

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

May 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

In last month's message I stated that we would begin using a resource that would allow us to provide worship bulletins with the complete liturgy printed out each Sunday. This would eliminate the use of additional inserts and make it easier, especially for visitors, to participate in the service. From what I have observed I think the response has been positive, and I think that as we progress through the coming year we will be able to utilize our resource even more to broaden and deepen our worship experience. I was especially pleased to be told by a couple who have worshiped with us several times that besides having found a very friendly congregation at Good Shepherd, it was a joy to be able to so easily follow the service.

I also mentioned in my message last month that I would monthly discuss matters pertaining to our liturgy so as to deepen our appreciation of what is at heart of what we do on Sunday mornings and the other occasions when we come together to worship. There is so much in terms of musical settings, orders of worship, and hymns given to us in our present service book titled *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, that there is no reason we should ever find worship uninteresting and uninspiring. There is something there for everyone. It would most unfortunate not to avail ourselves of the opportunities we have been given. The spirit in which this worship resource has been given is reflected in the following words from the book's introduction page:

“Worship takes place in particular assemblies within particular contexts. Yet every assembly gathered by the Holy Spirit for worship is connected with the whole church. Worship unites the people of God in one time and place with the people of God in every time and place The Christian assembly also worships in the midst of an ever changing world. And because the worship that constitutes the church is also the fundamental expression of the mission of God in the world, worship is regularly renewed in order to be both responsible and responsive to the world that the church is called to serve. . . . The years since the publication of the Lutheran Book of Worship have seen many changes within the church and the world. Advances in communication and technology have led to the increasing use of electronic and digital resources within the church and its worship. A growing awareness of the interrelatedness of the world, coupled with new understandings of the world's diverse cultures, have implications also for the church as the one body of Christ throughout the world. Forms of musical expression have blossomed, and churches have embraced many of these forms for use in worship.”*

All of the above makes it clear that world is alive and confronts the church with the opportunity to have its message of the gospel speak relevantly and reverently to both the faith community and those outside of it. Each congregation has its particular ministry to be shaped by what it deems to be important as it serves our Lord, and through its worship comes its inspiration and power. There is no better time to underscore this than in the light of the Easter season's celebration of resurrection and the coming remembrance of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Jack

*The title of the previous “green book” introduced in 1978

Council Meeting Minutes – April 11

Only four council members were in attendance. Without a quorum, no votes were taken. Council members in attendance were Steve Miller (who led the meeting in the excused absence of President Andy Mathisen), Lillian Nemcik, Karl Torjussen and Gary Westerweller. The council members considered adopting a policy covering unexcused absences. We also discussed ways to reduce the duration of the council meetings. Examples might be to impose a time limit; and/or having an abbreviated meeting limited to pre-selected topics.

Pastor Elstad opened the meeting. Pastor Elstad reminded the group that April 24, 1967, is the 44th anniversary of our church's organizational meeting.

Pastor also commented on the book, "Letters and Papers from Prison" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer" a noted Lutheran Pastor/theologian who was one of the few church leaders who courageously opposed Hitler and his policies and suffered under Nazi rule in World War II and was executed in 1944. Pastor read a section from the book where he commented on Christian faith.

Pat Miller provided the Treasurer's Report. She indicated that congregational giving was on par with the past and that expenses were somewhat less than in the past. Little Chief helped and our gas bill was lower. We now have some surplus and it raises the question as to how to use it. Possible additional paving of the parking lot may be considered.

Pastor responded by saying that he had made a list of things that he thought we might consider to spruce up the narthex and other areas of the church. The following items were suggested by Pastor and subsequent council discussion:

Disposal (recycle) old hymnals

Clean closets and other areas.

Begin to landscape the outside of the building with plantings (We might ask for donations; Paul Kraus plans to landscape when he returns from Florida).

Set up a series of workdays - not just Saturdays. (This is important work to improve our image.)

Post a signup list of jobs in Narthex.

Add curtains to the library. Replace damaged blinds in nursery (Bill and Lil volunteered).

Brighten/add life to Narthex (this is the place where we make our first impression)

- Higher wattage fluorescent bulbs?
- Paint walls and add pictures.
- Move guest book to a "welcome" table at sanctuary entrance.
- Move "Vines" Memorial display to center wall (area where the 2 chairs are presently located).
- Add bulletin board to South wall for greatest visibility.
- Carpet replacement?
- Use the other kitchen for coffee hour?

