

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

December 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

Greetings in Christ!

Advent and Christmas are joyous times of worship and service. I look forward to sharing in these seasons with you. The world around us points to "Santa" and artificial light to give meaning to the season but the true gift giver and the Real Light has come into the world. The message of the Gospel points to the real meaning and significance of Advent and Christmas.

Our outreach to the needy through turkeys, canned goods and toys, as well as our regular Sunday worship and Christmas Party (December 13) help us set the tone for a joyous celebration of what God has done for us in Jesus.

During Advent and Christmas our worship centers on "**THE CHRIST OF CHRISTMAS**" based on the familiar verse from **Isaiah 9:6**:

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

Nov. 29 - Advent 1 - **THE CHRIST OF CHRISTMAS: "WONDERFUL"**
Isaiah 9:6 and Jeremiah 33:14-16

Dec. 6 - Advent 2 - **THE CHRIST OF CHRISTMAS: "COUNSELOR"**
Isaiah 9:6 and Malachi 3:1-4

Dec. 13 - Advent 3 - **THE CHRIST OF CHRISTMAS: "MIGHTY GOD"**
Isaiah 9:6 and Zephaniah 3:14-20

Dec. 20 - Advent 4 - **THE CHRIST OF CHRISTMAS: "EVERLASTING FATHER"**
Isaiah 9:6 and Micah 5:2-5a

CHRISTMAS EVE AT GOOD SHEPHERD

**7 and 10 p.m. -- Holy Communion and Traditional Candlelighting
Sermon: THE CHRIST OF CHRISTMAS: "PRINCE OF PEACE"**

Isaiah 9:6 and Luke 2:1-20

Special Children's Message at 7: "RACING TO THE MANGER"

The Advent and Christmas seasons are a natural time to invite someone to come with you to Good Shepherd. These seasons offer hope and encouragement to us all. You can help make this a special time for someone you know and love by offering them the lasting gift - The Gift of New Life in Jesus.

Pastor Ed

Council Meeting Minutes For 11/09/09

In attendance were the following:

Pastor Ed, Gil Vatter, Garry Westerweller, Karl Torjussen, Andy Mathisen, Lil Nemcik, Tom Tehve, Sharon Oberkehr, Amanda Westerweller, and Lou Medici.

Pat Miller, Steve Miller and Mike Carp were absent.

Gil opened the meeting with prayer

Devotions presented by Pastor Ed.

- Taken from I Chronicles 29: 10-18
- Three things we learn about God are:
 1. God's Power – his ability to give
 2. God's Provision – His willingness to give
 3. God's Partnership – His reason to give
- *We receive from God and offer it back to him. God enables us to do these things*

Garry introduced Amanda to the Council and discussed her willingness to offer her time for community service through the Church. Tabled her nomination as a Junior Council member till later in the meeting. Sharon asked if she would help out with the Sunday School Christmas Pageant and Amanda agreed to assist.

Council Minutes from 10/12/09 were then distributed and approved as written.

Reports

Treasurer's Report presented by Tom Tehve.

- We are currently on target to meet expenses and for income to exceed expenses for the year.
- Approved as submitted. (copy attached for filing purposes)

Christian Education Report was presented by Sharon Oberkehr

- Sunday school now has two classes, with pre-K having 4 kids and above pre-K having 5
- Christmas Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 20th.
- Looking for an avenue to support one or several families at Christmas. Sharon will research options.

Fellowship Report

- Great turnout for Sunday's fellowship dinner. (about 50 people attended)
- Christmas celebration will be on December 13th at 5:00 PM
- Garry will call Debbie to assist in party set up and entertainment.
- Garry will ask Debbie to contact Dick to play piano.

Property Report presented by Tom Tehve

- Attached list of significant projects for filing purposes
- Several Maintenance bills forthcoming prior to year end.

Social Ministry was presented by Gil

- 150 Cans of food were delivered to St Marks. (140 last month)
- Gil sees no difficulty in getting monthly sponsors for St Marks.
- Looking for a representative for the Community Outreach Group (COG). Gil will put something in the Voice and Bulletin
- Tuesday, November 24, Gil will be at the Church to receive Turkey donations for either St Marks or Lunch Break.

