

# The Voice of the Good Shepherd

August 2010

( [good-shepherd.us](http://good-shepherd.us) & [little-lambs.us](http://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.

## CHURCH WELCOMES REV. JOHN M. ELSTAD AS NEW SHEPHERD by Gil Vatter

At a special congregation meeting following the worship service on July 4, some 50 members of the parish were introduced to Reverend John M. Elstad, who was nominated by Bishop E. Roy Riley of the New Jersey Synod, as the "settled pastor (half-time)" for the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd.



Pastor Elstad had preached and officiated at the 10:00 am communion service of the church at which he preached, using the Gospel for the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, Luke 10:1-11, 16-20 as his text. Fred Oberkehr was Lay Assistant and Elaine and Lou Medici ushered. The service was enhanced with music by the church's

Minister of Music, Miae Park and the Prelude and Postlude were presented by Jonathan Kim, who played "My Faith Looks Up To Thee", arranged by Y. J. Noh and "Corrente" from "Sonata in G Minor" by Henry Eccles.

Gil Vatter, President of the Council, presided at the special meeting. The meeting opened with prayer, followed by an announcement that Little Chief Learning Station would be located at Good Shepherd starting this fall.

Pastor Elstad was then introduced. He is a graduate of Tufts University and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and has served a long list of New Jersey Lutheran churches, including St. Thomas in Brick, where he was stationed for thirty years. Pastor Elstad retired as a full time pastor in 2004. He is the father of two sons, Marc and Todd and the grandfather of three. Mrs. Ruth Elstad, the Pastor's wife, was also introduced.

Pastor Elstad is charged with the responsibility to perform the following:

- Meet regularly with the Council and provide pastoral counsel and guidance.
- Preside at extraordinary worship services, such as weddings and funerals.
- Supervise the educational program of the church, especially catechetical instruction.
- To call upon and provide pastoral care to the hospitalized or long-term home bound.
- To be available to those needing crisis counseling.
- To see to the administrative matters of the parish, especially the Parish Register.

The congregation has the responsibility for the following:

- Provide an annual salary for 20 hours work per week plus preaching and presiding on Sundays.
- Grant four weeks vacation plus six additional Sundays during the year.
- Provide additional compensation of at least \$100 for extra services, weddings, funerals, etc.
- Auto travel at the IRS rate.

After questions and comments from the floor, Gil Vatter moved that the congregation affirm Bishop Riley's choice of Pastor Elstad as our new pastor. The motion was seconded by Bill Wherli. The positive response was unanimous.

Pastor Elstad thanked the congregation for their kindness in welcoming him and his wife to Good Shepherd and advised that he was looking forward to the coming months at this church. He expects we will see growth and progress together and advised that we should have a "little fun together" as we tackle the more serious things that may occur.

The meeting was adjourned with a blessing by the new pastor and the recitation of the Lord's Prayer by all in attendance.

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## **A Letter From Our New Pastor**

Dear Members of the Good Shepherd Community,

On Sunday, July 4, I was accorded the honor of being affirmed as your new Pastor (Part-Time). As such I will also be serving as shepherd to a congregation, which like so many others today, is confronted with challenges that are puzzling and seemingly overwhelming and which may seem at first to be quite daunting. Presently you may be looking back with fondness to what you have known; be thankful for the memories. That is perfectly normal and understandable. But realize that such reminiscing can now serve as an incentive and catalyst in moving forward into the future with enthusiasm and anticipation.

As I take up the responsibilities of shepherd I am mindful of the words of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm that set the tone for the work of any pastor and the flock which he or she oversees. It is in the spirit of this Psalm that I join with you in building up the spirit and strength of this congregation. Remember the words as we journey together. The version I am quoting below is from *Psalms/Now*, by Leslie F. Brandt.

*“The Lord is our constant companion. There is no need that he cannot fulfill. Whether His course for us points to the mountaintops of glorious ecstasy or to the valleys of human suffering, He is by our side. He is ever present with us when we tread the dark streets of danger, and even when we flirt with death itself, He will not leave us. When the pain is severe, He is near to comfort. When the burden is heavy, He is there to lean upon. When depression darkens our souls, He touches us with eternal joy. When we feel empty and alone, He fills the aching vacuum with His power. Our security is in His promise to be near us always.”*

During the remaining weeks of the summer I will be greeting you at worship and also familiarizing myself with the nuances of the congregation, doing planning, and whatever else is necessary to see to it that following Labor Day there will be a full schedule of activities and programs available for all.

My wife Ruth and I join in wishing you a delightful summer season. Use it well to relax and enjoy good times with family and friends. I look forward to greeting all of you soon at worship on Sunday mornings.

