

# *The Voice of the Good Shepherd*

**March 2011**

(our website ..... 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,

Soon upon us is the season of Lent. It is a period of forty days which provides us an opportunity to take time for reflection on our life and our world as we pass through these difficult days when so many significant events are taking place. Someone has suggested that this period of time be considered a mini-sabbatical by slowing down and intentionally taking time from some of our normal routines and focus on what can renew our spirits. After all if we are honest about it in our busy lives, it is the physical and mental aspects of living which receive much more attention than does the spiritual. As a result there is an imbalance which can affect our emotions and our overall wellbeing.

On Ash Wednesday, March 9, we will begin the Lenten season with a service at 7:30 pm which will include Holy Communion and The Imposition of Ashes. This quiet meditative service will provide the opportunity to share as a community our intent to offer up in worship our prayers and commitment for a deeper appreciation of our faith. I trust that everyone reading this message will give this time of worship the priority it deserves.

On the six Sundays that follow Ash Wednesday I will be preaching a series of sermons titled *Our Liturgy and Our Life*. What is it that our worship is about? What is the connection between what takes place on a Sunday morning in worship and the other six days of the week? It is in our liturgy that we begin to find the answers to these questions. To paraphrase a popular commercial remark: what happens in church should not stay in church. It is in our communal worship that the essence of our faith is witnessed to in its words, in its music and in its fellowship. I encourage you all to be at worship during these weeks and gain a deeper understanding of our faith as it is expressed through our worship.

Again, I thank you for your love and support as we work together to honor our Lord through our ministry in this place.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Jack

---

## **Council Minutes 2/15/11**

In attendance were the following:

Andy Mathisen, Garry Westerweller, Karl Torjussen, Tom Tehve, Steve Miller, Lil Nemcik, and Pastor Elstad.

Sharon Oberkehr, Pat Miller, Mike Carp, Andy Lichter, and John Crump were excused and not in attendance.

Andy opened the meeting with prayer

Pastor led us in devotions and talked about the purpose of evangelism. That is to stimulate the congregation, be involved in community relations, and to understand the congregation in general. Also said we should begin to move from maintenance to mission as a congregation.

January 10<sup>th</sup> minutes were approved

Vote was taken for the election of new officers for the Council and the results were as follows;

- New President – Andy Mathisen
- New Vice-President – Steve Miller
- New Secretary – Garry Westerweller

**Review of Committee's was discussed;** (Subject to verification with assumed chairpersons)

- **Evangelism:** Lil Nemcik will continue to chair with assistance from Karl Torjussen and Steve Miller
- **Worship and Music:** Andy Mathisen will continue to chair
- **Christian Education:** Sharon Oberkehr will continue to chair
- **Fellowship:** Debbie Blackburn will continue to chair?
- **Finance:** Lou Medici will continue to chair? Tom Thehve and Andy Mathisen will assist
  - Doreen Hoffman will be asked to continue as Financial Secretary
- **Stewardship:** A new committee to be chaired by Karl Torjussen
- **Property:** Steve Miller will continue to chair
- **Social Ministry:** Mike Carp will continue to chair
- **Youth and Family:** Liz Westerweller will continue to chair with assistance from Garry Westerweller

Council will continue to reach out to the congregation to join/chair committees.

## **Reports**

**Treasurer's Report** presented by Andy for Pat

- Monthly and Annual Report attached
  - January would have been a typical month if not for a large gift from one donor
  - Other income includes \$720 from Zion Lutheran, Barnegat Light, for purchase of 40 hymnals
  - We have already spent \$3200 for Snow Removal
- Approved as received

**Christian Education Report** presented by Andy for Sharon

- Children's Bibles are in place
- Continuing to work on a Permanent Nursery Person for Sundays

**Evangelism Report** presented by Lil, Karl and Steve

- Extensive demographic and geographic research was presented by Karl in addition to a comprehensive survey of ECLA websites.
- Steve impressed upon council the need to identify our strengths to the outside community
- A more detailed report on both findings is attached.

**Fellowship Report** nothing to report at this time

**Finance Report**

- 2/3 of pledges in and will cover overall budget for 2011

**Property Report** presented by Steve Miller

- 10 cu yds of bluestone gravel was spread in parking lot
- Repairs made to Frank Hall circulating pump
- Replaced 150 sq ft of Sanctuary insulation
- SW corner of Sanctuary flat roof needs patching
- Ceiling tiles are stained and need replacing

- A comprehensive report is attached

### **Social Ministry**

- Very successful Souper Bowl of caring completed and we will be submitting request to Thrivent for Matching Funds.