- We received a Thank you letter from St Marks for our \$1000.00 donation
- Crop Walk raised \$260.00 (down from last year)

Worship and Music Report was presented by Andy

- 50-60 attended the Wagner Concert
- Memorial Garden is near completion, still need to set up stone engraving
- Plant donations needed for Garden. Tom suggested getting deer resistant plants.

Finance Committee Report presented by Lou Medici

- Finance Committee did not meet
- So far 11 pledges have been received. (33 total were handed in last year)

Mutual Ministry Committee

- E mail was received from Clem agreeing to prospective salary increases for Miae and Pat

Pastor's Report

- 2 Boys received first communion, Luke Johnson and Andrew Bergstram
- New members this Sunday will be Keith and Nicci Hafer and John Lewis (John may be moving however)
- Bible Studies continue on Sunday, (Minor Prophets 8-12) and Wednesday (Revelation 12-15)
- Confirmation classes on Wednesday with 3 prospective confirmands.
- December will focus on different names we use for God. " His name shall be called..."
 - Wonderful – 11/27
 - Counselor – 12/06
 - Mighty God – 12/13
 - Everlasting Father – 12/20
 - Prince of Peace- 12/04
- Christmas Eve services discussed with decision being made to change the focus of the 5PM service to mirror the later service.

President's Report Presented by Gil

- On target to meet our commitment to Synod of \$2400.00 for the year
- Letter of agreement with German School signed and attached for the record as part of the minutes.
- Karl and Lou volunteered to complete a congregational profile
- Reminder to all committee members that annual reports are due in Jan.
- Looking to add a minimum of 2 people to the council for next year.

Old Business

- No Old Business

New Business

- Frank Hall carpet needs to be cleaned. Motion was carried and approved to complete this task. Recommendation that we wait until after this year's Christmas Party
- Lou proposed that Amanda Westerweller be added to the council as a Youth Council Member. This was seconded by Karl and unanimously approved.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Garry Westerweller

Poinsettias for Christmas (submitted by Nancy Hergenhan)

Sunday, November 29th is the first Sunday in Advent. The sign-up poster for donating poinsettias will be in the narthex. Please consider adding your name to the list. The price is the same as last year - \$15. Final day for ordering is Wednesday, December 16. If you are unable to be at church before the 16th, you can call the church office (732-842-4596) and Pat Dunn will add your name to the chart.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER (submitted by Gil Vatter)

WE'VE BEEN ROBBED!!!!

I'm not referring to Major League Baseball or the National Football League here. The phrase, "we've been robbed" sounds like something that would be heard at Citi Field or the new Yankee Stadium after a particularly close play at first base or in Giant Stadium, when a ten yard penalty has been assessed. What I want to discuss today has nothing to do with baseball or football. Where I think we've been robbed, however, has everything to do with the heist of a Christian holiday by the advertising industry, the retailers and the media.

We live in a land where we are reminded that we must spend as much money as possible on as much "stuff" as possible in a period of three months. Sometime after school begins in September, the thieves, that is all the people who have stolen our holiday, begin to bombard us with messages on television, on the radio, in our newspapers and magazines and familiar carols remind us in every store they control that it is our responsibility to begin spending as much as we can, as quickly as we can, buying their merchandise, ordering tickets for their shows, planning to take their trips, etc. By October we begin to get circulars in our local papers that warn that it's already very late for finding appropriate gifts for all our relatives and friends, so, we should act quickly before the toys, shirts, perfume, and so forth are gone and we will disappoint those for whom we should have been shopping long ago. A rotund gentleman in a red suit and with a white beard is also provided by Thanksgiving in order to remind mothers and fathers and other relatives that all the goodies which their children are seeing on every kid's show on television can be bought for a favorable price at their store. Even in far away countries such as Japan there is a frenzy to buy, buy, buy and remember that Japan's Christian population is very small.

The point is that it is time we began reclaiming Christmas. It is, after all, among the Christian church's most important festivals and along with Easter, arguably, the holiday most universally celebrated and emphasized by Christians throughout the world, regardless of what brand of Christianity they elect to follow. Christians from Korea to Kenya all approach the feast of Christmas with enthusiasm and glee to celebrate the birth of Christ as God's gift to the world.

