

# *The Voice of the Good Shepherd*

**September 2011**

(our website ..... [good-shepherd.us](http://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,

It's hard to believe that the summer is nearly over; Labor Day is just twelve days away as I write this message. For the Church this time of year means that calendars begin to fill up and activities increase. Before you know it, our choir will be back providing the added inspiration their singing brings to the Sunday liturgy as well the other occasions we come together for worship. Sunday school classes will resume on September 11, and even though we have a small number of children, the staff of teachers who volunteer their time and talent, do a wonderful job. My wife, Ruth and her friend, Elizabeth Haggerty, will be offering an ongoing monthly program titled "Courage in Aging"; there are already thirteen participants enrolled. Personally I will be offering an eight session Bible study beginning of September 7 titled "A Look at the Book".

This is also the time to make a check to see how we stand in terms of finances and worship attendance. Our treasurer, Pat Miller, has indicated that we are presently on a sound footing financially, and that is very satisfying to know. I think we should all be quite encouraged that our giving sends a clear signal that we are strengthening our commitment to support not just our congregation but the greater church as well. Many thanks for your generosity.

Regarding worship attendance I believe the following bit of statistics also underscores a very positive trend. Worship attendance totals for the first seven months of the year for 2009, 2010 and 2011 are: 1609, 1623, 1792. Thanks be to God for your faithfulness.

Before concluding this message I must underscore what was truly the "highlight of the summer", and that was our Vacation Bible School that met during the week of August 19. There were 38 students enrolled (there were 25 last year) and they were under the care of 13 super staff members! What a blessing for everyone involved.

As you review all of the above mentioned factors pertaining to the life of this congregation I think is safe to say: "Good Things are happening at Good Shepherd." Let's all keep the Spirit alive as we continue through the rest of the year and beyond. There is so much for which to be grateful.

Grace and Peace  
Pastor Jack

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**Courage in Aging** will again begin on September 6 at 1:30 p.m.. Our topic will be "SAYING NO-WHY IS IT DIFFICULT AND WHEN IS IT APPROPRIATE." Attendance at all the sessions is not a requirement. We will be meeting in Frank Hall on the first Tuesday of every month. Feel free to bring a friend. Future topics will be:

10/6/11 – "IF ONLY I HAD ... (TIME, MONEY COURAGE, RELATIONSHIPS, ETC.)"

11/1/11 - "ANGER"

A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex in August. Please call Ruth Elstad at 732-864-0616 with any questions. Elizabeth and I are hoping to see you at our first session.

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**GOOD SHEPHERD VBS 2011** by Karen Rajala and Sharon Oberkehr

Vacation Bible School was a great success this summer!! We had close to 40 children attend our fun-filled week. Our theme this year was God's Beautiful Garden, and the children learned all about Creation, The Garden of Eden, and Adam and Eve. We celebrated with games, music, crafts and bible stories. Thanks to Pastor Elstad, Pat Dunn, Trudy Miller, Elaine Sedan, Debbie Blackburn, Diane Mathisen, Liz Westerweller, Kirsten Mathisen (and her friend Dani), Julia Blackburn, Abby Miller, and Kelsey Kazmak for sharing their time and talent. We had a wonderful and busy week! Same time next year???

**SUNDAY SCHOOL 2011**

Sunday School will start on Sunday, Sept. 11th. It is from 9am-9:50. All children ages 3-12 are welcome to join us. If you are interested in teaching or substitute teaching, please see Sharon Oberkehr or Karen Rajala.

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**A THANK YOU**

Dick and Sue Alberti wish to extend their heartfelt thanks to God, the staff at St. Peter's Hospital, Pastor Jack and Ruth, and all those in the Good Shepherd family for their support and prayers for their Grandson, Tommy Porowski, who is now recovering from Lyme's Meningitis. He is feeling and doing much better, a happy little six year old.

Sue and Dick

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**ELCA THANKS GOOD SHEPHERD FOR GIFT TO DISASTER RESPONSE**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
8765 W. Higgins Rd.  
Chicago, IL 60631

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 452  
Holmdel, NJ 07733

Dear Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,  
Thank you for your gift to ELCA Domestic Disaster Response. Your gift means the church can continue to respond efficiently and effectively to disasters that have already occurred and can stand ready for those that may come in the future.

After the Gulf Coast oil spill, gifts to ELCA Disaster Response meant that the church was able to recruit, train and organize staff and volunteers for Camp Noah and God's Can-Do Kids, free day camp programs that help children work through their worries in a fun and supportive environment. That's how ELCA Disaster Response works---helping people rebuild both homes and hearts.