### **Worship and Music** presented by Andy

- May 1 Miae will be holding a concert

### **Youth Group Report** presented by Garry

- Working on a spring event. Possible a Blue Claws game were Amanda and her Dance School will be dancing at the event. (May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011)
- Steve suggested we open event to the entire congregation

### **Pastor's Report** presented by Pastor Elstad

- Just completed a mailing to all lapsed members inviting them back
- Conference on Congregational Ministries will be held in March. 2-5 people would be a good number to attend.
- Possibly starting a first communion class

### **Old Business** – None

### **New Business** –

- Andy to draw up action list

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Garry Westerweller

### **AROUND THE PARISH** by Gil Vatter

1. Happy birthday to ABE LINCOLN, GEORGE WASHINGTON, PAM BAGLIERI (Pam Everett) and TOM TEHVE - All four were born in February.
2. Did you know....When you've seen one shopping center, you've seen a mall. (Bill Theune)
3. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd fez to BOB SISLIAN for his talk on living in the middle-east at the Pot Luck Supper.. Good stuff.
4. People want the front of the bus, the back of the church and the center of attention.
5. Thanks to STEVE MILLER and the PROPERTY COMMITTEE for the new stones in front of the entry way.
6. Why does a round pizza come in a square box? (Dick Havill)
7. KELSEY KAZMAC was named to the Dean's List at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. KELSEY traveled to London with the University's marching band, THE MARCHING ROYAL DUKES, for the London New Year's Day paprade. The trip was delayed by a snow storm but all 200 students arrived on time for the New Year celebration.
8. When everything's going your way, you're probably in the wrong lane. (Ernie Brinkman)

9. RANDI STETZ is the proud owner of a brand spankin' new tire after having a flat on the way to church on February 6.
10. There are no new sins; the old ones are just getting more publicity.
11. If you want to know what a psaltry is (Psalm 150), just ask TOM TEHVE.
12. Sign in a taxidermist shop - "WE REALLY KNOW OUR STUFF."
13. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd fedora to DEBBIE BLACKBURN and the women of the parish for the delicious food at the February 20 Pot Luck dinner.
14. Why do people believe you when you tell them that there are 4,000,000,000 stars but always check when you say the paint is wet?
15. The Social Ministry Committee delivered over 160 cans of food plus baby food, pasta, cereal, etc. to Saint Mark's Pantry in January.
16. Great to see MARIAN WILLIAMSON back in church after her recent illness.
17. KIM and BILL WHERLI spent February in Boynton Beach.
18. The trouble with bucket seats is that not everyone has the same size bucket.
19. So far, The SOUPERBOWL OF CARING has raised over \$1,300 for local food banks.
20. Congratulations to ANDY MATHISEN (President) and STEVE MILLER (Vice President) of the 2011 Congregation Council and thanks to GARRY WESTERWELLER (Secretary) and PAT MILLER (Treasurer) for continuing in those posts for another year.
21. Thanks to Pastor MIKE LINDERMAN who filled in for PASTOR JACK, while he was away on February 6, 13 and 27.
22. If corn oil is made from corn and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, what is baby oil made from?
23. The GOOD SHEPHERD LADIES LUNCHEON GROUP finally made it to the Pour House for lunch in February. They were snowed out in January.
24. The MATHISEN FAMILY went to Disney World in February with the Monmouth Regional High School Band. KIRSTEN and KURT played in the band. DIANE and ANDY were chaperones.
25. good news! LOU HOWSON emerged unscathed from a recent auto accident. ZEL was not with him when it happened.
26. PASTOR JACK and RUTH went south in early February on vacation. The weather, unfortunately, was not so good.
27. One evening, an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people. He said, "My son, the battle is between the two wolves inside us all. One is Evil - It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, lies, false pride, superiority and ego. The other is Good - It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather, "Which wolf wins?"  
The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed." (Lillian Nemcik)

28. ELLEN and TOM TEHVE beat the bad weather in early February by taking the train to North Carolina to visit their daughter's family.

29. Congratulations to KURT MATHISEN, who has been awarded the rank of Eagle by the Boy Scouts of America. KURT will receive his Eagle badge in May.

30. The judge had just awarded a divorce to Lena, who had charged non-support. He said to her former husband, Ole, "I have decided to give your wife \$400 a month for support."  
"Vell, dats very nice judge", said Ole, "and vunce in a while, I'll try to chip in a few bucks too."

SEE YOU IN CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

---

## **BOB SISLIAN LECTURES AT PARISH FELLOWSHIP EVENT**

by Gil Vatter

"He said to them, "Is a lamp brought in to be put under the bushel basket.....?" - Mark 4:21

On Sunday night, February 20, Debbie Blackburn and her Fellowship Committee hosted a pot-luck dinner in Frank Hall. The women of the congregation provided a wide variety of delicious food for the appreciative crowd gathered for the evening.

Following dinner, Bob Sislian spoke about the time he spent in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on business, in a lecture titled, "Light Under a Bushel, Living in a Shariah Society". Bob spent some time in the Middle East as a consultant to a Saudi businessman, helping to set-up a hospital supply business. During his stay there, he was able to see, first hand, how Shariah law, based on the Koran, enforced by the "religious police" and funded by the "Zakat", or religious tax, ruled the lives of the Muslim population and dominated and terrorized the members of all other religions.

