

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

February 2010

(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!

February is upon us and we change from Epiphany to Lent. Ash Wednesday is February 17 and we will have two services with Holy Communion and Ashes. The times will be that of our regular Wednesday Bible Study -- 1 and 7 p.m.

This year we will have a mid-week Lenten Service on Wednesdays at 1 and 7 p.m. The theme will be: THE TABERNACLE - A Picture of Christ and the Believer! Each week, starting on Ash Wednesday and concluding on Holy Thursday, we will look at some aspect of the Tabernacle in the wilderness and how it brings Jesus to life and guides us in our walk with Him.

We will meet in the church, have a Lenten Devotional Service and look at the Tabernacle to see God's plan of salvation for all people. Here are the weekly themes:

Feb. 17 – Ash Wednesday – 1 and 7 p.m.

THE TABERNACLE: "The Architect of Salvation" Exodus 25:1,2,8,9

Feb. 24 – 1 and 7 p.m.

THE TABERNACLE: "A Place to Meet God" Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Mar. 3 – 1 and 7 p.m.

THE TABERNACLE: "Foundation, Covering and Leather Shoes" Philippians 3:17-4:1

Mar. 10 – 1 and 7 p.m.

THE TABERNACLE: "The Shadow of the Cross" I Corinthians 10:1-13

Mar. 17 – 1 and 7 p.m.

THE TABERNACLE: "Enter Through the Blood" Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Mar. 24 – 1 and 7 p.m.

THE TABERNACLE: "Alone with God" Philippians 3:4-14

Apr. 1 -- THURSDAY OF HOLY WEEK - 7 p.m. only

THE TABERNACLE: "Christ Our Substitute" Hebrews 9:11-14

Apr. 2 -- GOOD FRIDAY - 7 p.m.

TENEBRAE - The Passion According to St. John

I hope you will plan to be a part of this exciting series. Join us each Wednesday during Lent at either 1 or 7 p.m. as we seek to deepen our walk with the Lord through the Tabernacle.

Peace and Joy,

Pastor Ed

Council Meeting Minutes For 1/11/10

In attendance were the following:

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

Tom Tehve, Sharon Oberkehr, Lou Medici, and Amanda Westerweller were excused.

Gil opened the meeting with prayer

Devotions presented by Pastor Ed.

- Devotions were centered around Psalm 46 and God's Strength
- Psalm was the basis of Luther's Hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"
- The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Council Minutes from 12/14/09 were approved as written.

Reports

Treasurer's Report presented by Pat Miller.

- Approved as submitted. (copy attached for filing purposes)
- December giving broke all records
- Pat moved that 20K check be written back to the ELCA Mission / Parsonage fund
- This motion was approved by council

Christian Education Report was presented for Sharon by Gil

- Christmas pageant was so well received on Christmas Eve that Andy's committee will study the possibility of presenting it at the same time next year.
- Gil will write an article for the voice on the Heifer Project
- Over 70 gifts were given for the toy drive at Christmas. This was more than we originally thought.

Evangelism Report was presented by Lil

- Received all of the feedback needed for the blue folders and will turn over to Gil and Pat for organization and distribution. Pastor will write a brief introduction/forward.

Fellowship Report

- Nothing currently planned

Finance Committee Report presented by Karl

- Reviewing budget for the congregational meeting
- Offering envelopes are close to complete distribution.

Property Report presented by Steve Miller

- Significant item report is attached for filing purposes.
- Noted that Low Slope Roofing/ entry door roof area/ south end of building needed significant repair work. No choice but to have repairs completed.

Social Ministry was presented by Gil

- 130 Cans of food were delivered to St Marks along with several Hams and Turkeys.
- Gil calculated over 15K given by the congregation to the outreach program.

Worship and Music Report was presented by Pastor Ed for Andy

- Continuing hunt for possibly 2 new council members

Youth and Family Report presented by Mike Carp

- Mike reviewed the giving and matching Thrivent funds that were recently completed by the congregation.

