Ed, Gil Vatter, Garry Westerweller, Mike Carp, Karl Torjussen, Andy Mathisen, Lil Nemcik, Pat Miller, and Lou Medici.

Sharon Oberkehr, Steve Miller, and Tom Tehve were absent.

Gil opened the meeting with prayer

Minutes from the 9/14/09 meeting were distributed, read, and approved.

Reports

Worship and Music Report was presented by Andy

- Memorial Garden is near complete, Just waiting on cost of engraving the stones.
- Andy will review and present a procedure for the addition of stones to the garden along with costs
- Services will continue to use intinction for Communion
- 4 People will be participating in the upcoming CROP walk. (Andy, Sharon, Kim Wehrle, and Mike Carp.
- 21 people attended the very successful Economic talk/dinner from Thrivent
- Friday Nov. 6th at 7PM the Treble Concert Choir of Wagner College will present a concert at our Church. (Detailed announcement will be attached to minutes for file purposes)

Devotions presented by Pastor Ed.

- Based on S.D. Gordon in *Quiet Talks on Prayer* where he writes that there is one inlet of power in life- anyone's life – any kind of prayer; just one inlet – the Holy Spirit. He is power. There are five outlets of power; five avenues through which this One within shows Himself and reveals power:
 1. Through our life – what we are
 2. Through our lips – what we say
 3. Through our ministry – what we do
 4. Through our money – what we give
 5. Through our prayer – what we claim in Jesus' name.
- Luke 6:38 says Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.
- Pastor Ed also presented a sample stewardship letter which will go out to the congregation along with commitment cards. (copy attached to minutes for filing purposes)

Council Minutes were then distributed and approved as written.

Treasurer's Report presented by Pat Miller.

- Approved as submitted. (copy attached for filing purposes)

Christian Education Report Presented by Gil in Sharon's absence

- Sunday school is currently underway.
- Materials have been received
- Karen Rajala is assisting Sharon as needed

Evangelism Report

- Blue folders are still a work in progress

Fellowship Report

- Plans are underway for a covered dish supper on November 8th at 5 PM. Signs are posted in the Narthex.
- Christmas Party will be held on December 13th.

Finance Committee Report presented by Lou Medici

- Lou Presented to 2010 Budget for review, Council to e mail suggestions prior to month's end.

Property Report

- Basement window needs to be addressed prior to the winter. Will look to outside sources for quotations.
- October 15th will be the scheduled work day

Social Ministry was presented by Gil

- St. Marks continues to need as much food as we can give them. We delivered 140 cans of food to them in September. (note: 28 cans up from last month)
- Gil will be presenting the sponsorship program again for 2010 for St. Marks. Cost of sponsorship to stay at 75.00 per month.
- "Your Grandmother's Cupboard" pants donation still ongoing.

Youth and Family presented by Mike Carp

- Due to the difficulty of getting teens to commit to anything, Mike suggested that we re-focus our efforts on the younger children. Mike will discuss this with Sharon.

Pastor's Report

- Bibles were recently received and dedicated in a brief ceremony.
- Bible studies continue to draw a strong contingent as the adult forum discusses the minor prophets and the Wednesday group studies the book of Revelations.
- Confirmation class has three prospective confirmands coming to the 2 year program
- First Communion classes have 2 candidates
- New membership has increased by 3
- November sermons will focus on the ABC's of stewardship. (Attitude, Blessings, Consecration, and Decision.

President's Report Presented by Gil

- Closing in on getting the user agreement signed with the German School
- Gil presented an article from the Oct 1st Press dealing with the economic impact of the bad economy on congregations in America. Studies say that by 2010 10-15% will be in serious trouble.
- Gil moved that the mission statement become a monthly part of the Voice. This motion was unanimously approved.

Old Business

- No Old Business

New Business

- Gil Moved that we take \$1000.00 from the general fund and donate it to Saint Mark's. Mike seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.
- Announcement will be forthcoming as to how the congregation can donate frozen turkey's if they so desire.

- Schedule (4) temple talks in November to discuss the Joy of Giving. Gil volunteered for 11/1, Carl for 11/8, and Andy for 11/15. 11/22 needs a volunteer.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Garry Westerweller

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The newspapers, magazines, radio, and television these days are full of news about the danger we all face from the H1N1 flu epidemic. The Center for Disease Control in Atlanta is not fooling around when it comes to this strain of the flu. They have been working hard on a new serum which they hope will prevent us from catching it as well as a series of other preventative steps which we all should remember as we follow our daily routines. The New York Times recently ran a story about how routines and rituals in offices, hospitals, public and private schools, shopping centers and even churches have been turned upside down by the fear of the "swine flu".