To neighbors around the corner and around the country, your gift brings both help and hope. Thank you.

Together in Christ's service,  
The Rev. Daniel Rift, Director  
ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal

P.S. Visit [www.elca.org/disaster](http://www.elca.org/disaster) to learn more about how we serve our neighbors in need.

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## **ANNE ROGERS DEAD AT 74**

Anne D. Rogers, EdD, 74 of Middletown, died from cancer on Wednesday July 27 at home. She was born in Troy, New York and lived in Middletown for the past 47 years. She retired as the Assistant Superintendent for Monmouth and Ocean Educational Services in Eatontown. Surviving are: her mother, Myrtle Christenson Doherty, three daughters, Michele Rogers Foley, Julia Rogers Barnes and Valerie Rogers, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She was pre-deceased by her father, Daniel Doherty.

Anne was a member of King of Kings Lutheran Church in Middletown and a former active member of Good Shepherd Church, where she served as president of the Church Council and in various other areas of church activity. She was a past president of the Danish Sisterhood and a past president of Phi Delta Kappa.

Funeral services were held on Saturday July 30 at King of Kings Church and interment rites were held at Oakwood Cemetary, Troy, New York

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## **BISHOP HANSON CALLS FOR RESPONSE TO AFRICAN DROUGHT**

Bishop Mark S. Hanson, Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, has sent a special notice to all Pastors and Lay Leaders throughout the church, reminding them that in the Horn of Africa, the lives and livelihoods of millions of people have been devastated by the worst drought in 60 years. Crops have failed and water is scarce. Desperate families are abandoning their homes and seeking aid. Hundreds of thousands of people have already made their way to refugee camps in Kenya and Ethiopia. More than twelve million people are in need of help now.

For those who have made their way to the Dadaab camp in Kenya and the Doolo Ado camp in Ethiopia, the ELCA is helping to provide safe water and nutritious food. Both camps were established with the support of the ELCA through ELCA World Hunger; the camps are managed by Lutherans through our global church partner The Lutheran World Federation.

This organization has been at work for years reducing the effects of draught in communities throughout this arid part of Africa. Thanks to the many water projects and other sustainable agriculture projects funded by ELCA World Hunger, communities are making it through these hard times without the suffering we have seen elsewhere. this long-standing work will continue even as the church addresses this year's crisis.

Thanks to the generosity of ELCA members, the church has committed \$1,250,000 for draught relief work in the Horn of Africa through ELCA Disaster Response. In addition, all gifts to ELCA World Hunger provide more than \$1,000,000 each year for draught prevention work in Central and East Africa...and that commitment will continue.

Bishop Hanson asks that we take some time in worship and throughout the week to hold our African sisters and brothers in our prayers. As we are able, we must make a renewed commitment to ELCA World Hunger and ELCA Disaster Response. More information is available at [www.elca.org/disaster](http://www.elca.org/disaster).

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## **AROUND THE PARISH**

by Gil Vatter

### **GOOD SHEPHERD - THE FRIENDLY CHURCH**

1. Where were you when hurricane IRENE hit Monmouth County?

2. Thanks to Pastor Neil Jaggie, who led the congregation in worship on Sunday July 31, in Pastor Jack's absence.
3. Remember : the ark was built by an amateur; the Titanic was built by professionals. (Bill Theune)
4. Vacation Bible School was a rousing success at Good Shepherd this summer. The theme for 2011 was, "COME GROW WITH US IN GOD'S BEAUTIFUL GARDEN". It took place the week of August 15 and included over 50 children. The congregation was treated to a mini-concert of songs used at VBS on Sunday August 25 by some of the children who attended. Such old favorites as: "Adam and Eve", "Do You Know Who Made the World?", "God Made Me", "On the First Day of Creation" and "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands". What enthusiasm and what a wonderful way to begin a worship service.
5. There wasn't a dry eye in the house when we sang the Sending Hymn, "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" (Hymn #756) at the end of the service on August 7. Everyone remembered the Special Forces members lost in the recent helicopter crash in the Middle East.
6. Long ago, when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft.....Today we call it golf.
7. Babysitting is now provided each Sunday at 10:00 AM.
8. The Social Ministry Committee has taken more than 775 cans of food to St. Mark's through July.
9. People seem to want to be in the front of the bus, at the back of the church and in the center of attention. (Lil Nemcik)
10. Happy wedding anniversary to ELLEN and TOM TEHVE.
11. Congratulations and God speed to our college bound members:
  - P. J. BENSON - Montclair State University
  - KIRSTIN MATHISEN - University of Delaware
  - KURT MATHISEN - Gettysburg College
  - AMANDA WESTERWELLER - Monmouth University
  - KELSEY KAZMAC - James Madison University (Sophomore)

