

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

November 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,

There are many major problems we are faced with in the world today. Without a doubt feeding people an adequate diet is at the top of the list, and the need seems to be increasing each day in all parts of the world. Considering the enormity of the problem it seems inevitable for almost anyone to say “but what I do about it.” Obviously one person alone can do very little, but when enough people can be energized to do something that’s a different matter. Then something exciting and contagious occurs. I experienced that “something” last Sunday by participating along with Andy Mathiesen and Kim Wehrli in the Red Bank CROP Walk for world hunger. Mike Carp, whose schedule did not allow him to walk, took care of providing the publicity materials for our congregation and we thank him for his efforts.

I have participated in other CROP Walks, but this one was different. That’s because so many people participated. There were 1,200 or more who walked or ran the five mile course through the streets of Red Bank. There were men, women, and children of all ages. There were Hispanics, whites, blacks. There were Protestants, Catholics, Muslims, and undoubtedly many with no particular religious orientation. It was collage of America. And all of them were enjoying themselves. And all were fulfilling one of the mantras of the day: “Overcoming Hunger One Step at a Time.” It was wonderful to experience the synergy of all those people marching on behalf of a humanitarian cause bigger than themselves.

Such is an example of what we need to see more often. People willing to sacrifice a couple of hours to enjoy true fellowship on a beautiful Sunday afternoon knowing that together they are doing something important for persons who are in desperate need, and that the money raised through their effort will be directed to the agencies whose programs will finalize the purpose of it all . I don’t know as I write this article what the total amount of money raised will be, but I do know that it was announced as the participants returned to the starting point that the food items brought by each of them to the registration area was 11,000 pounds!

Later, as I reflected on what had transpired, I remembered that in the constitution of every ELCA congregation there are these words in the section describing its purpose of serving in God’s mission: ***“To serve in response to God’s love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, and standing with the poor and powerless, and committing itself to their needs.”***

That’s the spirit which brought all those people together last Sunday, and that’s the spirit of those who offered their financial support as sponsors. What an amazing afternoon of grace it was, and how grateful will be those many people whose hunger will be assuaged by such generosity. Thus is the power of love. And it comes at a most appropriate time – just as people are preparing to celebrate a day of Thanksgiving.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Jack

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Sunday, November 21, will be observed as Thanksgiving Sunday. It will be the occasion when the whole Good Shepherd family can gather around the table of our Lord and share the gifts of His grace and offer thanks for all

the blessings of our lives. This would be a wonderful occasion for all to take the time to accept the opportunity to fellowship together and make the spirit of this holiday personally memorable.

A reminder Sunday, October 31, we celebrate the Festival of the Reformation. There will be special music, we will welcome new members, and following the service the Fellowship Committee will host a brunch in Frank Hall. If you have already signed up to attend the brunch please call Debbie Blackburn, 732-530-9153.

The six week small-group course, "Managing Stress", facilitated by Pastor and Ruth, has now been completed. The group of nine people who took part in the program found it to have been a good way to discuss the material provided and in so doing to develop a very strong appreciation for sharing and caring. Two of the participants who are not members of the congregation said they found a very warm welcome and were grateful for the experience. Possible other topics are being considered for being offered after the first of the year.

Council Minutes for October 11, 2010

In attendance were the following:

Gil Vatter, Garry Westerweller, Mike Carp, Lil Nemcik, Pat Miller, Steve Miller, Karl Torjussen, Lou Medici, Tom Tehve, Sharon Oberkehr, Liz Westerweller, and Pastor Elstad.

Andy Mathisen and John Crump were excused and not in attendance.

Gil opened the meeting with prayer

September 13th minutes were approved

Reports

Treasurer's Report presented by Pat Miller.

- Report attached with the following notes
 - September was an average giving month
 - We received \$3561 from Little Chief and \$240 from NJ Youth Orchestra
 - We paid an additional \$2814 in legal and variance fees, bringing the total to \$6300 so far
 - Income exceeded expenses this month because of the usage fee income
 - \$1426 in Mem. Garden fund including \$445 from Breakfast, \$825 from the Brubakers; paid \$750 deposit on stone; expect \$775 more from Thrivent
- Approved as received

Christian Education Report presented by Sharon Oberkehr

- 2 new families have joined the Sunday school bringing the total of children to 10!
- Extra Sunday school material needed to be ordered.