- Mike stated that through three events; Souper Bowl of Caring, World Hunger for Lent, and Crop Walk, we were able to assist 7 organizations.

President's Report Presented by Gil

- Counseling service is up, running and well supported
- Annual Congregational meeting set for 1/24/10
- Gil stressed the need to get a copy of the voice into every member's house, be it via E mail, snail mail, or pick up at church.
- Synod has been notified of Pastor Ed's contract extension.
- Multiple Thank you notes have been received for various endeavors. Some of the organizations sending notes were; Interfaith Neighbors, President of Wagner College, Lunch Break, Saint Mark's, and Pastor Ed.

Pastor's Report

- Midweek Lenten Services will be held at 1PM and 7PM.
- Emphasis will be on tabernacle for our lives
- Sunday bible study has completed the Minor Prophets and start to study Ezekiel

Old Business

- No Old Business

New Business

- Steve Miller officially moved that we complete the necessary repairs to the roof as per Mountain Construction's quote, \$2500.00. This motion was unanimously carried.
- Garry discussed the possibility of getting Amanda involved with a possible Facebook Page in an effort to get more kids involved.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Garry Westerweller

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CONGREGATION TO TACKLE SECOND "HEIFER PROJECT" IN 2010

At the regular monthly meeting of the Congregation Council, it was unanimously agreed to support the Sunday Church School, under the direction of SHARON OBERKEHR, in their "Heifer Project" for 2010. It was also suggested that the entire congregation be included in the project, in order to guarantee a larger gift. This will be the second "Heifer Project" for the school and the church, the first being in 2008. The project will seek to send at least one or more farm animals to a needy family in this country or elsewhere in the world. It gives Good Shepherd the opportunity to share our generosity and love with less fortunate people throughout the world and fulfill the call to care for the hungry and poor.

Heifer International, located in Little Rock, Arkansas, was founded in 1944 to help the hungry become more self-reliant. At that time, a Midwestern farmer and church leader named Dan West rallied the support of his congregation to donate heifers to families in need. Gifts of farm animals and the training to raise them helps struggling families to make a lasting, positive change in their lives. After a short time, they are improving their nutrition with milk, cheese and eggs and soon they are also earning extra income by selling leftovers at market.

In addition, the theory of "Passing on the Gift" provides that recipient families help other families in their community by passing on their animals' offspring and thereby transform an entire community. It all begins when someone makes a gift to Heifer International.

The gift of animals from our congregation could include:

- \$20 - Ducks and Geese - easy to care for and provide nutritious protein from eggs to eat and sell at market.
- \$60 - Rabbits - multiply quickly so this gift may be passed to other families as well.
- \$120 - Pigs - Easy to care for, take up very little space and make a perfect gift for a farmer with a small piece of land.
- \$250 - Water Buffalos - Three gifts in one; tangy milk to drink and sell, draft power to help plow a field and organic fertilizer to help improve crops.
- \$500 - Heifers - Provide a continuous source of milk to drink and sell and a calf to pass on to another family.

There is no end to the combination and variety of animals which may be sent according to the total amount accumulated and sent to Heifer International. You will be hearing much more about this project as the months pass. Plan to make a gift to this worthy cause.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER (submitted by Gil Vatter)
THE STATE OF THE CONGREGATION

"When children of tomorrow, our legacy review,
May what we've done for others, reveal our love for You."

From "Within This House of Worship" by Lloyd Larson - The anthem sung by the choir on Sunday January 24

The Good Shepherd annual meeting, which took place on Sunday January 24, served more than one purpose. Of course, we did a general review of what occurred last year. That happens at every annual meeting. Sometimes the news is good and sometimes it's not so good. This year, for the most part, it was very good. At last year's meeting we were all apprehensive, upset about what had happened in 2007 and 2008 and worried about what to expect in 2009. I guess that's human nature to act that way; to be chagrined about what we did and uneasy about what we think we will do in the future. The budget, which you approved at the meeting, seems to be assured by the pledges made at the end of last year plus the pattern of giving which became apparent through the course of 2009. As Pat Miller announced during the Treasurer's Report, we received enough money last year to replace some of what had been used from our "Mission Fund" investment. That's progress. The buildings have been repaired as required and we now have the funds to do more cleaning and plan to improve portions of the building over the year. The music program is strong and undergirds the worship service as always.

