

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

October 2010

(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.

FROM THE PASTOR

To All the Saints at Good Shepherd,

Sunday, October 31, will mark the 391st anniversary of Martin Luther's posting of what are known as his 95 Theses on a church door in Wittenberg, Germany. This action initiated what would become referred to as the Protestant Reformation of the Christian Church.

Luther's intent was meant to debate certain issues current in the church of his day. He was a priest of the Church, an Augustinian monk, and a highly regarded professor of theology who had no intent of creating division but simply sought to debate matters of faith by putting them openly in front of the public in the customary way of the day.

His study of the Scriptures had convinced him that over a long period time the heart of the gospel had been lost by the accumulation of traditions and practices which had made the Church an institution that had turned inward and had lost touch with the world. In so doing it had become, in the words of our hymns, "rich in things and poor in spirit." The good news of the gospel's freedom and grace had been overshadowed by matters more worldly than spiritual, and neglected to a great extent the social conditions of the day. In the real sense of the word, Luther both spoke and wrote as a prophet by his identifying and challenging the status quo in that era of the 16th Century.

To be sure Luther was not the only person who had ever raised concerns about the direction the Church was moving as it grew through the centuries. The most notable was John Hus who was in the fore front of a rising tide of reform in Bohemia during the second half of the 14th Century, and who was martyred by being burned at the stake as a heretic. So closely did Hus and Luther appear to be in what they preached and taught, that early supporters of Luther were referred to as "Husites".

And so it has been throughout the years that the Church has found itself confronted with circumstances requiring the courage to respond with honesty and faith. Life is very fluid and failure to make appropriate adjustments when necessary can be devastating. The message of Jesus' gospel never changes, but the manner in which it is presented will always be open to freshness and relevancy. Again, one of our hymns conveys this truth:

*The Church of Christ, in every age
Beset by change but Spirit led,
Must claim and test its heritage
And keep on rising from the dead*

This is the spirit with which we must celebrate on Reformation Sunday, and realize the opportunity we have as a Lutheran congregation to give bold witness to the treasure of our faith. The plan is to make the liturgy of Reformation Day a joyful celebration of our heritage as it inspires us to face the future with purpose and hope. And it would add a special dimension to the service if each person would wear an item of red – the color of the Holy Spirit and also a reminder of the sacrifices of those who have preceded us over the last 391 years.

Following the service the Fellowship Committee will host a brunch in Fellowship Hall to celebrate the occasion and also to welcome our new members.

Grace and Peace Pastor Elstad

Council Minutes - September 13, 2010

In attendance - Pastor Elstad, Michael Carp, Lou Medici, Steve Miller, Lil Nemcik, Tom Tehve, Karl Torjussen, Gil Vatter

Excused - John Crump, Andy Mathisen, Pat Miller, Sharon Oberkehr, Garry Westerweller, Liz Westerweller

Gil Vatter called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the church library and then led the Council in prayer.

The minutes of the special summer meetings were reviewed and approved by the Council.

The Treasurer's report for the months of July and August were presented by Tom Tehve. It was suggested that we contact the family of Alan Brubaker to determine what should be done with the balance of \$825 donated in his memory and remaining in the Memorial Fund. The Treasurer's reports were reviewed and approved by the Council.

Since Mike Carp must leave early to meet Andy Mathisen at the "Crop Walk" meeting in Red Bank, the Social Ministry report was presented first.

Social Ministry Report - Mike Carp

- St. Mark's "Sponsors Program" for 2011 will be announced soon.
- This year's Crop Walk organizational meeting is tonight in Red Bank. It will take place on October 17. Mike Carp and Andy Mathisen are in charge for Good Shepherd.
- There were 192 cans of food plus boxed food and baby food taken to St. Mark's in August.
- The SuperBowl of Caring is scheduled for January and the ELCA World Hunger project for Lent.
- The Sunday School will support a Heifer Project for the third year.

Christian Education Report - Sharon Oberkehr

- Vacation Bible School was a success with almost 40 children and a good staff of teachers.
- Sunday School begins on September 19.
- An Adult Bible Study class begins on September 14.
- Confirmation class will be on Thursday nights at 6:00 pm.