Evangalism Report presented by Lil Nemcik

- Lil visited several local nursing home and hospitals to display a flyer inviting all healthcare workers to an interfaith worship service on Sunday October 17th. Also placed invite in the Asbury Park Press

Fellowship Report presented by Gil for Debbie Blackburn

- Debbie is currently planning for a Reformation Sunday luncheon

Finance Report presented by Lou Medici

- Work has started on next year's budget
- Lou suggested that we budget to raise our contribution to synod to \$300 per month. (currently at \$200)
- A straw poll was taken and the proposed raise was approved by council

- Will review where we are at financially at year end to see if we can give more through a special gift.

Property Report presented by Steve Miller

- Steve reviewed several of the projects that have recently been completed
 - Fire extinguisher replacement
 - AC fan repair on one of the units. We should be aware of similar repairs that might become necessary on the other units.
 - Office door leak repaired for Little Chiefs
 - One load of ¾ blue stone has been delivered and spread in lot. We need at least six more loads. Cost would be \$1700. Trying to ask Little Chief's to share in cost
- We need to be more vigilant in cleaning up after ourselves at coffee time
- Property day is scheduled for October 30th
- Rich Bartlett is looking into cutting the Church Sign down to remove Little Lambs, add Pastor Elstad. Sharon suggested a review to see if we could accommodate temporary signs for different events

Social Ministry presented by Mike Carp

- Crop walk is this Sunday and we need to be accountable for all the envelopes that were taken
- Souper Bowl of Caring is the next big fund raising event
 - Traditionally a youth group event in their helping with the monetary collection

Worship and Music presented by Gil for Andy

- Memorial Garden is complete
- Gil will write a press release
- Dedication of Garden will be the first Sunday in November
- We will send a letter to all families who have memorialized loved ones so that they have the opportunity to attend the dedication
- Pat Dunn has forms if anyone would like to add a person
- Steve made a CD of his daughter and presented it to library
- Miae is working on getting a bell choir together
- Intinction vs cups for Communion will be discussed at a later date
- Kudos to Pastor on his new acolyte program
- There will be a Thanksgiving service the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving
- Pastor committed to having one children service a month

Youth Group Report presented by Liz Westerweller

- Last event was a pool party at the Westerwellers. Pictures will be displayed in the Narthex
- Next up will be a Pumpkin Painting activity scheduled for the Saturday prior to Halloween, Oct. 30th

Pastor's Report presented by Pastor Elstad

- Three Sunday services were conducted since the last council meeting
- Confirmation instruction began on September 16th. The three class members are: Taylor Dreuer, CJ Miller, and Phillip Cotti. The students will also serve as acolytes.
- Managing Stress has completed 4 of six sessions. 10 members in group, 2 from outside church who read about it in the newspaper
- Met with altar guild to discuss pending matters and future activities
- Reviewed membership roll with Gil.
- A full report is attached for review

Pastor then led the council in devotions. Discussed Natural Church Development program and asked council to review for discussion next month.

Presidents Report presented by Gil

- Gil provided council with a list of members and their current term status
- Gil announced that he would be stepping down as Council president at the end of this term.
- Gil proposed that we consider a new “consultant” to the council position. He proposed that he would be more than happy to fill this slot.
- Six sponsors are lined up for next year for St. Marks
- Life line screening called looking for space. It does not appear we will be able to accommodate them this year

Old Business – None

New Business

- Sharon suggested we have a membership list
- Possibility of picture directory was discussed

Meeting closed with the Lord’s prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Garry Westerweller

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Gil Vatter

Sing to the Lord of harvest your songs of love and praise;
with joyful hearts and voices your alleluias raise;
by him the rolling seasons in fruitful order move;
sing to the Lord of harvest a joyous song of love.