What the congregation did last year was great. Good Shepherd added new members, continued to provide a meaningful place of worship for the community and gave away almost 10% of its income. We should rejoice in how we responded to the Gospel in 2009. However, we ought to use 2009 as a spring board toward the future. We still have a challenge ahead of us and each person in the parish will have to put her/his collective shoulder to the wheel and keep on working toward the eventual goal we have all agreed to strive toward.

During the annual meeting we decided that 2010 will also be the year for underscoring the importance of young families and a revival of youth activities in the church. Toward that end, the Council included a Youth & Family Committee onto the list of congregational priorities. We also invited Amanda Westerweller to become the "Youth Representative" on the Council, in order to have a young voice in parish planning. Now, in 2010, every one of us must work toward increasing the population of young folks and lending our support and financial assistance to this program and to the solid Sunday School program, which is already in place.

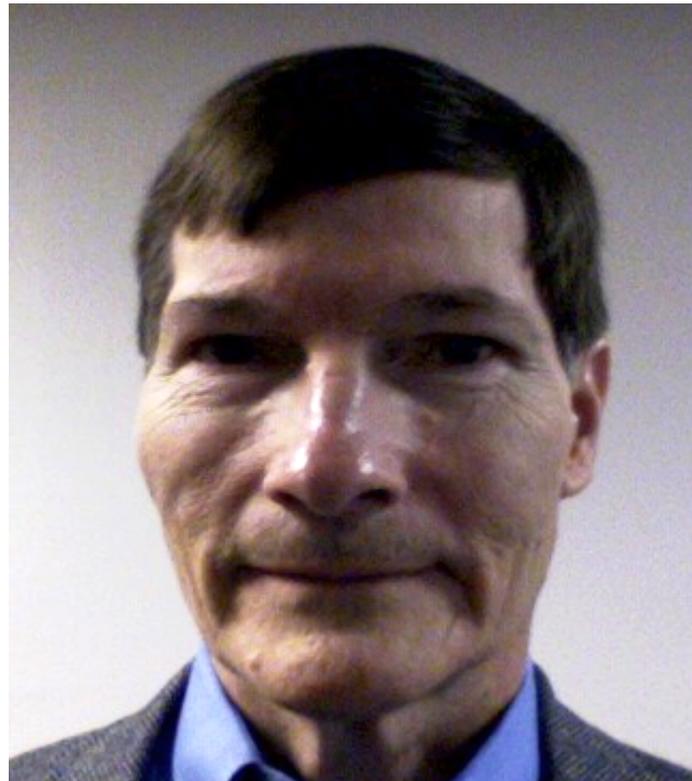
The "outreach" by this congregation has been improving and a number of Social Ministry activities are already underway or being planned. Our concern for our local neighbors will continue to take top billing in the activities we support. They need us badly and unfortunately the need seems to keep growing. There are at least two benefit concerts planned for the first half of the year to help alleviate this need. However, we hope also to move

our outreach beyond Monmouth County as well. The Heifer Project has started. Our response to the dreadful need in Haiti is more than a charity, it is simply our responsibility as Christian citizens in the context of a society being destroyed by a natural disaster. We have no choice but to become involved. We will provide funds for the ELCA World Hunger drive as we did in 2009. Last year, the New Jersey Synod received over \$2,600 badly needed funds from this church. Many churches in the Synod have fallen on hard times, just as we did in 2007 and 2008. They are no longer able to pay their bills and the salaries which keep their mission in place. It is our responsibility to give what we can to support the myriad places in New Jersey and the world, where the Synod is involved. The "Crop Walk", the "SouperBowl of Caring", the "St. Mark's Sponsors Program", Coffee and food for local food pantries and various annual activities will continue as they did last year.