So, what can we as Lutheran Christians do to take back our festival? Should we stop buying gifts altogether? Should we stop decorating trees and gathering our families together for a special dinner? We would certainly alienate a lot of our family members if we turned Christmas into a one-day worship service with none of the usual accessories that have come to mark an American Christmas. Lots of kids and grandkids would be shocked and disappointed to find no presents, no decorated trees and no Santa to whom a want list of toys can be provided. I know that this is not going to happen in my lifetime.

The logical step we can take to remind the world that Christmas is a Christian holiday is to tell everyone we know that we celebrate the birth of Christ not in a department store, not in a theater, not on a cruise ship but in our churches on the appropriate day. So, to show others what Christmas means to you, go to a church on Christmas Eve or on Christmas day and thank God for his gift of the baby in the manger. Sing along with others:

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

AROUND THE PARISH (submitted by Gil Vatter)

1. A tip of the Good Shepherd sombrero to the women of the WAGNER COLLEGE TREBLE CHOIR, who bussed over from Staten Island to entertain more than 50 of us with a top-of-the-line evening of music on Friday November 6. Hope you sing here again soon. Wagner alumni, such as BARBARA BENSON, DIANE MATHISEN and BILL WHERLI were busting a button with pride.
2. MARK YOUR CALENDAR - The Good Shepherd Christmas party is scheduled for Sunday December 13 at 5:00 PM.
3. Sincere congratulations to LUKE JOHNSON and ANDREW BERGSTRAM who received their first communion on Sunday October 25.
4. A tip of the Good Shepherd stetson to DEBBIE BLACKBURN and her loyal group of women who worked so hard to prepare and serve a delicious FALL FEST dinner to over 50 people in Frank Hall on Sunday November 8. I'm still full.
5. DON'T FORGET - Christmas Eve services - Family Worship Service at 7:00 PM - Traditional candlelight and Holy Communion Service at 10:00 PM. - Come, spend a traditional Christmas Eve with your friends at Good Shepherd.
6. The Congregation Council welcomes AMANDA WESTERWELLER as our new Youth Council member. Among other things, Amanda will assist with the Sunday School Christmas pageant.
7. You don't want to miss this year's SUNDAY SCHOOL PAGEANT, which will be presented during the regular worship service on Sunday December 20. SHARON OBERKEHR and her teachers are working hard on their annual presentation.
8. Hearty welcome to NICCI and KEITH HAFER and JOHN LEWIS, who became members of our fellowship on Sunday January 15.
9. Former member JOAN HORLACHER tested her new knee when she and husband BOB visited the Panama Canal in October. We were also glad to welcome JOAN and BOB at our worship service on November 15.
10. Good to see LARRY JACKSON back in the third row on the left side after being ill for several weeks.
11. A tip of the Good Shepherd beret to ROBERT KIM and MIAE PARK'S son JONATHAN for their musical contribution to our worship on Sunday November 1. ROBERT also played the accompaniment for the choral anthem along with MIAE PARK. Beautiful music. Thanks guys.
12. Ran into former member ELSA SNOW having lunch with NANCY FITCH at a local eatery. ELSA sends her regards to all her friends at Good Shepherd.
13. Good to have BOB SISLIAN back in church again after problems with his leg. The coffee hour just isn't the same without you, BOB.
14. You know autumn is here. JANICE and PAUL KRAUS have moved back to Florida for the winter and NANCY and CLEM HERGENHAN have abandoned Wall Township for the winter.
15. PAT and STEVE MILLER just returned from a river cruise in western Europe.

16. PAT and BRYAN DUNN spent the third week of November in Michigan.

17. The congregation enjoyed hearing about "Saint Edward" in Pastor Ed's sermon, "Prayer Power" on Sunday November 1. "St. Edward", hmmm, does have a nice ring to it.

18, Former member PAM EVERETT sends her best wishes to all her friends at Good Shepherd.

19. There was both rejoicing as well as sorrow in early November as the NEW YORK YANKEES defeated the PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES in the 2009 World Series. We noted RANDI STETZ with a broad smile and a certain clergyman with a black arm band. Que sera, sera.

20. DON'T FORGET TO FEED THE HUNGRY.

21. The math teacher saw that little Sally wasn't paying attention in class. She called on her and said, "Sally, what are 2 and 4 and 28 and 44?" Sally quickly responded, "NBCV, FOX, ESPN and the Cartoon Network."