Evangelism Report - Lil Nemcik

- October 18 is St. Luke's Day and we are going to invite health care workers to participate in a special service.
- The "Blue Books" are being edited to bring them up to date.

Fellowship Report - Debbie Blackburn

The committee is meeting on Wednesday September 15 to plan a "Reformation" event for October 31.

Finance/Stewardship report - Lou Medici/Karl Torjussen

- Work continues on the 2011 budget.
- Ernie Brinkman's efforts have saved the church about \$800 on our insurance.

Property Report - Steve Miller/Tom Tehve

- Steve Miller distributed a list of activities by the Committee, particularly the work to prepare for Little Chief.
- Steve recommends a press release when the Memorial Garden is dedicated.
- The church sign on the front lawn needs to be changed to add Pastor Elstad's name and remove Little Lambs. Little Chief has already hung their sign from the bottom of the church sign.

- Steve has prepared a "Good Shepherd Contacts and Vendors" list for the church and Little Chief.
- Thanks to a special gift supplied by Clem and Nancy Hergenhan, Little Chief and Good Shepherd, the rugs have been cleaned and the sanctuary floor cleaned, stripped and waxed.
- Steve reminded the Council that we must all work to keep the narthex carpet clean of ground-in crumbs.

Worship & Music Report - Andy Mathisen

- Andy Mathisen submitted a written report because of his absence.
- The choir began the fall season on Thursday September 9.
- Pat Miller will substitute for Miae Park on Sunday October 10.
- The Memorial Garden will be finished in a few weeks. Molson's supplied plants and Diane, Kirsten and Kurt Mathisen did the planting. A fund raising pancake breakfast is planned for Sunday September 19, after the service.
- A list of candidates for the 2011 Council is being prepared.
- Sharon Oberkehr is working on a new supervisor for the nursery @ \$15/hour.
- Doctor Michael Linderman has been contacted to serve as substitute when Pastor is away.

Pastor's Report - Pastor Elstad

- Pastor advised that he is still getting acquainted with the members of the congregation.
 - There have been 40 young people confirmed since 2000 - 14 are still around.
 - There have been 42 baptisms since 2000 - 12 are still around.
 - We have about 74 family units - 20% live in Holmdel.
- The new confirmands will be required to be acolytes.
- Pastor has made 134 contacts sine July 4, either by phone or in person.
- He will not be here on September 26 and Dr. Linderman will preach.
- He will begin a Bible study class in October.
- The classes on Stress Management are already underway.
- The total attendance from July 4 to September 15 for the past three years :
 - 2008 - 446
 - 2009 - 497
 - 2010 - 520

President's report - Gil Vatter

- Little Chief is moved in and began classes last Friday, September 10. We have already received their first rent check.
- The negotiations with Holmdel Township are not yet finished, but they have given us the OK to proceed.
- We have received a copy of a Certificate of Liability Insurance from Little Chief, naming Good Shepherd as additional insured.
- We have received a schedule of classes and room usage for the new season from the German School.
- The New Jersey State Youth Orchestra will use our facility on Saturday mornings again beginning September 11.
- The German School is having their Oktoberfest celebration at the Red Bank Elks Lodge in September.
- The Synod Mission Support Report through June shows Good Shepherd support at \$1,200.
- Kathryn Clores has changed her recital day to Sunday March 6, 2011. The Council has no objection.

Old Business - None

New Business - None

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Gil Vatter

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER by Gil Vatter

"So I say to you, ask and it will be given to you; search and you will find; knock and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives and everyone who searches finds and for everyone who knocks the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if a child asks for a fish will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion?" St Luke 11:9-12

I read a distressing headline in the newspaper last weekend and I can't get it out of my mind. Someone at Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization, has calculated that one out of seven Americans is existing below the poverty level. Translated into round numbers, that means that 43,700,000 of your fellow citizens are having a difficult time just getting enough to eat and finding a place to sleep and stay warm and dry.