Property Committee: Steve Miller reported. Holmdel Garden will quote re-graveling the parking lot (a bid for \$5200 was subsequently received). Steve added that we should consider trimming/pruning the trees on Everett Road to improve road visibility of the church.

All items should be discussed at the next Council Meeting on May 9.

Evangelism: Lill Nemcik/Karl Torjussen:

Lil commented on the seminar on Evangelism sponsored by the NY Synod that Pastor, Lill, Karl and Lill's husband Bill attended. Lil also prepared a poster which is now in the narthex inviting people to bring friends to church services with them. Karl said our ad will continue to appear in the Asbury Park Press prior to Palm

Sunday and Easter. The ad has been altered to include an invitation to join us for breakfast on Easter Sunday and that there will be an Easter egg hunt for children beginning at 9:00 am.

Pastor Jack had suggested two possible music programs of invited groups. Steve will distribute paper copies to Council and the Worship and Music Committee. Pastor Jack described a successful Christmas concert series in Brick.

Council suggested that Dick Alberti be asked to attend our next meeting to explain the procedure for getting names on the Memorial garden stone.

Youth & Family Committee: Garry Westerweller reported that outing to the Blue Claws baseball game is scheduled for May 3rd (the date was subsequently postponed)

Pastor provided a summary of his activities since the previous meeting on March 14. Attendance was 773 during the period January – March, 2011 compared to 729, January – March, 2010.

Council discussed ways to improve committee reporting. We might request each committee head to email a report by a given date each month.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lords Prayer.

These Meeting Minutes respectfully submitted by Karl Torjussen and Steve Miller

SRO AT GOOD SHEPHERD EASTER SERVICE

by Gil Vatter

Friends, visitors and parishoners made up the largest congregation in many years and filled the sanctuary at Good Shepherd Church for the 2011 festival of Easter on Sunday April 24. The six weeks of Lent were behind us, the grave observation of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday was now replaced with the joy of the resurrection. A beautiful, sunny April morning greeted the worshipers and there was a feeling of spring in the air as the parking lot rapidly filled. The aroma of coffee led each new arrival into Frank Hall at 9:00 AM, where Debbie Blackburn and the Fellowship Committee had prepared an Easter breakfast from all the delicious food prepared by the women of the congregation. Sharon Oberkehr and her teaching staff also provided an Easter egg hunt for the children of the Sunday School during the same time.

At 10:00 AM, Rachel Mathisen offered a prelude on the hand bells, accompanied by Miae Park, Minister of Music. The music was based on hymn 547, "Sent Forth by God's Blessing". Pastor Elstad, followed by Crucifer Kurt Mathisen and the choir processed into the church to the strains of the traditional Easter hymn, "Jesus Christ is Risen Today". Pastor greeted all with the joyful, "He is risen", the congregation responded, "He is risen indeed" and the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord was underway. As they do each year, the Altar Guild had enhanced the altar with a profusion of beautiful lilies, given by many families in the parish, and the aroma of the fresh, white flowers greeted all as they entered the sanctuary.

The Lay Reader, Pat Miller, read portions of Acts 10 and Colossians 3 followed by a reading of the Gospel, Matthew 28, "The Easter Story", by Pastor Elstad who then preached on the topic, "Doing Your Best". The choir presented the Beethoven, "Halleluia" as their offering and then led the congregation in the communion liturgy.

The service ended with a choral recession to the jubilant "Alleluia! Christ is Risen" and Miae Park's postlude, "The Lord Reigns, Alleluia" by Peterson and another happy Festival of Easter had been celebrated at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd.

SPECIAL NOTE

The youth group outing planned for May 3rd at the Lakewood Blueclaws has been canceled.