22. Did you know? Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of Ark. Noah built an ark and the animals came in pears.

23. Did you also know? The twelve people who followed the Lord were called the 12 decibels.

24. Have a blessed Thanksgiving. - See you in church!!!

ADVICE TO HELP PREVENT H1N1 FLU (submitted by Michael Carp)

Here are some practical ways to help prevent the spread of H1N1 flu:

1. Frequent hand washing.
2. "Hands-off-the-face" approach. Resist all temptation to touch any part of the face.
3. Gargle twice a day with warm salt water (use Listerene, if you don't trust salt). Simple gargling prevents proliferation.
4. Clean your nostrils at least once every day with warm salt water. Blow your nose at least once each day and swab both nostrils with cotton swabs dipped in warm salt water.
5. Boost your natural immunity with foods that are rich in vitamin C. If you elect to use supplements for vitamin C, make sure that it also has zinc to boost absorption.
6. Drink as much of warm liquids (tea, coffee, etc.) as you can. This will have the same effect as gargling, but in reverse. Warm liquids wash off proliferating viruses from the throat into the stomach, where they cannot survive, proliferate or do any harm.

THE KITCHEN AT SAINT MARK'S THANKS GOOD SHEPHERD FOR CONTRIBUTION

October 26, 2009

The Kitchen at St. Mark's
P.O. Box 193
Keansburg, N.J. 07734
732-495-5227

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your very generous donation of \$1,000. Your gift has been helping us feed an increasing number of clients, especially in the soup kitchen, and will help us meet the needs of the hungry in the busy holiday season ahead.

Thanks again for your kindness to our neighbors in need.

Sincerely,
Nancy Mester
Co-Director

Doreen Minutella
Co-Director

WAGNER COLLEGE TREBLE CHOIR RINGS GOOD SHEPHERD RAFTERS

On Friday November 6, the Wagner College Treble Concert Choir presented a concert of diversified music to an appreciative audience in the sanctuary of Good Shepherd Church. Under the direction of Dr. Roger Wesby and accompanied by Barbara Wesby, the well trained women's chorus began the evening with several classical songs; "The Day You Gave Us, O Lord" (Clement Scholefield), "Psalm 13" (Johannes Brahms), "Cantique de Jean Racine" (Gabriel Faure) and "The Marriage of Figaro" (W. A. Mozart).

On their first road concert of the season, the 50 voice choir then changed the whole mood of their presentation with two southern spirituals, "Down in the River to Pray" and "Every Time I Feel the Spirit".

Following a short intermission, the chorus moved from "Die Nachtigall" (Haydn/Mozart), a spritely round which had the audience tapping their feet to a more contemporary idiom featuring "Thunder Storm" (Perpetuum Jazzile) and "Lake Huron Autumn" (Mark Sirett). The "Thunder Storm", an audience favorite, was a representation of an approaching rain storm, which grows in intensity, wanes and, finally moves on. The Treble Choir resorted to "rustling (rubbing palms together), non-pitched vocal sounds (sh), "flapping" (hands rolling on legs), whistling, improvised birdcalls, etc., all of which had the audience reaching for umbrellas and macintoshes to get out of the rain. Kelly Birgfeld, a music professor at Wagner, conducted this part of the program as well as "Six Bells" (Thomas Bell). evocative of Irish folk music and sea chanties.

A septet (The Vocal Jazz Lab) from within the choir sang "Na Baixa do Sapateiro", reminiscent of the Brazilian classic, "The Girl From Ipenima", which was popular a few years ago. This was followed by the Harold Arlen/Johnny Mercer classic, "Come Rain or Come Shine" and "Hello, Goodbye" the familiar tune from John Lennon and Paul McCarthy. Everyone felt at home with these old favorites and it put everyone in a great mood for the final part of the evening, which featured the well blending treble voices of the choir singing the toe tapping favorites, "Here Comes the Sun" (George Harrison), Sunrise, Sunset" from "Fiddler on the Roof" and "Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat" from "Guys and Dolls". Sustained applause, led by more than a few Wagner alumni indicated the enthusiasm and appreciation of those fortunate enough to be present for a wonderful evening of music.