Grace and Peace to you all,  
Pastor Elstad

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### **Vacation Bible School Set for August**

**Vacation Bible School will be held August 9<sup>th</sup> thru 13<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 11:30 at Good Shepherd for ages 9 - 13. More info will appear in the weekly church bulletins. Please contact the church office at 732-842-4596 for registration forms.**

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### **THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER** by Gil Vatter

"In the good old summertime,  
In the good old summertime,  
....she'll hold your hand and you'll hold hers  
and that's a very good sign,  
that she's your tootsie-wootsie in the good old summer time"

Attendance at Good Shepherd has been spotty, at best, during the months of June and July, except for the fourth of July, when Pastor Elstad was installed. There is every reason to think that August will follow the same pattern, unless we witness a modern miracle. I suppose we have to blame empty seats on the "good old summertime".

I shouldn't be surprised at the few people in church. We have come to be blase about a nearly empty church during summer Sundays; afterall, most people take vacation this time of the year, use the time to visit family and friends, hit the beach, improve their golf game on Sunday mornings or just sleep in late (in an air conditioned bedroom) on a hot, steamy morning.

So, come summer, everything in the life of the church comes to a screeching halt from Memorial Day until Labor Day. Right?

Not on your life! Like "Old Man River", activity in the church just keeps on rolling along. Just ask any member of the Congregation Council; things may seem serene on the surface, but underneath, things just "keep on rolling along". The electric bill, the phone bill, the gas bill come due every month, the grass grows slowly but surely, the paint on the building peels, the trash accumulates, paydays roll around. All the prosaic events that occur in November also seem to happen in July and August. It's that way at your house, it's that way at our church.

To be sure, 2010 has seen an unusually eventful summer, much busier than last year; new pastor, new pre-school, lots of excitement, lots for your elected leaders to do.

A sign, used at my home church, Holy Trinity, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, a down-town, urban congregation, comes to mind. For many years, there was an invitation posted by the main entrance to the church: "ENTER, REST AND PRAY". Many people in that busy shopping area took advantage of that invitation and entered, rested and prayed, particularly during the noon hour. I often wished that Good Shepherd could hang that kind of sign, both at the driveway entrance as well as the front door to our building. "ENTER, REST AND PRAY", a proposition to the weary traveler, the tired working person, the harassed parent to find peace and quiet for a few precious moments of the day. Oh how I wish we could.

One thing we can do, however, is take an hour from our summer respite, ENTER our sanctuary, REST from the noise and confusion of the mundane world and PRAY for the mission and future of our congregation during this "good old summertime". See you Sunday?

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**AROUND THE PARISH** (submitted by Gil Vatter)

1. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd derby to PAT MILLER for playing for PASTOR ED's farewell service on June 27 while MIAE PARK was on vacation in Florida with her family. An additional doff of the old headgear to PAT for singing "It is Well With My Soul" for the offering anthem at the July 25 service.
2. Evidence has been found that William Tell and his family were avid bowlers. Unfortunately, all the Swiss League records were destroyed in a fire and so we'll never know for whom the Tells bowled. (From Bill Theune).
3. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd panama to DEBBIE BLACKBURN and the ladies of the fellowship committee for the great farewell luncheon for PASTOR ED SCHMIDT, following the June 27 service and thanks to PAT SCHMIDT for her musical gift at that service.
4. Did you know - No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery. (From Larry Jackson).
5. Former member BILL THEUNE and JACKIE cranked up 3,000 miles on the old sedan in June on a trip which included visits to Charleston and Savannah.
6. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd sombrero to everyone who contributed to the farewell gift for PASTOR ED. (Enough to get Pat and him to Trenton and back, at least.)
7. A man rushed into a busy doctor's office and shouted, "Doctor, I think I'm shrinking." The doctor calmly replied, "Please settle down. You'll have to be a little patient."
8. WALTER KYLE - Looking good and back in church after being ill for a short time.
9. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd fez to JON KIM for enhancing the July 4 service with his cello. Love to hear it JON.
10. Terrific to see charter member INEZ SULAK in church for the past few Sundays. Welcome back INEZ. Did you know that INEZ plays the accordion with a local combo?
11. She was only a whiskey maker, but we love her still.
12. We miss GRACE BRINKMAN- out because of a bout with pneumonia. Hurry back, GRACE.
13. PLEASE KEEP YOUR PLEDGES UP-TO-DATE DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS.

14. KURT MATHISEN is attending a "Percussion Camp" during the last week of July.

15. The MONMOUTH CHORUS will hold its SUMMER SING in Frank Hall on Tuesday August 17 at 7:30 pm, featuring Mendelssohn's "ELIJAH" with professional soloists. Mark your calendar.

16. Notice two new cars in the parking lot? ERNIE BRINKMAN has a new Chevy and LARRY JACKSON a new HYUNDAI. Congrats.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY!!!

