

# The Voice of the Good Shepherd

## September 2010

( [good-shepherd.us](http://good-shepherd.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.**

### A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Members of the Good Shepherd Community

By the time you read this letter Ruth and I will have been warmly welcomed by everyone we have met at worship or on other occasions, and we are looking forward to a very meaningful relationship with this congregation and its ministry. Of course because we are right the heart of the summer vacation time, it is understandable that there are some people we will be meeting for the first time following the Labor Day weekend, when, for the most part, everyone will be back to school, back to work, and back to church.

My primary purpose the past few weeks has been to learn about you. This has meant a lot of time spent with the membership roll, the Parish Register, and most importantly, making personal contact with people either through home visitations (for which I wish there had been more ) and numerous phone calls. All of this has helped make the connection of names and faces, but more importantly to learn a bit about you as individuals.

A very happy occasion was the Baptism of our newest member, *Mia Christina Rosasco*, on August 1. What adds to the happiness of that event is the fact that her parents, grandparents, aunt, uncle, and niece, also wish to become members. In addition, there are some others who have expressed interest in membership. *That's good news.*

Last week it was a joy to see the excitement generated at our Vacation Church School. It was evident to me that every one of the students had a great time, and that is because we had great staff who really worked hard in preparing and carrying out a wonderful program. "Fire" was the theme of the week, and believe me; you could sense the heat of the Spirit each day. Keep in mind that the staff members were both experienced adults and some teenagers who evidenced that they, too, had a great time.

I must include a note of thanks on behalf of the congregation to Gil Vatter who is working so hard to bring resolution to the matter before the Holmdel Zoning Board regarding the Little Chief Learning Center's use of our building. It is truly an example of one going the second mile in service.

Looking ahead, I will be teaching confirmation classes on Thursday evenings at 6:00 pm beginning, September 23. Ruth and I are also planning to conduct a six- week course starting on September 14 – *Managing Stress: Seeking Serenity for the Soul* on Tuesday afternoons at 1:00 and evenings at 7:00. The deadline to sign up is August 29<sup>th</sup> as the books must be ordered. I am sure there will be other important programs to be developed as the months ahead unfold. I can better tell you about that after meeting with the Church Council and discussing how we can effectively minister both within the congregation and in the community.

In conclusion I want all of you to prioritize on your calendars Sunday, September 12. Whether you are a faithful weekly worshipper or you worship occasionally or you haven't been to worship in months, please plan to come together as the whole Good Shepherd Community. The reason I urge you to do so is because I want to share a pastoral sermon in which I will focus on where we are now and suggest what we can and must do to move forward in a meaningful way. Right now more than anything else we must recognize and appreciate what it means to be a congregation working and growing together in hope and enthusiasm. God's blessing of grace and the power of the Holy Spirit is the fuel that can make new life possible. Let's make it happen.

In the mean time enjoy the remaining weeks of summer and as the heat hangs with us remember that there's no cooler place be on a Sunday morning than where we gather to hear God's word and share in his gifts of grace.

Grace and Peace to you all,  
Pastor Elstad

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

My watch says it's 11:03 pm and I just returned from a meeting of the Zoning Board at Holmdel Township Town Hall. The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd was #4 on the agenda and I am going to use the "President's Corner" to explain to you what happened and why our church had to appear before the Holmdel Township Zoning Board.

Back in March of this year, I was contacted by the owners of the Little Chief Learning Station, who were interested in moving one of their two pre-school operations from the Lincroft Presbyterian Church to our church. They had heard good things about our pre-school facility, that it was vacant and because they had been advised that their rent at the Presbyterian Church would increase by 47% in September, which would put their second location out of business. I met with the Council and we began intensive study and negotiations with JoAnn Hickman and Jean Marie McCann of Little Chief.

By June 1, I had prepared the first draft of a "letter of agreement", which was reviewed by the Council and a number of changes and additions were made. The second draft was finished by June 15 and by June 29 the final draft agreement was signed by the Little Chief people and by me as president of the Council. We were ready for Little Chief to move in. At Steve Miller's direction, various members of the congregation began repairs and improvements to the pre-school area. JoAnn and Jean were cleaning and dusting. Everything seemed to be moving along smoothly.

However, I received a frantic e-mail from JoAnn Hickman on July 9, telling me that Holmdel Township Zoning Board had denied the necessary permits to Little Chief to move into Good Shepherd because a "private entity is not permitted to run a pre-school in your facility". I met with the Secretary of the Zoning Board the next day and she recommended that we hire a lawyer and appear before the Zoning Board if we wanted to have a non-church organization run a pre-school in our building.