My maternal grandfather, Jeremiah Hastings Boyd, was a farmer in south-eastern Pennsylvania, near the Maryland border, all his life. He was born on one farm in 1853 and he died on another farm in 1941 at age 88. It was the only life he ever knew. He had the ability to support a large family by farming and his success or failure, each year, depended on his skill and experience as a farmer as well as how much rain fell over the growing season. Farming must have been a tough, grinding existence in those days without any of the modern innovations used in today's agriculture. Back then, success or failure was measured by the final and maybe the hardest part of the operation, bringing in the crops at the end of the year, the "harvest".

The word "harvest" just doesn't evoke the same mental image in today's world as it did to our ancestors in the nineteenth century. To my grandfather harvest meant being able to feed his family and himself as well as the farm animals, who depended on him for their well-being, for another season. Those of us who live in 21st century cities or suburbs have little cause to be concerned about how well or how poorly the annual harvest comes in. The only effect a bad harvest has on our lives may be the higher prices we pay at the supermarket or a shorter season for fresh vegetables at the local farm stand. Our "harvests" have come to be the weekly or monthly paychecks we earn to pay our bills and run our lives and our "harvest" depends on economic conditions, not climate or the science of agriculture.

Our annual celebration of "Thanksgiving" has become something other than thanks for the crops we have harvested. Thanksgiving, these days, is an opportunity for us to take time, every year, to realize how much we as a nation have been given, how blessed we are in comparison with so many others on this planet and how we may share with those less fortunate. The turkey and "fixins" are just a nice custom that have come to dominate the holiday. "Thanks" should be the key word.

This is why I suggest to you that this year we all be sure to show our gratitude for what we have been given here, at Good Shepherd Church. We are able to come to church each Sunday and look forward to a Lutheran service undergirded with the good news of the Gospel as rightly preached from the pulpit and a fellowship growing stronger and more vital with the passing of time. We take so much for granted in our lives; and that includes how fortunate we are to have a worship experience like ours and friends with which to share the experience.

So, this year, when you take the time to give thanks for family, health and other blessings, don't forget to give thanks as well for the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, all that it stands for and all it will come to mean in the future.

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise:
be thankful unto Him and bless His name.

AROUND THE PARISH

by Gil Vatter

GOOD SHEPHERD - "THE FRIENDLY CHURCH"

1. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd shako to DAVE CORSELLO, baritone horn and R. A. and R. J. SISLIAN, trombones, for the great music at the September 29 service - Encore!
2. The early bird might get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese. (Ernie Brinkman)
3. Happy, happy birthday to JOHN HAHER who turned 90 on October 7. Many more, John.
4. My mother taught me religion: "You better pray that will come out of the carpet". (Grace Brinkman)
5. MARK YOUR CAENDAR! - The annual parish Christmas party is scheduled for Sunday December 12. Don't miss it.
6. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd fedora to KIM WHERLI, ANDY MATHISEN AND PASTOR JACK for walking in the CROP WALK. That last mile is the tough one.
7. Sign in a farmer's field: WE ALLOW HIKERS TO CROSS THIS FIELD FOR FREE, BUT THE BULL CHARGES!
8. The church has learned of the death of ALVIRA GILLE'S sister at the end of September. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Alvira. "And God shall wipe away all tears".
9. Autumn must be here - NANCY and CLEM HERGENHAN are back from Brick.
10. EDIE KIBLER is resting comfortably at home after receiving a new hip. Get back on your feet soon, Edie.
11. Ole bought his wife a piano for her birthday. A few weeks later, Sven inquired how she was doing with it. "Oh", said Sven, "I persuaded her to switch from the piano to a trombone." "How come?", asked Sven. "Vell", Ole replied, "because with a trombone, she can't sing along." (Ernie Brinkman)
12. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd fez to ELLEN and TOM TEHVE for their work on our "campus".
13. Happy birthday to PAT SCHMIDT (Hope you still read the Voice, Pat).

14. AMANDA and GARRY WESTERWELLER will head for Phoenix, Arizona this Thanksgiving for the Field Hockey Festival, so that Amanda can be scouted by potential colleges. (Good luck Amanda!)

15. Bulletin notice - Today's Sermon - "How Much Can A Man Drink?" - With hymns from a full choir. (Grace Brinkman)

16. Watch for some wonderful pumpkins from our Young People's Group around church after October 30.

17. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd panama to ROBERT KIM , who played the prelude and postlude and helped accompany the anthem at the October 17 service.