AROUND THE PARISH by Gil Vatter

GOOD SHEPHERD - THE FRIENDLY CHURCH

1. Happy birthday to HANNAH OBERKEHR and ERNIE BRINKMAN, both celebrating in May.
2. You brought 115 cans of food to church in April for St. Mark's Food Pantry, that's over 500 cans to help feed our neighbors so far this year.
3. Teacher: "Name the four seasons".
Mary: "Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar".
4. Please mark your calendar for Sunday May 1 at 3:00 PM. Miae Park will present a concert featuring Edward Kim, Robert Kim and Jonathan Kim to benefit the Japanese victims of the earthquake and tsunami. Bring your friends.
5. On May 3 at 6:35 PM the Youth Group will have an outing to the Lakewood Blueclaws baseball game versus the Savanna Sand Gnats. **EVERYONE IN THE CONGREGATION IS INVITED AND KIDS ARE FREE!!!** AMANDA WESTERWELLER and her dance studio will be performing that evening.
6. You can purchase a 12 can case of corn or green beans at the local Costco for St. Mark's Food Pantry for only \$6.99.
7. John was really in trouble. He had forgotten his wedding anniversary. His wife was furious. She told him, "Tomorrow morning I expect to find a gift in the driveway that goes from 0 to 200 in less than 6 seconds AND IT BETTER BE THERE." The next morning John got up early and left for work. When his wife woke up, she looked out the window and, sure enough, there was a gift wrapped box in the driveway. Excited, she put on her robe and ran to the driveway and tore open the wrapping paper. She found a brand new bathroom scale. John has been missing since Friday. Please pray for him. (John Haher)
8. While you're marking your calendar, please note that KURT MATHISEN will be awarded his Eagle Scout badge on Sunday May 29 at 1:00 PM at Good Shepherd.
9. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd turban to PAT MILLER who did a great job providing music for the April 10 and April 17 services, while MIAE PARK was on vacation.
10. Now I'm sure that spring has arrived at Good Shepherd - the Bradford pear trees are in beautiful bloom and JANICE and PAUL KRAUS and BILL WHERLI are back from Florida.
11. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd derby to DICK ALBERTI who played hymn #487 for the Maundy Thursday service.
12. Signs recently noted:
At a propane filling station - THANK HEAVEN FOR LITTLE GRILLS

At a non-smoking area - IF WE SEE SMOKE, WE WILL ASSUME YOU ARE ON FIRE AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION

13. ELLEN and TOM TEHVE and ANDY LICHTER spent part of April in North Carolina to attend the wedding of their nephew who was married there on the beach.

14. CLEM HERGENHAN gave fly-casting lessons to his grandson for his birthday this year, but almost froze wearing waders on a very cold day. Good thing that NANCY made a hot beef stew for dinner that evening.

BRING SOME CANNED FOOD TO CHURCH THIS WEEK

15. Birthdays are good for you. the more you have, the longer you live. (Ernie Brinkman)

16. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd beanie to all those families who provided the white lilies for the altar this Easter. It was beautiful.

17. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd bonnet to all the Sunday School children who sang at the April 17 service. What a great job.

18. Minister of Music, MIAE PARK'S family spent two weeks of April in Korea to help celebrate her father-in-law's 80th birthday.

19. The Ladies Luncheon Group met at the Windansea Restaurant in Highlands on Friday April 15 for lunch. To join them at the Crown Palace in May, see BARBARA HAHER.

20. A man is stopped by a policeman around 1 AM and is asked where he is going at that time of night. The man replies, "I am going to a lecture about alcohol abuse and the effects it has on the human body." The officer says, "Really! Who is giving such a lecture at 1 in the morning?" The man replies, "My wife."

21. GRACE BRINKMAN spent two weeks of April in California with daughter Bonnie's family.

22. RACHEL MATHISEN will receive her bachelor's degree in Nursing from the University of Pennsylvania on May 16. Way to go Rachel. Also, thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd mortar board to Rachel for her terrific rendition of HYMN 547, "Sent Forth by God's Blessing", on the hand bells Easter morning.

23. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd fez to EVERYBODY (especially Pastor Jack) who helped make Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter so special at the church and thanks and a tip of the Good shepherd bowler to DEBBIE BLACKBURN and the ladies of the congregation for the delicious breakfast we shared before the Easter service.

24. BRIAN DUNN will have that knee tended to on May 5. BOB HORLACHER is recovering at home from his knee surgery. Remember them in your prayers.

25. By the way, we are happy to report that our friend Ole, who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered. (Ernie Brinkman)

SEE YOU IN CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

CAROL SEIP TO EXHIBIT AT SHREWSBURY LIBRARY IN MAY

The Eastern Branch Library of Monmouth County will offer an art exhibit, "A Blend of Art Society" at its Shrewsbury location, 1001 Route 35, from May 5 through May 30. The exhibit will feature a blend of mixed mediums; pastels, watercolors, oils and photos.

Contributing to the exhibit are artists Ernest and Helen Antholis, Mary Christensen, Sol Hara, Rose Korman, Marie Monahan and Carol Seip. Hours for the art show are 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM Monday through Thursday, 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM Friday and Saturday and 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM on Sunday.

A special reception is being offered at the library on Saturday May 7 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM and everyone is welcome. Come and take advantage of a wonderful art show at a local venue.