I contacted Michael Bruno from the firm of Giordano, Halleran & Ciesla who has appeared before the Holmdel Board in the past and he agreed to represent us. I was required to send G. H. & C. a retainer check for \$1,000 as well as a \$1,000 check for Beacon Planning and Consulting Services, who would also represent us before the Board.

After considerable preparation, we appeared before the Board on Wednesday night August 10 and, despite our attorney's pleas, they insisted that they (the Board) must abide by a resolution dated April 10, 1991, which stated that only Good Shepherd could manage a pre-school on its property. They concluded that the only way to change the 1991 resolution was through a "use variance" request. We were totally frustrated.

The day following the meeting, I met with the Zoning Board secretary and signed the necessary paperwork to have Good Shepherd appear on the agenda of the Zoning Board meeting of August 25 so our attorney could request a "use variance", our only choice. The following day I gave Holmdel Township a \$500 "fee" check and a \$1,000 "escrow" check, in order to get us on the agenda for the 25th. Nothing is cheap.

Tonight, August 25, after a brief but fruitless review of our contention that we should be able to have a pre-school on our premises, no matter who runs it, Mr. Bruno was permitted to call witnesses who had not been allowed to testify at the August 10 meeting. Mr. Andrew Janiw of Beacon Planning did a splendid job of reviewing the planning portion of our case. I testified that our church has been a member of the Holmdel

community since 1967 and that we have served the community with a pre-school since 1987, when TLC began using our building. JoAnn Hickman ended the testimony with an outline of the Little Chief curriculum and a short explanation of the staff, schedule and daily routine. Pastor Jack also made a brief statement.

After a prolonged discussion by the Board and a closing statement by our attorney, the Board finally voted unanimously to grant us a use variance. Little Chief will be permitted to operate a school at Good Shepherd.

I wanted to tell you all about this business with Holmdel because it has taken a tremendous amount of time and effort for me and for members of the Council to shepherd this program from a March inquiry to what will soon be a September school opening. It not only has been a lot of work, it has cost us \$3,500, so far. It may cost more. We have been successful in clearing up the matter with Holmdel but it has been a distracting problem and many of us have been working on this project rather than other matters in the parish. I must say, it also perfectly describes the red tape and frustration encountered when we, a church, must go to our local government for help. With any luck, we won't have to do that ever again.

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## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Thank you to everyone who helped to make our Vacation Bible School such a success! Our theme this year was "FIRE-WORKS". We learned many bible stories where fire was used to help God teach and lead his people. We had a wonderful and enthusiastic group of children who participated in many activities based on these stories. A HUGE Thank you goes out to all who volunteered their time- Pastor Elstad, Pat Dunn, Karen Rajala, Barbara Benson, Debbie and Julia Blackburn and friends, Diane, Kurt and Kirsten Mathisen, Liz Westerweller, Chris and Kelsey Kazmac, and Theresa and Emily Hauge. THANK YOU!!!! I hope we can all do this together again next year.

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## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sunday School will start on **Sunday September 19th from 9:00am-9:45 am**. All children ages 3-12 are welcome to attend. If you have any questions, please call Sharon Oberkehr 732-765-1109.

## **TEACHERS AND SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS NEEDED**

If you are interested in teaching Sunday School or are available to substitute teach on an occasional Sunday, please speak to Karen Rajala or Sharon Oberkehr.

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

1. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd beanie to SHARON OBERKEHR and her helpers for Vacation Bible School from August 9 to 13.
2. Happy birthday to LARRY JACKSON who turned 87 in early August. Many, many more LARRY.
3. Former member BOB HORLACHER recently had his knee repaired and is doing well at home in Pennsylvania.
4. Did you know that the fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference, who got his size from too much pi. (Larry Jackson).
5. RACHEL MATHISEN paid a visit to Spain again this summer.
6. Former member SUZANNE GRAJEK and daughter LAUREN visited us in August. LAUREN will be a coed in September. Husband PAUL was off with the Boy Scouts.
7. If you were not in church on August 15, you missed the Bible School kids singing, "I'm Gonna' Let it Shine", under the direction of BARBARA BENSON. It was well worth the price of admission.

**SPONSORS ARE NEEDED FOR ALTAR FLOWERS. SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX.**

8. ELLEN and TOM TEHVE sailed up the Seine River through France this summer.

9. Congratulations to CHRISTINE and ANTHONY ROSASCO and daughter MIA CRISTINA who was received into the fellowship of the Christian Church by baptism. Pastor Elstad performed the ceremony on Sunday August 1.

10. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd fedora to PAT MILLER who sang the offering music, "It is Well With My Soul", arranged by Anna L. Page on Sunday July 25.