What is even more terrible about this huge statistic is that a considerable percentage of the folks included in the "below the poverty level" figure are children; 14 million, at last count. Some of their parents may have a job, where they earn enough to pay a few of the family's expenses, but, month-by-month, even week-by-week, the ugly specter of hunger and homelessness still hangs over them and their kids and is getting closer and closer. Some of these families do not have any income to speak of and must rely on family, friends, government agencies and private charities to live. All-in-all, 14% of the people of the wealthiest country in the world are losing ground and have little hope of seeing much of a change in their future status. And this is just in the United States. What about all the other countries of the world? Can you imagine what things would be like in Monmouth County alone if there were no places like St. Mark's Kitchen and food pantry and Project Paul in Keansburg, no Lunch Break in Red Bank, no Interfaith Neighbors in Asbury Park or no COG in Middletown, no Crop Walk, no SouperBowl of Caring and the others that try to make a difference. Thank God for the care and concern of these people who are simply trying to help their neighbors.

The administrators at St. Mark's continue to feed everyone who comes to the kitchen from around the neighborhood and beyond. They face a formidable task in trying to keep up with the growing crowd that shows up at the door of the dining room each day at 11:15 am and who line up outside the food pantry on "grocery days". They look at the speed at which the food disappears from the shelves in the warehouse, cringe and hope against hope that the Foodbank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties may have a little bit more in the weekly delivery truck or that donors, such as Good Shepherd, might have some extra bags of food in the next monthly delivery. It is a daunting job with a haunting outlook.

The point is that you and I can do something about this crying need. Nothing that we do is too small. Everything is important. A program of giving has been in place at our church for several years and will continue so long as the need exists. Last year, this congregation gave over \$15,000 toward these kinds of social programs:

SouperBowl of Caring
ELCA World Hunger
Community Outreach Group
Your Grandmother's Cupboard
St. Mark's Kitchen and Pantry
Project Paul
Lunch Break
Interfaith Neighbors
Love, Inc.
Crop Walk
Heifer Project

There are always ways for us to help. There is always a way to be involved. We can contribute food or cash to buy food. We can give our time and talent to help one of the local organizations making a difference. As followers of the Gospel and so long as there is a need, we have little choice but to respond to and to be a part of the effort to help our neighbors.

RINGSIDE VIEW by Steve Miller

It was a lazy, hazy summer – NOT!

The church council, and Gil Vatter (President) in particular, were MAKING THINGS HAPPEN this summer. It wasn't what we expected in spring, when we said that with any luck, we would not have to meet again until fall. The heavy lifting began with special council meeting May 26 to consider two items: Synod recommendation of a new pastor (Pastor Jack), and Little Chief preschool relocation to Good Shepherd. The relatively easy part was Pastor Jack's congregation affirmation on July 4. The harder part was Good Shepherd's struggles and ultimate success in gaining Holmdel zoning board approval of a "usage variance" to house the Little Chief preschool. Each legal step was discussed and approved by the GS council. To meet a critically short deadline (preschool was to start Sept 10) Gil responded at a moment's notice to meetings, or to deliver checks or signatures. Support was shown by the 12 GS people who attended the first zoning board meeting. After seemingly endless red tape and money, GS won. It was a case of GS deciding to do something, and accomplishing that mission.

A whopping amount of credit is owed Gil Vatter – who had yet another major success: Gil supported his wife, Patty through knee replacement surgery and 5 weeks of recovery. Patty is now pain-free (Her doctor states that Patty was a "Poster child" for the operation).

The council deserves a pat on the back for a summer "well done". Please congratulate the Good Shepherd council, and especially Gil Vatter!

By and large, the congregation is unaware of the day-to-day work of their elected Good Shepherd Council. For those people who would like to be more fully involved, please consider running in our January, 2010 council election. You won't regret it- and will experience the excitement of a well-oiled MACHINE!!

