

# *The Voice of the Good Shepherd*

July 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,

On Sunday, July 3, I will be completing my first year as your pastor. I cannot believe the year has gone by so quickly. My wife, Ruth, and I have been extremely happy to have become a part of congregation that is so warm and welcoming. As I have observed before it is the friendliness of the people who make up this congregation that makes it so special. But even more importantly it has been wonderful to see the response members have made in meeting the needs of our community and the world.

At this time it is good to note that over the year attendance increased and that financially matters are quite positive. From my observations of church statistics today if a congregation can report positively in regard to these two indicators of congregational health they are doing well. Thus we must be very thankful for the continued commitment and support of the many that have made it possible to be where we are.

Every day we awake to a world that reminds us that things are not as easy as they once were and challenge us to live with determination and hope. But that is not always easy to do, and we cannot do on our own strength. There is a need, as the saying goes, "for a power greater than ourselves." For the Christian community that power is found in the grace and love of God, and that is why our worship is centered on Word and Sacrament.

That's the reason there is a church. Regardless of the size of a congregation the ministry it offers is vitally important, and at the heart of that ministry is the message of the good news of a loving God offered in the name of Jesus. This message is offered as an alternative to the frantic lifestyle that especially today is taking a terrible toll on the lives of so many people. Good Shepherd Church has done this kind of ministry faithfully throughout the years, and it will do so through this coming year.

Looking ahead I will be offering a seven week Bible study on Wednesday afternoons September 7 – October 19. Each one hour session will begin at 1:00 pm. More information regarding the series will be in next month's "Voice."

Please note that I am now usually in the office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays instead of Tuesdays and Thursdays in case you need to make an appointment to see me.

I look forward to worshipping together. Enjoy any vacations you may take.

Grace and peace, Pastor Jack

**Courage in Aging** will be beginning again in September. We will meet the first Tuesday of every month at 1:30 in the church library. Our first meeting will be on September 6. Please plan on joining us as we discuss topics of interest to all of us. Call Ruth Elstad at 732-864-0616 for any questions.

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**Vacation Bible School** will be held at Good Shepherd August 15th-19th from 9am-11:30am.

It is for children ages 3-10. The cost is \$25.00 for the first child, and \$20.00 for each additional child. The theme this year is "God's Beautiful Garden". Registration forms are available in the church office.

If you are an adult or teen and would like to volunteer your time at VBS, a sign up sheet will be in the narthex. We sure could use your help!

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### **Community Outreach Group COG** by Nancy Fitch

The Calico Cat Cupboard and Pantry is in need of women's shorts, children's shorts and tops, sheets, fry pans and cookware, towels, small microwaves and baby equipment. Your donations to the Cupboard are provided, free of charge, to individuals and families referred by agencies and shelter programs.

**BACK TO SCHOOL NEEDS:** The Cupboard is also planning ahead for kid's school needs in Sept. They would like to fill their racks with gently used school clothes. Let your family and friends know of their need.

Donations (marked for Cupboard) gratefully accepted during Calico Cat Thrift Shop hours of operation or after hours in the parking lot behind the building. The Thrift Shop is located at 96 Kings Highway, Middletown. The Thrift Shop hours of operation are Mon – Fri 9:30 -2:30, Sat. 9:30 – 12 noon.

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### **KURT MATHISEN HONORED WITH EAGLE AWARD BY BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA** by Gil Vatter

More than a year ago, Kurt Mathisen met with the Good Shepherd Congregation Council to present a plan he had outlined to accomplish two things; to construct a Memorial Garden on the grounds of the church and, in the process, to fulfill one of the requirements to earn an Eagle badge from the Boy Scouts of America.. Kurt, who grew up in Good Shepherd Church, has also been a long-time member of Boy Scout Troop 49, which meets at St. Dorothea Church in Eatontown.

The nine page plan for the memorial included all the details, from start to finish, needed to make the garden; the estimated time required to build the garden, a bill of materials (tools and building materials), the approximate cost to do the job, a site plan, local ordinances, assistance and supervision needed and specifications for the ultimate, finished product. The Church Council congratulated Kurt on his initiative and hard work and responded with a unanimous vote to proceed with the ambitious project and to provide all the help possible to assist him with his challenging proposal.

Months later, on Sunday November 7, 2010, All Saints Day on the calendar of the church, following the 10:00 AM communion service, Pastor Elstad led the congregation to an area on the lawn at the front of the church to dedicate the completed "Peaceable Kingdom Memorial Garden", which included a marble memorial stone on which are etched the names of many former members of the congregation. There is room on the stone to add more names in the future.

Many other requirements for Eagle Scout, including an oral examination by the officials of the Monmouth County Council of Boy Scouts, were also undertaken and successfully handled by Kurt and this spring he was notified that he had been approved to become an Eagle Scout, the highest rank offered by the B.S.A.

On Sunday afternoon, May 29, a Court of Honor was convened by officials of Troop 49 and the Monmouth County Council of Boy Scouts to formally present Kurt Mathisen with his Eagle Scout badge and to honor him as an outstanding, committed member of the troop. The ceremony was opened by Scout Christian Laffey who greeted the assembled crowd and began the celebration with a reception of the national flag and the troop flag by a color guard from the troop, followed by the singing of the National Anthem by the audience and the recitation of the Scout Oath and the Scout Law by all the scouts in attendance. Mr. Mark Luders and Mr. Mike Laffey remarked about Kurt's adventures as a valued member of the troop and his activities outside the troop, which was followed by comments and the Presentation of Awards by Scout Master Jeff Phelon and Kurt's Eagle "Mentor", Steven Tegethoff. The Eagle badge was pinned on Kurt by Mr. Phelon, who also provided symbolic badges to Kurt to present to his parents, Diane and Andy Mathisen.