Thanks to Dr. Wesby, Prof. Kelly Birgfeld, Barbara Wesby and all the women of the Wagner College Treble Choir for a wonderful evening of eclectic music.

SOCIAL MINISTRY REPORT (submitted by Gil Vatter)

The "St. Mark's Sponsors Program will continue through next year. 2010 will mark the third year in which Good Shepherd will help feed some hungry families in this part of Monmouth County by means of the Kitchen at St. Mark's by providing a nourishing, hot meal. To become a part of this worthy program, simply speak to Pastor Ed, Gil Vatter or any member of the Congregation Council. The cost is \$75.00.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, there is an article about our need for a volunteer to serve on the COG board of trustees. Please consider this important need and become our representative to the Community Outreach Group.

Remember to bring a turkey to the church on Tuesday November 24, between 9:30 AM and Noon, for distribution to local food banks.

Good Shepherd continues to collect canned food for distribution to local food pantries. In October your generosity provided over 150 cans of food plus other miscellaneous food to St. Mark's Food Pantry. Try to remember your hungry neighbors when you shop for groceries or visit one of the local warehouse stores.

The Congregation Council has agreed to support one or more local families at Christmas. More information will be announced soon.

Good Shepherd Sunday School will lead a program to provide funds to Heifer, International in 2010. More information will be announced by Sharon Oberkehr after the first of the year. Look for more about Heifer, International in future issues of the "Voice".

Mike Carp and Any Mathisen announced that our participation in the annual CROP WALK has resulted in donations of \$260.00 to date.

Did you know?Good Shepherd congregation will contribute \$2,400.00 to the New Jersey Synod this year.

The Counseling Center for Human Development has been operating in our building for several months.

REMEMBER YOUR HUNGRY NEIGHBORS WHEN YOU GO SHOPPING THIS WEEK !!!

A FEW NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth" (Psalm 100)

The choir continues to prepare for Advent and Christmas services. Come join us. Sing with us for the Christmas season. The choir rehearses each Thursday from 7:30 until 9:00.

The choir will provide music for upcoming 11:00 o'clock services as follows:

November 1 - "Love Unmeasured, Love of God" by Lloyd Larson - Accompaniment by Robert Kim, violin

November 8 - "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" by Robert W. Thygerson

November 15 - "For Where Love Is, There Is God" by Douglas E. Wagner

November 22 - "With a Voice of Singing" by Martin Shaw

"Every Valley" by Mark Hayes

"Come Rejoice, Believers" by Dietrich Buxtehude

"When God's Time Had Ripened" by Alfred Fedak and Carl Daw

GOOD SHEPHERD SEEKING VOLUNTEER FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH GROUP

Good Shepherd Church has been a member of COG (Community Outreach Group) for several years. As a member, Good Shepherd is entitled to a vote on the board of trustees. At this time, however, we do not have a representative attending COG meetings. The annual meeting and organization meeting will be held during the first quarter of 2010.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 2 at the Middletown Reformed Church on King's Highway at 7:00 PM. At this meeting, decisions about year-end distributions to non-profit groups will be made. COG operates the Calico Cat and many other outreach activities.

If you are interested in representing Good Shepherd in this worthy organization, please speak with Pastor Ed, Gil Vatter or any member of the Congregation Council.

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**

December 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
		10am - noon & 6 – 8pm German School	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
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9- Adult Forum 10- Service	7pm – Finance Cmt Mtg	10am - noon & 5:30 – 7:30pm German School	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
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9- Adult Forum 10- Service 5pm Christmas Dinner at Good Shepherd	7pm – Council Mtg	10am - noon & 5:30 – 7:30pm German School 7:30 – 9:00pm Compassionate Friends		7:30 Choir Practice 4:00-8:10pm German School	9:15-11am German School	9-12 NJ Symphony Youth Orchestra
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9- Adult Forum 10- Service		10am - noon & 5:30 – 7:30pm German School	1pm & 7pm Bible Study 6pm Confirmation Class	7pm & 10pm – Candellight Service	Christmas Day	
27	28	29	30	31		
9- Adult Forum 10- Service		10am - noon & 5:30 - 7:30pm German School	1pm & 7pm Bible Study 6pm Confirmation Class			