PANCAKE BREAKFAST HELPS SUPPORT EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT by Gil Vatter

Frank Hall was the scene of a well attended pancake breakfast on Sunday September 19, following the 11:00 am worship service. The meal was prepared and served by Kurt Mathisen, his family (sister Kirsten, mother Diane and father Andy) and Andrew Lantz, another scout from Fort Monmouth troop 49. The breakfast was planned as a fund raiser to help to support the memorial garden "Peaceable Kingdom" project, which Kurt has undertaken as a part of his work to become an Eagle Scout, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America.

Every table was filled with diners and the aroma of hot coffee filled the air as platters of pancakes and bacon were filled and refilled by the kitchen crew and plates of fruit and other goodies were offered to satisfy hungry appetites. A good time was had by all and the breakfast raised over \$400 to help support the Eagle Scout project.

Kurt had first approached the Congregation Council on April 13, 2009 to request permission to use a parcel of ground on the church lawn to install the memorial garden, which has come to be called the "Peaceable Kingdom" Garden. The Council unanimously agreed to allow him to begin the project and promised assistance in furnishing advice, some supplies and some financial backing. Most of the material and labor and planning needed to build the memorial, however, had to be provided by Kurt himself, in order to qualify for the scout award.

The first part of the project was to clean out the "old memorial garden" to the left of the sanctuary and that was accomplished last fall by members of Troop #49 and their friends. The "new" garden was laid out soon after and, with the help of Glenn Hoffman, stone work was added in preparation for the final memorial plaque. At this point, all that remains to be done is etching names on the plaque and placing the plaque in the garden. This should all be completed in October and a service of dedication is being planned to make the garden a new, attractive addition to Good Shepherd Church.

If you are interested in adding a name to the memorial plaque as a means of providing thanksgiving and remembrance for a loved one, you should contact Pat Dunn in the church office to pick up the necessary form.

Any gifts provided through the memorial garden will be used to extend or support the ministry of Good Shepherd Church above and beyond our regular budget to the praise and glory of God.

AROUND THE PARISH by Gil Vatter

1. The LADIES LUNCHEON GROUP met at the Dockside Restaurant down along the bay in September. Why not join them for their October get-together. Talk to BARBARA HAHER to learn more about joining the gang for lunch.
2. SUNDAY SCHOOL began on September 19. See SHARON OBERKEHR for more information.
3. A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
4. JOHN CRUMP is commuting to Good Shepherd from Baltimore, where he started a new job.
5. Remember ERNIE BRINKMAN in your prayers. Ernie spent a few days in the hospital fighting pneumonia. He's now recuperating at home.
6. Reporters interviewing a 100 year old woman - "And what do you think is the best thing about being 100?" She replied, "No peer pressure."
7. Congratulations to ELLEN and TOM TEHVE who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on September 3.
8. Hope you didn't miss the big pancake breakfast on September 19. Over \$400 was raised for KURT MATHISEN'S Eagle Scout project (and the pancakes with bacon tasted great too).
9. From the church bulletin - "The congregation is asked to remain seated until the end of the recession." (Grace Brinkman).
10. Congratulations to BECKY BARTLETT (daughter of Maureen and Rich) who has been promoted to Art Director at a San Francisco cosmetics firm.
11. Pastor Jack's CONFIRMATION CLASSES started September 16 and will continue every Thursday at 6:00 PM. Do you know a young person who should be enrolled?
12. I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not sure.

BRING SOME CANS OF FOOD TO CHURCH THIS WEEK

13. Great to see PAM BROWN in church on September 1.
14. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd helmet to CLEM and NANCY HERGENHAN and the LITTLE CHIEF SCHOOL for helping to underwrite the fall cleaning of the carpets and sanctuary floor. The church floor and the rest of the floors look terrific. Hope we can keep them looking that way for a while.
15. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd derby to DIANE, KIRSTEN and KURT MATHISEN who planted flowers around the new Memorial Garden. It looks just great.

16. LOIS and GEORGE FRANK rode out Hurricane Earl on Cape Cod. Lots of rain and wind but not much damage (to the Cape, I mean, not Lois and George).

SPONSORS ARE NEEDED FOR ALTAR FLOWERS. AVAILABLE SUNDAYS ARE LISTED IN THE NARTHEX.