The Council acted to assure that we will have pastoral leadership through June by extending Pastor Ed Schmidt's contract. We are fortunate to have a clergyman, who brings to us many years of parish experience as well as a wealth of biblical knowledge. Pastor's sermons as well as the Bible study sessions he provides throughout the year, demonstrate this knowledge. The Council has a group of serious, experienced church people, who all have the same goal in mind; to make this church grow as we witness to the good news of the Gospel. Your Council representatives, as well as others from the congregation who serve in special posts, will be recognized at a worship service in February. I have described only the highlights of what was done last year and what is planned for this year. Changes to our planning will occur as unexpected situations arise. We will ,however, with God's help, continue on the path this congregation has already chosen. Please make the journey with us.

May God bless us all and the ministry of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd.

JOHN CRUMP – NEW COUNCIL MEMBER



Hailing from Pittsford in upstate N.Y., John's family were congregants at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. After college, John's career in R&D within the food industry began first with General Foods (now Kraft) in Westchester County, N.Y., then with Lipton in northern N.J., and back to upstate working at The International Food Network in Ithaca until June of 2009, when he relocated to Aberdeen, N.J. On Easter Sunday 2009, John (and his sidekick Linda) attended our church for the first time, subsequently attended the New Member

Orientation class in the Fall, and became a member at the end of last year. John's outside interests are physical fitness, reading, and keeping tabs on his 27 year old son, a civil engineer in Harrisonburg, VA.

AROUND THE PARISH (submitted by Gil Vatter)

1. Happy birthday to KIM WHERLI, FRED OBERKEHR, PAT DUNN, BILL WHERLI and former member BILL THEUNE, all celebrating in January.
2. Good to see ERNIE BRINKMAN back in church again after spending some time in the Freehold hospital. ERNIE and GRACE had to cancel their planned trip to California to spend some time with their daughter BONNIE'S family.
3. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd derby to all the families who provided poinsettias to enhance the beauty of the altar at Christmas time and a special thanks to everyone who helped to decorate the sanctuary , the narthex and Frank Hall. They looked just great.
4. Hearty congratulations to FRED OBERKEHR (that's Doctor Oberkehr) who was named Superintendent of Schools in Rochelle, New Jersey. Way to go Fred.
5. Although you can't see it, the roof of the building was repaired in January at a cost of \$2,500. "Rain drops keep falling on my head."
6. Congratulations to ANDY LICHTER, who stopped smoking in January. We all wish you success, ANDY.
7. COME TO CHURCH THIS SUNDAY!!!!
8. It was a pleasure meeting SUE and DICK ALBERI'S grandson on Sunday January 17. What a nice young man.
- 9, ELLEN and TOM TEHVE are back home after their annual baby sitting trip to North Carolina.
10. More than 110 people worshiped at Good Shepherd on Christmas Eve with candle light and carols. What a wonderful evening.
11. Did you notice that the chairs in the sanctuary and all the rugs have been cleaned? Looks great. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd cloche to the Ladies Luncheon Group for helping to underwrite this expense.
12. PLEASE CONTINUE TO HELP GOOD SHEPHERD FEED THE HUNGRY!!!!
13. If you haven't filled out a congregation survey form after one of the Sunday worship services, please see Karl Torjussen, Lou Medici, any member of the Council or call the church office and ask PAT DUNN to send you one. This is all part of the call process and we need everyone to be a part of the survey.
14. GOOD NEWS!!! PASTOR ED'S contract has been extended through June 2010.
15. Have you checked the Good Shepherd web site lately? <http://www.good-shepherd.us>. The site address appears at the top of every Sunday bulletin.
16. Former members JOAN and BOB HORLACHER and BOB'S cousin IRENE joined us for worship on Sunday December 27. Always good to see the HORLACHERS.