Roman Catholic churches in the Diocese of Raleigh, North Carolina have been instructed by their bishop not to shake hands during the passing of the peace and wine is not being offered for communion. At Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Sandy, Utah, pastors have small bottles of hand sanitizer in pockets under their vestments and sanitizer stations have been added in the sanctuary. In the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Florida, church officials have removed hymnals and collection baskets and holy water founts have been emptied and no large group activities will be permitted, including weddings and funerals. They are trying anything to prevent the swine flu.

In more than a dozen states, hospitals have prohibited children from visiting patients because health officials worry that children might spread the swine flu to patients and staff members.

This new round of precautions seem to be less rushed and more thoughtful than the scrambling around last spring when the disease first arrived. A sense of panic has given way to the recognition that we are in this fight together for the long haul and the threat won't be going away anytime soon. The feeling seems to be that we all should try to do something, anything, to try to fight off this dreaded disease, which, unfortunately, is a new strain and almost all of us will be able to catch it. Experts feel that little changes like the ones at Good Shepherd in Sandy, Utah may have an outsized impact when it comes to keeping the population healthy.

So, what do we do here at Good Shepherd? How can we keep the H1N1 from devastating our parish?

- Don't share snacks, unwrapped candy or cakes. Food needs to be wrapped at home and served with utensils.
- Wash your hands at every opportunity or use hand sanitizers or antibacterial wipes when soap and water is not available.
- Greet your fellow members during the passing of the peace or after the service but refrain from shaking hands.
- Use good sense when in a public place by refraining from touching only what you must and WASH YOUR HANDS.
- Get an H1N1 flu shot when they become available.

It is not a given that you will be protected from the swine flu if you follow everything suggested above. Still, all we can do is try our best to beat the disease and common sense seems to be the best preventative.

Gil Vatter

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE PLANS FALLFEST DINNER

The Fellowship Committee is working on a FALLFEST Pot Luck Dinner for Sunday November 8 at 5:00 PM. in Frank Hall. Everyone should mark their calendars and spend the evening together. Please sign the notice in the narthex to indicate what you expect to bring to the Fest and how many will be coming from your family.

AROUND THE PARISH (submitted by Gil Vatter)

1. Former Interim-Pastor PENNY STECHMAN has resigned as Associate Pastor at Reformation Lutheran Church in Long Branch.
2. A tip of the Good Shepherd stetson to Troy Szeles, who enhanced the September 27th service with his singing and guitar.
3. PASTOR ED SAYS "Don't forget to PUSH (Pray - Until - Something - Happens!)"
4. RANDI STETZ has been entertaining relatives from Norway. Her brother was here in September and her neice was here in October.
5. A tip of the Good Shepherd sombrero to the few who worked at the church on October 8 and the folks who attended WORK DAY on Thursday October 15th. A wet, cold day, but things were done. Thank you STEVE MILLER.
6. Our sympathy goes out to BUNNY KUHL whose brother died in Florida. And God will wipe away all tears.
7. Congratulations to PAT and BRYAN DUNN whose son CHRIS was married on October 17.
8. And did you know.....In Genesis, the first book of the Bible, God got tired of creating the Earth, so he took the Sabbath off.
- 9, Did you also know.....PASTOR ED is chaplain of the Runnemedede, New Jersey Fire Company #75.
10. A tip of the Good Shepherd panama to the CROP WALK crew - SHARON OBERKEHR, KIM WHERLI, MIKE CARP and ANDY MATHISEN.
11. A sincere merci beaucoup! to everyone who made September a big month for our FOOD COLLECTION. Over 140 cans of food and then some.
12. Did you notice the new, red Bibles throughout the sanctuary?
13. Little Mary asked her grandma how old she was. Grandma replied, "39 and holding". Mary thought for a moment and then said, "Ans how old would you be if you let go?"
14. The young couple invited their pastor for Sunday dinner. While they were in the kitchen preparing the meal, the minister asked their son what they were having for dinner. "Goat", the little boy replied. "Goat?" said the startled pastor. "Are you sure about that?" "Yep" said the boy. "I heard dad say to mom, 'Today is just as good as any to have that old goat for dinner.'"

NEW BIBLES GRACE EVERY SANCTUARY CHAIR

On Sunday October 4, Pastor Schmidt led an "Order for the Dedication of Bibles" at the 11:00 AM service and a new Bible was added to each chair in the sanctuary. Presented by Carol and Larry Seip, the new copies of the

Revised Standard Version, printed by Augsburg Press, will add a new dimension to worship in the church. We thank the Seip family for their generosity and look forward to using the Bibles as part of our worship experience.

LUNCH BREAK THANKS GOOD SHEPHERD FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

October 12, 2009

P.O. Box 2215
Red Bank, NJ 07701

Dear Friends,

I just wanted to thank you for your donations to Lunch Break over the past quarter. Your contributions are greatly appreciated, especially during challenging times as we are all experiencing now.

I don't know of anyone who isn't either directly or indirectly affected by the economic situation, which is why your contributions are especially appreciated.