**BRING SOME CANS OF FOOD TO CHURCH THIS WEEK.**

11. MIAE PARK announced that choir practice will begin on Thursday September 9. See you there.

12. Congratulations to KELSEY KAZMAR, who graduated from Rumson/Fair Haven Regional High School in June. She celebrated her graduation with a trip to Scandinavia and St. Petersburg. KELSEY will attend James Madison University in Virginia come September. Good luck KELSEY, we are all proud of you.

13. We had a long SICK LIST this summer - BARBARA BENSON, GRACE BRINKMAN, PATTY VATTER, BOB FULMER, BUNNY KUHL, LIL NEMCIK, TRUDY MILLER and WALER KEYL. The good news is that they are all returning to good health as fall approaches.

14. Congratulations to CAROL and LARRY SEIP who celebrated their GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY in August. We hope the Seips have many more.

15. PAT and STEVE MILLER spent some time visiting Poland this summer.

16. Teacher - "Shirley, what do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?"  
Shirley - "A preacher".

17. We are sorry to report that former member IRENE CUNNINGHAM is in the Renaissance Garden section of the Seabrook complex. Please remember IRENE in your thoughts and prayers.

18. Here's a statistic I'll bet you didn't know - the Social Ministry Committee has delivered more than 800 cans of food to Saint Mark's food pantry in Keansburg through last July. St. Mark's is in deperate need of whatever we can bring to them.

19. A famous Viking explorer returned home from a long voyage and found that his name had been removed from the town register. His wife complained to the mayor who apologized, saying, "I must have taken Leif off my census." (Bill Theune).

20. I wondered why the basketball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me. (Larry Jackson).

21. He - "Did you know it's a sin for a woman to make coffee?"  
She - "Yes, I know. In the Bible it says...'He brews'."

**SEE YOU IN CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY**

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## **Thank You**

August 27, 2010

Dear Friends,

I want to thank all of my friends at Good Shepherd Church who were kind enough to send get well cards or telephone calls during my recovery from a knee replacement. Your good wishes helped me keep a positive outlook as I began my physical therapy. I expect to return to church very soon.

Sincerely,  
Patty Vatter

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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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### **MUSIC FOR THE SOUL**

There is a lot of music on the local scene and Larry Seip wants you all to enjoy some of the September offerings. The nice thing about it is.....it's absolutely free.

On Friday September 24, at 8:00 pm, The Garden State Arts Foundation will present "Opera Under the Stars" featuring the Westfield Symphony Orchestra, sponsored by PNC Bank. Among other music, the orchestra will present familiar pieces from "Cavalleria Rusticana" by Mascagni and "I Pagliacci" by Leoncavallo. Coupons to send in for tickets may be found in the narthex.

In addition, the Arts Center, at Exit 116, will also offer The Cameos at 1:30 pm on Tuesday September 28 with music of the 1950' and 1960's and this program is also free. No tickets are needed to enter this concert at 1:00 pm. More information is available in the narthex or by calling 732-442-9200. These concerts are also made available by the Garden State Cultural Center Fund.

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## **LITTLE CHIEF HOURS OF OPERATION**

Should you drop by the church during the week and see lots of activity it's probably the Little Chief school.

Beginning September 13<sup>th</sup> their hours of operation are :

Mon, Wed, & Fri 8:30am -3:30pm

Tues and Thurs 8:30am -11:30am

The will also be running orientation sessions - Sept 9th, 9-9:45am and 10:15-11am

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## **BEST OF ITALY TOUR PLANNED FOR MAY 2011**

Faith Lutheran Church of Lavallette, New Jersey will be hosting a "Best of Italy" tour scheduled for May 3 to 12, 2011. The tour includes the following:

- Round trip air from Newark (including air taxis).
- Rome, Pompeii, Florence, Pisa, Venice and more.
- Eight nights lodging in first class hotels.
- Breakfast daily, 5 dinners and 1 lunch.
- Full time English speaking tour escort.
- Services of deluxe motor coach.

For more information, please contact Rev. John T. Collins at 732-793-8138.

# September 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>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
10 - Service				7:30-9:00 Choir Rehearsal		
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
10 - Service	7pm – Council mtg	1pm & 7pm – Stress class		6pm – Confirmation Class 7:30-9:00 Choir Rehearsal		
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
10 - Service		1pm & 7pm – Stress class 5pm -7:30 German School 7:30 – 9:00pm Compassionate Friends	9am - 11 German School	6pm – Confirmation Class 7:30-9:00 Choir Rehearsal 4pm – 8 German School		9:30am - 11 German School
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		
10 - Service		1pm & 7pm – Stress class 5pm -7:30 German School	9am - 11 German School	6pm – Confirmation Class 7:30-9:00 Choir Rehearsal 4pm – 8 German School		