18. The congregation welcomed 11 weeks old, SUMMER ANNE MERELY, the daughter of LINDSEY and MICHAEL MERELY, into the church through the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday October 24. Lindsey was also baptized at Good Shepherd many years ago. She is the daughter of ARLENE and MICHAEL BORDONE of Colts Neck.

19. Jeffrey had just gotten his driver's permit and asked his father if they could discuss his use of the car. "I'll make a deal with you", said his father. "You bring your grades up to a B average, study the Bible and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car." Surprisingly, Jeffrey accepted the deal. After six weeks, his father said, "Son, I've been real proud that you've brought up your grades and you've been studying the Bible, but I'm disappointed that you haven't had your hair cut." "Dad", Jeffrey said, "I've been thinking about that. In my Bible studies, I've noticed that Samson had long hair and Moses had long hair. There's even a strong argument that Jesus had long hair." To this his father replied, "Did you also notice that they all walked everywhere they went." (Bunny Kuhl)

20. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd beret to JO ELLEN MILLER, soprano and JOHN BURTON, baritone, who sang at the October 10 service. We hope they come back soon.

BRING SOME CANNED FOOD TO CHURCH THIS SUNDAY

21. Thanks to PASTOR JACK for beginning an acolyte program with our confirmands.

22. Did you know - Through September, this congregation has contributed more than 1170 cans of food to local food banks plus lots of dry food, baby food, peanut butter and jelly. Keep up the good work.

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

23. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd beanie to PAT MILLER, who played for the service on October 10, while MIAE PARK attended her nephew's wedding in Maryland.

24. Sign in a safari park: ELEPHANTS PLEASE STAY IN YOUR CAR! (Dick Havill)

25. The congregation welcomed MIKE LINDERMAN, Professor of Asian Civilizations and Religions, at Seton Hall University, who presided at the worship service on September 26, while Pastor was away.

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO SHOULD RECEIVE THE VOICE? - GIVE THEIR NAME AND ADDRESS TO THE CHURCH OFFICE, OR BETTER YET, SEND THEIR E-MAIL ADDRESS TO clem@csfcorp.com or nancyh@comcast.net.

26. BILL WHERLI attended "Homecoming" at Wagner College on October 23. Too bad that they lost their football game by just ONE POINT.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH ON SUNDAY

BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Elstad is conducting a six-week bible study on the New Testament on Thursday afternoons at 1 p.m. which will run through November 18. Even though you may have missed the first session, please feel free to join the ten members who are presently enrolled. Hope to see you there.

A FEW NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

by Gil Vatter

1. September 26 - Brass trio - DAVE CORSELLO, baritone horn, ROBERT A. SISLIAN and ROBERT J. SISLIAN, trombones:

"Just A Closer Walk With Thee" - arranged by Dave Corsello

"To God Be The Glory" - William H. Doane

2. October 3 - "Think On These Things" by Ruth Schram - Senior Choir

3. October 10 - "Elijah" - Felix Mendelssohn - PAT MILLER, Piano -

"Hear Ye, Israel" - JO ELLEN MILLER, Soprano

"Lord God of Abraham" - John Burton, Baritone

4. October 17 - "I Will Lift Up My Eyes" by Stan Pethel - Senior Choir, accompanied by Robert Kim, Violin

5. October 24 - "A Jubilant Song" by Mary Lightfoot - Senior Choir

Miae Park and the choir thank Robert Kim, Pat Miller, Jo Ellen Miller, John Burton, Dave Corsello, R. A. Sislian and R. J. Sislian for contributing so much to the music over the past several Sundays.

CAROL SIPE WILL EXHIBIT ART AT LOCAL EXHIBITIONS

Carol Sipe will exhibit some of her watercolors at several local art shows this fall. Her art can be seen at The Monmouth County Park System Creative Arts Center on November 13 and November 14. She will also exhibit with a group of artists called the Blend of Art Society at the Matawan Library for the entire month of November.

You can obtain more information by contacting Carol at seipcl53@verizon.net or call her directly at 732-671-5387.