17. Grandma was in the bathroom putting on her makeup, under the watchful eye of her young grandson, as she had done many times before. After she was done, and started to leave, the little boy said, "But Grandma, you forgot to kiss the toilet paper goodbye!"

18. A six year old was asked where his grandma lived. "Oh", he said, "she lives at the airport, and when we want her, we just go get her. Then when we're done having her visit, we take her back to the airport again."

19. From a church bulletin: Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get. (Dick Alberti)

20. Another bulletin: Don't let worry kill you off - let the church help. (Dick Alberti)

GOOD SHEPHERD CONTINUES SUPPORT OF LUNCH BREAK MISSION IN RED BANK

Celebrating Over 26 Years of Dedicated Service

December 31, 2009

Lunch Break

P.O. Box 2215

Red Bank, NJ 07701

Dear Pastor Schmidt,

"To laugh often and much...to leave the world a better place...to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived...This is to have succeeded." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

Thank you for your generous donation to Lunch Break and for believing in our mission. Your donation truly helps us to make life easier for the many families that we serve each year. In 2009 alone, we have already served over 36,000 meals to individuals, most of whom reside right here in the Two Rivers area. We expect even more requests for assistance in 2010. With statistics like this, a small organization like ours needs the community's help to exist. What is humbling to me is to know that when we needed you most you were there, and for that we are grateful.

If you are ever in the area during our lunch hour, please stop by, have lunch with us and view our operation. We would love to have you as a guest.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at crystian1@verizon.net or at 732-345-8350. You may also contact Gwendolyn Love, Executive Director at 732-747-8577.

With Sincerest Gratitude,
Memone Paden Crystian
President, Board of Trustees

ELCA RESPONDS TO STUNNING EARTHQUAKE WITH DISASTER RELIEF IN HAITI

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America wasted no time responding to the devastating January 12 earthquake which struck Port-au-Prince, the capital city of Haiti and its 2 1/2 million inhabitants. The epicenter of the 7.0 quake was located a mere 10 miles west of Port-au-Prince and most of the hotels, stores, homes and government buildings were destroyed. It has been estimated that as many as 100,000 people are dead, injured or unaccounted for in the earthquake and the more than 30 aftershocks which have shaken the small Caribbean country.

The ELCA, through the Lutheran World Federation, has already responded to the critical needs of survivors in Haiti. Thankfully, all of the LWF offices and staff on the island were spared in the earthquake, making it possible for work to begin at once. The LWF staff is focusing on issues of water safety and sanitation, assisting with medical triage and providing for emergency shelter for the thousands who are homeless.

In anticipation of generous gifts from members of the national church, ELCA Disaster Response has already authorized \$250,000 for immediate relief assistance, with the possibility of an additional \$500,000 as the scope of the disaster becomes clear and donations are received.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Remember the people of Haiti in your daily prayers.

Send a gift to the ELCA Disaster Relief Response.

Your prayers and gifts will help make a life-saving difference in Haiti. Either make your check out to "The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd" and mark it "Haiti Earthquake Relief" or go to www.elca.org/haitiearthquake to make your donation.

ELCA Disaster Response is already working through long-standing partnerships on the ground to provide emergency food, water, shelter and medical supplies. Now, financial gifts are urgently needed to continue the effort.

GIVE TO THE ELCA DISASTER RESPONSE TODAY!!!!

SOCIAL MINISTRY REPORT (submitted by Gil Vatter)

The horrible earthquake in Haiti has moved to the forefront of Social Ministry activity. The congregation is asked to support the people of Haiti with their gifts through whichever charity they prefer. It will take many years to rebuild a nation which was already deeply burdened with poverty and need. Please make a gift soon.

We have also begun the "SouperBowl of Caring" again this year. You will be hearing much more about this worthy cause which aids some of the food banks in this part of New Jersey. We expect to submit a request for matching funds to Thrivent in late February. In 2009, Good Shepherd raised over \$3,700 to help the hungry, with the help of matching gifts from a parish family and Thrivent.

We expect to support the ELCA World Hunger program in and beyond Lent and Easter.