With the colder months ahead and as we prepare for our "Thanksgiving Baskets", our "Christmas Baskets" and the "Adopt A Family Program", we will continue to be thankful that we have good friends such as you to help us meet the incredible need throughout the community.

Again, I thank you so much for your kindness to Lunch Break and to those we serve.

Warmest Regards,

Gwendolyn O. Love
Executive Director

WAGNER COLLEGE CHOIR TO PERFORM AT GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

The Wagner College Treble Concert Choir, under the direction of Roger Wesby, will present a concert at Good Shepherd Church on Friday November 6, 2009 at 7:00 PM. The concert will feature music by Johannes Brahms, Gabriel Faure, Hector Villa-Lobos, Jerry Bock, Frank Loesser, and Lennon-McCarthy as well as folk music and spirituals. Barbara Wesby will accompany the choir. Members of Good Shepherd are invited to attend and please invite your friends and neighbors to hear this outstanding musical organization.

SOCIAL MINISTRY REPORT

Both Thanksgiving and Christmas are coming soon and the food pantries throughout the area are reminding us that there are lots of families in Monmouth County in need of turkeys and other food for their holiday meals. The Social Ministry Committee is asking everyone in the parish to remember these folks by making a special effort in November and December to donate extra food.

Does your SUPER MARKET have a special promotion at Thanksgiving or Christmas or both, offering a turkey if you purchase a certain amount at their store? If so, please consider donating your turkey to a food pantry. We'll make it easy for you. In mid-November and mid-December we will set two dates on which you may bring turkeys to the church and someone will deliver your donation to the food pantry. We'll even pick it up at your home, if you are unable to drive to the church. Check the Sunday bulletin for dates and times when the collections will be made.

In September Good Shepherd delivered 140 cans of food (plus some food not in cans) to St. Mark's in Keansburg (112 cans in September). St. Mark's is now feeding a hot meal to an average of 60 people a day, while offering bags of groceries twice a week. Both of these programs continue to grow as the economy affects the job market. They also sponsor a "boarding house" which provides shelter for more than 20 people. With our monthly gifts of food and the money from the "sponsors" program, we are contributing to an important community ministry. All in all, our congregation will contribute well over \$10,000 to these kinds of important ministries in 2009.

There will be an announcement about the 2010 St. Mark's "SPONSORS PROGRAM" in November. You have subscribed to the Sponsors Program for two years (2008 and 2009) and it has been well supported by members of the congregation. We will need 12 families, each to take one month of 2010, to make this outreach a success. Check the Sunday bulletin for when you can be a part of this worthy cause.

Andy Mathisen and Mike Carp will announce the results of the CROP WALK in a few weeks.

Gil Vatter

A FEW NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

The Senior Choir is looking forward to Thanksgiving and Advent and is working on music for both occasions. With Christmas only a few months away, the tempo of preparation is becoming more pressing. We hope you will enjoy the music which Miae has selected for the coming Sundays. Some of the new music includes:

"You Are My Song" by Cindy Berry

"Our Dwelling Place" by Victor C. Johnson

"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" by Robert W. Thygerson

Remember, there is always room for you in the choir loft. Sit in on a rehearsal any Thursday evening at 7:30 PM.

FAITH LUTHERAN PLANS OBERAMMERGAU TRIP

Faith Lutheran Church of Lavallette is planning to attend the world renowned Passion Play at Oberammergau next year. Led by Pastor John Collins, the trip will take place from July 1 to 9, 2010. There are still a few opening left and attendance will be on a first come, first served basis.

For more information and a brochure describing the trip, contact Pastor Collins at 732-793-8138 or e-mail him at jtcollins56@hotmail.com.

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

November 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
9:00 Adult Forum 10:00 Service		10am - noon & 6 – 8pm German School	1pm & 7pm Bible Study 6pm Confirmation Class	7:30 Choir Practice 4:00-8:10pm German School	7:pm – Wagner College Choir Concert 9:15-11am German School	9-12 NJ Symphony Youth Orchestra
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:00 Adult Forum 10:00 Service 5pm - FallFest Pot Luck Dinner	7:00pm – Council Mtg	10am - noon & 6 – 8pm German School		7:30 Choir Practice 4:00-8:10pm German School	9:15 -11am German School	9-12 NJ Symphony Youth Orchestra
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:00 Adult Forum 10:00 Service 2-6pm German School St. Martin Celebration		10am - noon & 6 – 8pm German School 7:30 – 9:00pm Compassionate Friends	1pm & 7pm Bible Study 6pm Confirmation Class	7:30 Choir Practice 4:00-8:10pm German School	9:15-11am German School	9-12 NJ Symphony Youth Orchestra
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:00 Adult Forum 10:00 Service		10am - noon & 6 – 8pm German School	1pm & 7pm Bible Study 6pm Confirmation Class	Thanksgiving Day	9:15-11am German School	9-12 NJ Symphony Youth Orchestra
29	30					
9:00 Adult Forum 10:00 Service						