DON'T FORGET TO BRING CANNED FOOD TO CHURCH FOR YOUR HUNGRY NEIGHBORS.

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**LITTLE CHIEF LEARNING STATION WILL MOVE INTO GOOD SHEPHERD IN FALL** by Gil Vatter

At a special congregation meeting on July 4, it was announced that the "Little Chief Learning Station" will occupy the schoolroom space formerly used by the Lincroft Center for Children and the Little Lambs of the Good Shepherd. Little Chief will begin moving into four class rooms, an administrative office and the outdoor playground during the summer and open its doors to students in September, soon after Labor Day.

After four months of study, investigation and negotiation by the Church Council, on Friday July 2, a "Letter of Agreement" was signed by Jo Ann L. Hickman, Administrator, and Jean Marie McCann, Director, for the Little Chief Learning Station and by Gil Vatter, Congregation Council President, for Good Shepherd Church. The Church Council considers this a part of the congregation's outreach to the community.

The Little Chief Learning Station has been offering pre-school programs for children two through five since 1992 at a school-owned, former fire house at 45 Appleton Avenue in Leonardo, hence the name, "Little Chief". A second site, which had been at the Lincroft Presbyterian Church on Everett Road for seven years, will now be relocated to the Good Shepherd facility. The school will be open from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm each day, five days a week from September until June. They will offer two, three or five days per week programs with morning and afternoon sessions available. Class size is limited and there is a teacher and co-teacher with each group in order to insure a low student to teacher ratio. All teachers are certified and have CPR and First Aid training.

Several members of the Good Shepherd Council remarked, "We have a wonderful pre-school facility in Frank Hall and a very nice playground and it was a shame to see it sit unused. Now, Little Chief will use it as it should be used". Jo Ann Hickman, Director/Administrator of the school described the Good Shepherd classrooms as "just what we want and need, one of the nicest facilities we have seen."

The building and grounds will be inspected and re-certified by state and local organizations over the coming weeks, under the supervision of Property Chair Steve Miller, to insure safety and environmental conformity. Members of the congregation are invited to visit the classrooms this summer to monitor the progress of the new school.

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**THANKS TO CONGREGATION FROM THE KITCHEN AT SAINT MARK'S**

The Kitchen at St. Mark's, Inc.

P.O. Box 193

Keansburg, NJ 07734

June 27, 2010

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your donation of \$440 last month from the Souper Bowl of Caring including matching funds from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. This gift helped us meet the needs of many hungry people in the Keansburg community.

Thanks again for your kindness to our neighbors in need.

Sincerely,

Nancy Mester  
Co-Director

Doreen Minutella  
Co-Director

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### **MANAGING STRESS –*Seeking Serenity for the Soul***

That's the title of one of the the most popular and well-received courses provided by the ELCA's Augsburg Fortress. Pastor and Ruth Elstad will be offering the six-session program on Tuesday afternoons and evenings September 14 – October 19 at 1 pm and 7 pm. Each session is 90 minutes and enrollment is limited to no more than 20 persons. Those attending are encouraged to invite their friends to attend as well.

As the introduction to course book states. . . “We live in an age of stress. In fact, many people today believe that life is just one stressful thing after another. Some even say life has become a battle of survival in a war of conflicting commitments. This study assumes that life is a gift from God to be enjoyed, embraced, and expressed in satisfying service. God sets a preferred path before us, a way of peace, inviting us to leave joyless, tired, frazzled ways and to come live an abundant life born of the serenity of the soul. This study will examine some of the root spiritual causes of current widespread frustration and fatigue. Moreover it will teach biblically-based, spiritual responses to stress that can lead to growing and enduring peace. The soul centered in Christ rests in grace, lets go of the driven pursuits of the ego, and finds deep joy in a sane and genuinely fulfilling daily life.”

If you plan to attend please either use the sign-up sheet in the narthex or you may call the Church Office (732-842-4596) or Pastor Elstad (732-864-0616). Each attendee will need to purchase a copy of the course book, the price of which is \$7.00.

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### **COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS CONTINUES TO MEET AT GOOD SHEPHERD**

July 23, 2010

To our friends at Good Shepherd,

On behalf of the Compassionate Friends, I'd like to thank you for the use of your facilities so that we may continue to reach out to bereaved parents, grandparents and siblings.

Regards,  
Terri Dassing  
Chapter Leader

Editor's note: As of August 1, 2010, Jessica Schoeffler will become new chapter leader.

# August 2010

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
10 - Service						
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
10 - Service	9am-11:30 VBS	9am- 11:30 VBS	9am- 11:30 VBS	9am- 11:30 VBS	9am- 11:30 VBS	
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
10 - Service		7:30 – 9:00pm Compassionate Friends 7:30 – Monmouth Civic Chorus Summer Sing				
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
10 - Service						
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				
10 - Service						