17. Congratulations to RUTH and PASTOR JACK who celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary in August.

18. Rumor has it that PASTOR JACK will walk five miles in the October CROP WALK. Sponsors (and the name of a good foot doctor) are welcome.

19. Many happy returns to KIRSTEN DIANE MATHISEN and KURT ANDREW MATHISEN, who will turn EIGHTEEN in October. Now that's hard to believe.

20. The twins big sister, RACHEL MATHISEN is a senior at the University of Pennsylvania, where she is working toward a Bachelor in Science in Nursing. By the way, she also plays bells in the Penn marching band in her spare time.

21. Nostalgia just isn't what it used to be.

22. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd panama to JON KIM (Miae Park's son) who provided music at the August 29 service, "Go, Carry Thy Burden to Jesus" and "Nearer My God to Thee", both arranged by Y. J. Noh and "Gigue" by Henry Eccles. We love to hear you play, Jon.

23. We were all pleased to welcome SUSANNE and PAUL GRAJEK with son MATTHEW at the September 12 service. Daughter LAUREN is away at college.

24. What do you get when you cross a Lutheran with a Jehovah's Witness? An evangelist who makes a lot of visits but doesn't know what to say. (Pastor Jack).

25. "Welcome back" to the choir, which began its fall season on September 12.

26. Sorry to hear that PAT DUNN has been diagnosed with a strain in her left leg but happy that it's nothing worse. Still, that's going to put a crimp in the old bowling average.

27. Welcome back to BOB SISLIAN who was on the "binnacle list" for a few weeks. We missed you Bob.

29. A minister was giving a fiery temperance sermon. He said, "If I had all the bourbon in the world, I'd pour it into the river". A little louder he said, "And, if I had all the gin in the world, I'd also pour it into the river". And even louder he cried, "And if I had all the vodka in the world, I'd pour every drop into the river". Sermon complete, he sat down. As the congregation began to settle down from the sermon, the choir master stood up and announced, "For our closing hymn, let us join together to sing hymn #256, 'Shall we Gather by the River'."

SEE YOU IN CHURCH ON SUNDAY

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

A six week adult Bible study opportunity titled "The New Testament" will be offered by Pastor Elstad on Thursdays beginning October 14 at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The course, in part, utilizes a program offered through the auspices of the "Great Courses" teaching series. Each week a 30 minute video presentation by Professor Bart, D. Ehrman, Chair of the Department of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina, will be followed with class discussion and additional material by Pastor Elstad. Titles of the weekly meetings are: "The Early Church and Their Literature", "The Greco-Roman Context", "Ancient Judaism", "The Earliest Traditions

About Jesus", "Mark - Jesus the Suffering Son of God", and "Matthew - Jesus the Jewish Messiah". This series is designed to help the learner better understand the foundations of the New Testament and appreciate the development of the scriptures and their message of Jesus and his gospel.

Please plan on joining us as we explore together this program. It should be an informative and interesting learning experience for all of us. Please call the church office at 732 842-4596 or use the sign up sheet in the narthex.

JERSEY SHORE WORKCAMP PLANNED FOR 2011

Christian teenagers from across the United States will come to Monmouth County next summer to repair homes for low income, elderly or disabled homeowners. Both labor and materials will be free to households receiving the services. Teams of five youths and at least one adult leader will do the work. The Workcamp is scheduled to take place from July 10 to 16, 2011.

Eligible repairs may include exterior painting, interior painting, wheelchair ramps, roofing and other limited roof, step and mobile home repair. There will be no plumbing or electrical work offered.

This will be the fourth year this service will be offered in the Bayshore area and more than 440 youth and leaders have already registered to spend a week repairing homes. There are a variety of ways to connect with this outreach ministry such as baking treats for the volunteers, collecting ladders for use during the week, donating funds to pay for the home repairs and many others. The bill for paint alone was over \$12,000 last year.