The St. Mark's "Sponsors" program is off and running. The 2009 program was very successful, providing more than \$1200 to the Keansburg Soup Kitchen, with the welcome help of Thrivent.

More than 100 cans of food plus miscellaneous other food was delivered to St. Mark's Food Pantry in January.

SHARON OBERKEHR reports that the congregation provided over SEVENTY toys and gifts in our annual Christmas gift drive last December. It had been reported that we sent 60 toys and gifts.

The Sunday School will spearhead a program to support a "Heifer Project" for the parish in 2010. More information about the Heifer organization is found elsewhere in this issue of the "Voice".

A FEW NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

The Choir thanks the musicians who helped enhance the worship services in January:

- JONATHAN KIM for playing the prelude, postlude and accompanying the choir on a very frigid Sunday January 3.

- The MATHISEN FAMILY SINGERS for singing the Vivaldi "Gloria" with the choir on January 3.
- Flutist MISUN PARK, Miae's sister from Virginia for her beautiful music on Sunday January 10. Ms. Park also accompanied the choir in "What Star is This?" along with KURT MATHISEN on percussion.

Soprano RANDI STETZ lost her voice and was unable to sing with the choir on Christmas Eve. Fortunately, she has recovered and is back in the choir loft.

Anthems coming on future Sundays:

- January 24 - "Within This House of Worship" - Lloyd Larson
- January 31 - "Hallelujah, Amen" George Frederick Handel
- February 7 - "O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" - Mary McDonald
- February 14 - "In the Beauty of Your Presence" - John Parker and David Lantz III

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; come into his presence with singing." - Psalm 100

WAGNER COLLEGE PRESIDENT THANKS GOOD SHEPHERD

December 29, 2009
Wagner College
1 Campus Road
Staten Island, N.Y. 10301

Dear Pastor Schmidt,
Thank you so much for hosting the Wagner Choir at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. It meant so much to our students and to Wagner College.
Sincerely,
Richard Guarasci, President
Wagner College

INTERFAITH NEIGHBORS SEND THANKS TO GOOD SHEPHERD

December 20, 2009
Interfaith Neighbors, Inc.
810 Fourth Avenue
Asbury Park, N.J. 07712

Your gift to Interfaith Neighbors is accepted with gratitude. Thank you for your support of our organization.
Joe Marmon
Interfaith Neighbors

THE KITCHEN AT SAINT MARK'S SENDS THANKS FOR FUNDING KEANSBURG PANTRY

December 30, 2009
Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your recent donations of \$75 and \$100. Your gifts are helping us continue to meet the needs of the hungry in the Keansburg community. We wish you all a very blessed New Year.

Sincerely,
Nancy Mester
Doreen Minutella
Co-Directors

February 2010

<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
	7pm – Finance Cmt Mtg	10am - noon & 5:30 – 7:30pm German School	1pm & 7pm Bible Study 6pm Confirmation Class	7:30 Choir Practice 4:00-8:30pm German School	9:15 -11:45 German School	9-12 NJ Symphony Youth Orchestra
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9- Adult Forum 10- Service	7pm – Council Mtg	10am - noon & 5:30 – 7:30pm German School		7:30 Choir Practice 4:00-8:30pm German School	9:15 -11:45 German School	9-12 NJ Symphony Youth Orchestra
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9- Adult Forum 10- Service		10am - noon & 5:30 – 7:30pm German School 7:30 – 9:00pm Compassionate Friends	1pm & 7pm Ash Wednesday Service 6pm Confirmation Class	7:30 Choir Practice 4:00-8:30pm German School	9:15-11:45 German School	9-12 NJ Symphony Youth Orchestra
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9- Adult Forum 10- Service		10am - noon & 5:30 – 7:30pm German School	1pm & 7pm Lenten Service 6pm Confirmation Class	7:30 Choir Practice 4:00-8:30pm German School	9:15-11:45 German School	9-12 NJ Symphony Youth Orchestra
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9- Adult Forum 10- Service						