A FEW NOTES FROM THE CHOIR by Gil Vatter

"A hymn of glory let us sing!
 New hymns throughout the world shall ring.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!"
 Hymn 393

Miae Park - Minister of Music

April 3 - "Sanctus" - Charles Gounod
 Andy Mathisen - Tenor solo

April 10 - "Ave Verum Corpus" - W. A. Mozart

April 22 - "O Sacred Head Now Wounded" - J. S. Bach

April 24 - "Halleluia" - L. van Beethoven
 Sent Forth by God's Blessing" - Traditional
 Rachel Mathisen - Hand Bells

Community Outreach Group COG

The Community Outreach Group (COG) sponsors the Calico Cat Thrift Shoppe, Calico Cat Pantry & Cupboard and the Emergency Assistance Fund. All are located at 96 Kings Highway, Middletown, NJ. Good Shepherd is one of 10 local churches that participate in COG.

Many of you are familiar with COG but for those who are not a brief description of their activities follows. Good Shepherd members as they ready their closets for spring and summer might consider those suggestions emphasized in bold. Emphasized in red is Good Shepherd's social ministry committee's commitment to COG for June.

The Calico Cat Thrift Shop sells new and gently used merchandise to raise funds for groups assisting the homeless and others in crisis. Due to limited space they can only accept two bags or boxes at a time. As you are going through your spring and summer clothing **please consider donations to the thrift shop for resale.**

The Calico Cat Cupboard and Pantry offers food, clothing and household items, free of charge, to individuals and families referred by agencies and shelter programs. Right now **gently used sheets of all sizes are needed.**

The Cupboard is also in need of **spring clothes especially plus and large women's sizes.** An Evening Food Pantry is provided for working low income families on the 4th Tuesday evening of each month. Cleaning and personal care items are not covered by food stamps. **Good Shepherd is collecting 30 orders of the needed personal care items listed below to support the June Evening Food Pantry.**

6 rolls toilet paper	2 boxes of tissues	1 shampoo
1 container of dish detergent	1 bag of plastic sandwich bags	1 tube of toothpaste
1 container of laundry detergent	1 container of kitchen/bathroom cleaner	3 bars of bath soap

The Emergency Assistance Fund (EAF) offers one-time assistance to help prevent homelessness and to alleviate some of the crisis related to low-income and poverty challenges. This one-time aid is provided to residents of

the following areas: Aberdeen, Atlantic Highlands, Belford, Cliffwood, Hazlet, Highlands, Holmdel, Keansburg, Keyport, Leonardo, Lincroft, Matawan, Middletown, Port Monmouth and Union Beach. Just in 2010 -

- the Cupboard and Pantry served over 4200 people
- EAF made a pledge to help 260 clients

These statistics provide an insight into how COG with Good Shepherd's help is adhering to their mission statement to be a compassionate, effective, dependable and innovative part of the local community support system for individuals in need.

WHO DOES WHAT AT GOOD SHEPHERD - #1

by Gil Vatter

This series is provided in order to help the Good Shepherd congregation learn about the people who have taken the responsibility for some of the activities inside the church.

LAY READERS

Sue Alberti
Dick Alberti
Debbie Blackburn
Andy Lichter
Kirsten Mathisen

Andy Mathisen
Gayle McKnight
Pat Miller
Fred Oberkehr
Tom Tehve

Karl Torjussen
Gil Vatter
Kim Wehrli
Garry Westerweller

May 2011

<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	7
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	9am - 11 German School	1pm – 4 NJ Youth Orchestra
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9 – 9:45 Sunday School 10 – Service	7pm – Council Meeting	5pm -7:30 German School		6pm – Confirmation Class 7:30-9:00 Choir Rehearsal 4pm – 8 German School	9am - 11 German School	1pm – 4 NJ Youth Orchestra
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9 – 9:45 Sunday School 10 – Service		5pm -7:30 German School 7:30pm – 9:00 Compassionate Friends		6pm – Confirmation Class 7:30-9:00 Choir Rehearsal 4pm – 8 German School	9am - 11 German School 12:30 – Ladies Lunch Grp, Crown Palace Middletown	1pm – 4 NJ Youth Orchestra
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9 – 9:45 Sunday School 10 – Service		5pm -7:30 German School		7:30-9:00 Choir Rehearsal 4pm – 8 German School	9am - 11 German School	1pm – 4 NJ Youth Orchestra
29	30	31				
9 – 9:45 Sunday School 10 – Service		5pm -7:30 German School				