Anyone wishing to volunteer to work, give money to support this program or nominate a home to be repaired should contact:

Jersey Shore Workcamp IV
Bill and Gail Bechtoldt - Coordinators
1870 Highway 35
Middletown, NJ 07748
732-671-1036

INTERFAITH NEIGHBORS CELEBRATES 22 YEARS OF SERVICE TO BAYSHORE

In 1988, a group of congregations assembled from throughout Monmouth County to discuss the issue of homelessness. At that meeting, "Interfaith Neighbors" was conceived. Since that time, it has grown to include a list of programs for the needy, which serve a broad group of unemployed or under-employed people in the Asbury Park area as well as other sections of the Bayshore. These programs include, "Meals on Wheels", housing construction projects, car donation program, food pantry, rental assistance, etc. More than 300 families will be assisted by Interfaith Neighbors in 2010. That's about 1,000 people.

To mark twenty two years of service in Monmouth County, Atonement Lutheran Church has been selected by Interfaith Neighbors to be honored as this year's "Outstanding Congregation". Atonement, one of I. N.'s founding congregations, has been a supporter of I. N. since 1988 and several members of the congregation have been active participants in I. N.'s work. The church supports Interfaith Neighbor's expanding programs through individual donations and the annual Atonement Lutheran Golf Classic, which has raised funds for the I. N. Rental Assistance program for the past thirteen years. Atonement Church has supported I. N.'s vision of making life a little better for a neighbor in need.

The Annual meeting will be held on Sunday October 3 at 2:00 PM at Atonement Lutheran Church, 308 First Avenue, Asbury Park. Interfaith Neighbors will also honor their "Volunteer of the Year" at this meeting.

For more information about Interfaith Neighbors, the annual meeting or to make a contribution, contact them at:

Interfaith Neighbors, Inc.
810 Fourth Avenue

Asbury Park, NJ 07712
732-775-0525
www.interfaithneighbors.org

ELCA CELEBRATES COMMON GROUND WITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

On Saturday October 9, there will be a celebration of the full-communion agreement reached between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the United Methodist Church. The celebration will take place at Calvary Methodist Church, 572 Ryders Lane, East Brunswick and Aldersgate Methodist Church, which is just next door. The celebration will include worship in the Methodist tradition, lunch and early afternoon presentations by Dr. Timothy Wengert, from the Lutheran perspective, and Dr. Kadi Billman, from the Methodist point of view.

More information as well as registration are available on the New Jersey Synod website (www.njsynod.org)

VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION STILL SEEKING HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS

SHARE A MEMORY - HOLD A HAND - LEND AN EAR - TOUCH A HEART

The Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey is still inviting members of the community to join their team of hospice volunteers. If you have a warm heart, a listening ear and the gift of compassion, you can make a big difference in the life of a hospice patient or family member. The Visiting Nurse Association will provide training for anyone interested in becoming a hospice volunteer in Monmouth, Middlesex or Ocean Counties.

The training sessions are taught by members of the VNACJ "Hospice Team" on Thursday September 30 through Thursday October 14 from 9:30 am until 2:00 pm at VNACJ Hospice Headquarters located at 1100 Wayside Road, Tinton Falls. Volunteers are required to attend all three sessions.

To register, please call Ms. Pauline De Palma, BSW, Manager of Volunteers at 732-224-6933 or for more information visit www.vnacj.org.

"In gently caring for the dying, we can more peacefully and wisely care for the living and for life itself." - Visiting Nurse Association.

GLOBAL STUDY ON GIVING TOUTS HAPPINESS by Gil Vatter

"The World Giving Index", the largest study ever carried out into charitable behavior across the globe, has found that happier people are more likely to give money to charity than those who are wealthy. The "Index" used a Gallup survey on the charitable behavior of people in 153 countries representing 95% of the world's population. The survey asked people whether they had given money to charity in the last month and to rank how happy they are with life, on a scale of one to ten. For all countries, they compared the strength of the relationship between giving with both a nation's Gross Domestic Product and the happiness of its population. They found that the link between happiness and giving is stronger than the link between wealth and giving.