Mr. Allen Hirsh, an official from the Monmouth County Council of Boy Scouts brought greetings from the Council, made comments about the value of Eagle Scouts in our society and presented Kurt with his Eagle Scout certificate as well as a "Mazel Tov" certificate, congratulating Kurt for his award, from the Jewish Commission on Scouting. Kurt's twin sister, Kirsten, talked about her brother and her pride in his achievement.

The program closed with words from the new Eagle Scout, who thanked everyone for all their help during the time he was working on the award. He also thanked many of the members of his troop for their help and friendship and those people in the church who assisted him in the Memorial Garden project. He especially was grateful to his family for their help, understanding and encouragement during the many months required to qualify for the Eagle badge. Kurt will graduate from Monmouth Regional High School in June and will attend Gettysburg College in the fall.

Pastor John Elstad congratulated Kurt and his parents on his accomplishment and gave a benediction to the new Eagle and all those present for the ceremony. The Troop 49 color guard recessed with the flags as all the scouts in attendance saluted, marking the close of the Court of Honor.

Following the award ceremony, the Mathisen family hosted a reception in Frank Hall.

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## GOOD SHEPHERD SUPPORTS THE KITCHEN AT ST. MARK'S

by Gil Vatter

For he alone, whose blood was shed,  
Can cure the fever in our blood,  
And teach us how to share our bread  
And feed the starving multitude.

Hymn 729 - "The Church of Christ in Every age"

Good Shepherd Church has been supporting the Kitchen at St. Mark's Episcopal Church for more than ten years. Beginning in about 1995, members of the congregation started providing a hot meal on the first Tuesday of each month at lunch time for fifty to sixty persons, including some shut-ins in the Keansburg neighborhood. This was discontinued in December 2007, but in late 2007, "The St. Mark's Sponsors Program" was organized. Through this project, families from the parish furnish a cash donation of at least \$75 each month. At the end of four years, this program will have given more than \$4,000 from twenty families and the Women's Luncheon Group. By the way, this does not include the money sent to St. Mark's by the congregation through Council outreach and augmented by Thrivent.

In addition, beginning in the fall of 2008, all the food collected by the church has been taken to St. Mark's on a monthly basis. Over 5,000 cans of food and countless amounts of pasta, peanut butter, jelly, baby food, frozen turkeys etc. has been given to St. Mark's Food Pantry during that time. Last year, 2010, more than 1,600 cans of food were sent and we expect to send more than 700 more cans by the end of June, this year. By January 2012, the grand total should reach the 5,000 mark.

You, too, can be a part of this project to help our neighbors in Monmouth County. Choose one or more of the ongoing programs:

1. Sign up to be a "Sponsor" for any remaining month this year or for a month next year. See Patty or Gil Vatter for details.

2. Bring some food to church and deposit it in the narthex. There are two large baskets just waiting for your donations. Remember, for example, you can purchase a 12 can case of corn or string beans for only \$6.99 at Costco. Most other stores have similar values available. If you buy just one case each month, that totals \$83.88 annually and you will help feed a lot of people.

## WILL YOU HELP?

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### A FEW NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

by Gil Vatter

Praise the Lord! O, my soul!  
I will praise the Lord as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God all my life long.  
Psalm 146

Miae Park - Minister of Music

May 29 - "You Shall Love Your God" - John Haman

June 5 - "We Are One Lord" - Stan Pethel

Prelude - "Andante for Piano Trio in G Minor, Opus 17" - Clara Shuman

Postlude - "Be Still" - David J. Evans

Violin - Robert Kim

Cello - Jonathan Kim

Piano - Miae Park

June 12 - PENTECOST - "Many Gifts, One Spirit" - Mary Lynn Lightfoot

Miae Park hosted a "final rehearsal party" for the choir at her home in Marlboro on Thursday June 9. This was also the final rehearsal for the 2010-2011 season and the choir will not sing again until next fall. We'll see you again in September.

Anyone wishing to become a member of the choir in the fall is invited to contact Miae Park or any member of the choir for details. Previous singing experience is not required.

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## WHO DOES WHAT AT GOOD SHEPHERD

by Gil Vatter

This series is provided in order to help the congregation learn about the people who have taken the responsibility for activities around the church.

### USHERS

Michael Carp

Barbara Haher

Doreen Hoffman

Glenn Hoffman

Shirley Jackson

Kirsten Mathisen

Kurt Mathisen

Elaine Medic

Lou Medici

Fred Oberkehr

Karl Torjussen

Marian Williamson

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# July 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>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
10 – Service				7:30-9:00 Choir Rehearsal		
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
10 – Service	7pm – Council Meeting			7:30-9:00 Choir Rehearsal	12:30 – Ladies Lunch Grp, @ Windansea in Highlands	
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
10 – Service		7:30pm – 9:00 Compassionate Friends		7:30-9:00 Choir Rehearsal		
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
10 – Service				7:30-9:00 Choir Rehearsal		
<b>31</b>						
10 – Service						