Bob emphasized that women have no rights under Shariah law and are subject to the whims of their husbands as well as the religious police. For example, a man may divorce a woman by saying, "I divorce you" three times, anywhere, anytime and the marriage is dissolved. A woman, on the other hand, must sue for divorce in a court of law, Shariah law, dominated by radical clerics. She is unlikely to win and may face problems with her own family if she returns home. Women are also prohibited from driving a car, walking in public without a male member of her family and may be caned by the religious police or beaten by her husband at any time, if, in their opinion, she has broken any part of Shariah law. Bob pointed out that women are often beaten by their husbands.

Foreigners are completely dominated inside the country and may not practice any other religious faith or even possess any literature from any other religion. Alcohol is forbidden and possession of any form of alcoholic beverage is subject to punishment. Punishment ranges from beating for a woman who exposes her leg, the removal of a hand for theft, to stoning for a woman who embarrasses her family in some way.

Saudi Arabia is ruled by a very large "royal family", founded by a former tribal "war lord". The royal family has been in power since the 1930's and controls the oil business and all other businesses in the country and, therefore, most of the wealth of the country. Mohammed, founder of Islam, was born in Mecca, the co-capitol of Saudi Arabia, located in western Saudi Arabia, and the destination for Muslims from all over the world who are making a "hadj" or holy pilgrimage. This may help to explain the ferocity of the Muslim radicals in this country. Bob predicted that it is unlikely that there will ever be peace in the Middle East since the radical Muslims are determined to destroy Israel, a battle which has continued for centuries.

Following questions from the floor, Bob concluded with several anecdotes about his observations of day-to-day life in Riyadh, including his experience with two young Christian men from the Phillippean Republic who are acting as Muslims in order to keep a job in Saudi Arabia. As Bob pointed out, "they are hiding their lights under a bushel and they have no choice".

---

**A FEW NOTES FROM THE CHOIR** by Gil Vatter

He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Psalm 40

February 6 - "You Are My Light" - Dave and Jean Perry

February 13 - "Psalm 150" - Cesar Franck

February 20 - "The Beauty of the Lord" - Ruth E. Schram

February 27 - "Lord God Almighty" - Coni Huisman

---

**COURAGE IN AGING**

Courage In Aging – Please join us on Tuesdays March 1, 8, 15, and 22 at 1:30 to 3 p.m. in our church library for this discussion series on aging. It is not too late to sign up and bring a friend if you wish.

We will cover the following topics: Myths about Aging and Aging Well, Grief and Loss (all kinds), Stop Worrying and Start Living and Counting our Blessings. Hoping to see you there.

---

**GOOD SHEPHERD SUPPORTS THE KITCHEN AT SAINT MARK'S**

December 31, 2010

The Kitchen at St. Mark's, Inc.

P.O. Box 103

Keansburg, NJ 07734

732-495-5227

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$1,000. Your gift is going a long way in helping us feed people in need this winter.

We wish you and your loved ones a very happy, healthy new year.

Sincerely,

Nancy Mester

Co-Director

Doreen Minutella

Co-Director

---

**FAMILY PROMISE CONFIRMS DONATION BY GOOD SHEPHERD**

Our mission is to provide shelter and comprehensive services to homeless families in Monmouth County in cooperation with a network of interfaith congregations, while advocating innovative solutions to homelessness.

February 10, 2011

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the donation of \$291.00. Please be assured that this money will be used to benefit the homeless families in our care.

Working together, we can make a difference for homeless families in Monmouth County.

Sincerely,

Shanna Goldstein

Executive Director

Family Promise of Monmouth County, Inc.

"Ending homelessness, one family at a time"

# March 2011

<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>
		5pm -7:30 German School 1:30 – 3:00 Courage in Aging Class		6pm – Confirmation Class 7:30-9:00 Choir Rehearsal 4pm – 8 German School 1pm – 2 Bible Study	9am - 11 German School	1pm – 4 NJ Youth Orchestra
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
9 – 9:45 Sunday School 10 – Service		5pm -7:30 German School 1:30 – 3:00 Courage in Aging Class		6pm – Confirmation Class 7:30-9:00 Choir Rehearsal 4pm – 8 German School 1pm – 2 Bible Study	9am - 11 German School	1pm – 4 NJ Youth Orchestra
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
9 – 9:45 Sunday School 10 – Service	7pm – Council Meeting	5pm -7:30 German School 1:30 – 3:00 Courage in Aging Class 7:30pm – 9:00 Compassionate Friends		6pm – Confirmation Class 7:30-9:00 Choir Rehearsal 4pm – 8 German School 1pm – 2 Bible Study	9am - 11 German School -----Ladies Luncheon Group at Rosina's on Shrewsbury Ave	1pm – 4 NJ Youth Orchestra
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
9 – 9:45 Sunday School 10 – Service		5pm -7:30 German School 1:30 – 3:00 Courage in Aging Class		6pm – Confirmation Class 7:30-9:00 Choir Rehearsal 4pm – 8 German School 1pm – 2 Bible Study	9am - 11 German School	1pm – 4 NJ Youth Orchestra
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		
9 – 9:45 Sunday School 10 – Service		5pm -7:30 German School		6pm – Confirmation Class 7:30-9:00 Choir Rehearsal 4pm – 8 German School 1pm – 2 Bible Study		