The study also measured two other types of charitable behavior alongside giving money - "volunteering time" and "helping a stranger". The "Index" combines the levels of each charitable behavior to produce a ranking of the most charitable nations in the world. The United States, with 60% of the population giving money to charity, finished in fifth place behind Australia (70%), New Zealand (68%) (Australia and New Zealand were tied for first), Canada (64%), Ireland (72%) and Switzerland (71%). Malta was found to be the country with the largest percentage of the population (83%) giving money, the people of Turkmenistan are the most generous with their time (61%) and Liberia was at the top of the list for helping a stranger (76%).

Richard Harrison, Director of Research for the "Charities Aid Foundation", reports that "We have always thought of ourselves as a charitable people and now, for the first time, we can actually see how charitable we

are compared to the rest of the world. Donating to charity is something that is traditionally seen as being driven by how wealthy a person is. However, it is clear that happiness plays an important role in influencing whether people give."

The United States is listed with 39% of its population having given time (52% for Sri Lanka), with 65% of the population having helped a stranger (45% for Denmark) and an overall "wellbeing score" of 7.2 out of ten (8.0 for Denmark).

The findings suggest a positive cycle where one person gives to charity, the charity improves the happiness of the individuals they support and they, in turn, are more likely to give.

ELCA URGES MORE MISSIONARY SUPPORT

The Rev. Twila Schock, Director of Global Mission Support for the ELCA, is urging all ELCA churches to consider becoming missionary sponsors to support the 225 ELCA missionaries who teach, preach, heal and build in 50 countries around the world.

To donate, write a check and mark it "GLOBAL MISSION SUPPORT" or send your gift directly to ELCA Global Mission Support, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631-4101, marked "ELCA Missionary Sponsorship".

NEW JERSEY STATE YOUTH ORCHESTRA USES GOOD SHEPHERD FACILITIES

New Jersey State Youth Orchestra
P.O. Box 642
Red Bank, NJ 07701
August 30, 2010

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the New Jersey State Youth Orchestra, I would like to thank the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd for allowing us to use your facility on Saturday mornings. The Chamber Music Program will start with auditions on Saturday September 11. If possible, I would like to be there at 9:00 AM. Auditions start at 10:00 AM and we may have students arrive a little early to warm up.

The Chamber Orchestra is planning to perform a benefit concert for the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd and help Learn to Play string program for beginning string students after practice on Saturday mornings.

Again, let me express my deepest thanks for allowing us to use your facility.

Yoshiko Yamada
President NJSYO

October 2010

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1	2
						9:30am - 11 German Sch 10am – 2 NJ Youth Orch
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9 – 9:45 Sunday School 10 – Service		1pm – Stress class 5pm -7:30 German Sch	9am - 11 German Sch	6pm – Confirmation Class 7:30-9:00 Choir Rehearsal 4pm – 8 German Sch		9:30am - 11 German Sch 10am – 2 NJ Youth Orch
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9 – 9:45 Sunday School 10 – Service	7pm – Council mtg	1pm – Stress class 5pm -7:30 German Sch	9am - 11 German Sch	6pm – Confirmation Class 7:30-9:00 Choir Rehearsal 4pm – 8 German Sch 1 & 7:30 – Bible Study		9:30am - 11 German Sch 10am – 2 NJ Youth Orch
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9 – 9:45 Sunday School 10 - Service		1pm – Stress class 5pm -7:30 German Sch 7:30pm – 9:00 Compassionate Friends	9am - 11 German Sch	6pm – Confirmation Class 7:30-9:00 Choir Rehearsal 4pm – 8 German Sch 1 & 7:30 – Bible Study		9:30am - 11 German Sch 10am – 2 NJ Youth Orch
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9 – 9:45 Sunday School 10 – Service		5pm -7:30 German Sch	9am - 11 German Sch	6pm – Confirmation Class 7:30-9:00 Choir Rehearsal 4pm – 8 German Sch 1 & 7:30 – Bible Study		9:30am - 11 German Sch 10am – 2 NJ Youth Orch
31						
9 – 9:45 Sunday School 10 - Service						