MEMORIAL GARDEN DEDICATION PLANNED FOR NOVEMBER

by Gil Vatter

All the finishing touches have been made to the beautiful new Peaceable Kingdom Memorial Garden and a special dedication has been planned to take place on All Saints Day, Sunday November 7, 2010, during the regular 10:00 AM Communion Service. Invitations have been sent to relatives and friends of those persons listed on the monument, which stands at one side of the garden.

The new Memorial Garden is the brainchild of a member of the congregation, Kurt Mathisen, son of Diane and Andy Mathisen and the grandson of Caroline and Bill Wherli. Kurt undertook the project as a part of the requirements to qualify for Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America. He has been an active member of Boy Scout Troop number 49, located at Fort Monmouth, for several years. The plan to install a garden was presented to the Church Council by Kurt on Monday April 13, 2009 and work has continued intermittently since that time. Many members of the congregation have volunteered to assist Kurt on this project, including Glenn Hoffman and, of course, Kurt's mother, father and sisters. Kurt also prepared and supervised a pancake breakfast last month to help raise money to partially fund the project.

The Memorial Garden is located to the right of the entry walk to the church and covers an area of approximately ten feet by fifteen feet and is paved and planted with flowers and shrubs. Dominating the rectangle is the Peaceable Kingdom Monument, on which the names of those to be remembered are listed. Space has been left to etch additional names on the memorial in the future.

NEXT YOUTH GROUP MEETING

The Youth group will meet on Saturday 10/30 in the church at 2:00 PM to decorate pumpkins to be displayed in church the next day. (Halloween)

MUSIC BY MENDELSSOHN AT OCTOBER GOOD SHEPHERD COMMUNION SERVICE

The 10:00 p.m. communion service of Sunday October 10 at Good Shepherd Church was enhanced by the beautiful music from Felix Mendelssohn's well known oratorio, "Elijah". John Burton, baritone, sang "Lord God of Abraham" as the offering music, while Jo Ellen Miller, soprano, (daughter of Pat and Steve Miller) presented "Hear Ye, Israel" as the postlude. In the absence of Miae Park, who was attending a family wedding in Maryland, Pat Miller, accompanied both soloists on the piano.

Both Ms. Miller and Mr. Burton are professional vocalists and have performed in musical events throughout the United States and in various foreign countries, as well. Following their musical offerings at Good Shepherd, Mr. Burton will sing in the chorus at the opening of the Metropolitan Opera Company's production of "Boris Godunov", by Modest Mussorgsky (1839-1881). Ms. Miller will sing the role of "Gretel" in the Fargo-Moorhead (North Dakota) Opera's "Hansel and Gretel" the well loved Engelbert Humperdinck (1854-1921) adaptation of the old fairy tale by the Brothers Grimm.

November 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
		5pm -7:30 German Sch		6pm – Confirmation Class 7:30-9:00 Choir Rehearsal 4pm – 8 German Sch 1 & 7:30 – Bible Study	9am - 11 German Sch	9:30am - 11 German Sch 9am – 12 NJ Youth Orch
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9 – 9:45 Sunday School 10 – Service & New Memorial Garden Dedication	7pm – Council mtg	5pm -7:30 German Sch		7:30-9:00 Choir Rehearsal 4pm – 8 German Sch 1 & 7:30 – Bible Study	9am - 11 German Sch	9:30am - 11 German Sch 1pm – 4 NJ Youth Orch
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9 – 9:45 Sunday School 10 – Service		5pm -7:30 German Sch 7:30pm – 9:00 Compassionate Friends		6pm – Confirmation Class 7:30-9:00 Choir Rehearsal 4pm – 8 German Sch 1 & 7:30 – Bible Study	9am - 11 German Sch	9:30am - 11 German Sch 1pm – 4 NJ Youth Orch
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9 – 9:45 Sunday School 10 - Service		5pm -7:30 German Sch		Thanksgiving Day	9am - 11 German Sch	9:30am - 11 German Sch 1pm – 4 NJ Youth Orch
28	29	30				
9 – 9:45 Sunday School 10 – Service		5pm -7:30 German Sch				