**BRING SOME CANNED FOOD TO CHURCH THIS WEEK**

12. WALTER KYLE is reading "Secrets of the F.B.I."
13. Amidst the pouring rain on Sunday August 14, PASTOR JACK reminded us to "Roll up our sleeves and get to work in the world."
14. A well-worn One dollar bill and a used Twenty dollar bill arrived at a Federal Reserve Bank to be retired. As they moved along the conveyor belt, they struck up a conversation. The Twenty reminisced about its travels. "I've had a pretty good life. Why I've been to Las Vegas and Atlantic City, the finest New York restaurants, Broadway plays and Caribbean cruises." "Wow", said the One. "You've had an exciting life." "So, tell me", said the Twenty, where have you been during your life?" The One replied, "Oh, I've been to the Methodist Church, the Baptist Church, the Lutheran Church....."

The Twenty-dollar bill interrupted..... "What's a church?"

15. VIVIAN and BOB SISLIAN recently had a face-to-face with Governor Christie on the boardwalk in Manasquan. BOB got his picture in the local newspaper, shaking hands with the Gov, while all VIV got was a hug and kiss on the cheek. Go figure.

16. TOMMY POROWSKI, SUE and DICK ALBERTI'S grandson, is recovering at home after a stay in the hospital.

17. There was a mighty explosion in the church and in the middle of the smoke and fire, the devil appeared. One woman remained standing near the scene, watching what was happening. The devil turned to her and said, "Didn't I frighten you with all this noise, smoke and brimstone?" Not really", replied the woman, "This sort of thing doesn't bother me much because I've been married to your brother for 40 years." (Grace Brinkman)

18. Congratulations to CAROL and LARRY SEIP on their 51st wedding anniversary.

19. If you get into the sanctuary just a little bit earlier or if you stay in the sanctuary just a little bit longer, you will be treated to MIAE PARK'S Prelude or Postlude. The Allegro/Vivace Postlude by G. F. Handel on Sunday August 21 was great and brought a round of applause from those who stayed to hear it.

20. "I don't really feel old. As a matter of fact, I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap." (Bob Hope)

21. Thanks and a tip of the Good shepherd derby to the adult volunteers who staffed the Vacation Bible School this year:

SHARON OBERKEHR, TRUDE MILLER, DIANE MATHISEN, KIRSTEN MATHISEN, KAREN RAJALA, JULIE BLACKBURN, DEBBY BLACKBURN, KELSEY KAZMAC, ELAINE SEDAN, LIZ WESTERWELLER, ABBY MILLER

You all did a wonderful job.

22. Have a question about the New York Yankees. Just ask RANDI STETZ, our resident expert.

23. Sign that you live in the 21st century - You get up in the morning and go on line before you have your first cup of coffee. (John Haher)

24. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd bonnet to ELAINE and LOU MEDICI who drove to church at 1:00 AM the other night, when the fire alarm went off and the Holmdel Fire Department called them for help. Good news---When they arrived everything was AOK.

25. At the end of August, RUTH and PASTOR JACK were scheduled to go to Vermont in the teeth of the hurricane to celebrate their wedding anniversary. Did they challenge "Irene"? Stay tuned for late breaking developments.

26. On Sunday August 7, PASTOR JACK told us "How to Plant an Apple Seed" - "God gives us a great potential in a tiny seed (and with written instructions too)."

27. When you look up "Phillies Fan" in the dictionary, you find the definition illustrated with DICK ALBERTI'S picture.

28. The tail of a woman's unfortunate cat was caught in a door and about half or more of the tail cut off. She took her poor cat to the vet's office and explained her problem. "Not to worry", said the vet, "Just take the cat to Walmart and it will be fine." "Walmart" she replied, "Why would I do that?" "That's obvious to me", said the vet, "They're the countries largest retailer." (Grace Brinkman)

SEE YOU IN CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

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**GOOD SHEPHERD GOES BACK TO SCHOOL WITH COG**

"Give and gifts will be given to you, for whatever measure you deal out to others will be dealt to you in return."

Luke 6:38

Good shepherd's representative to COG (Community Outreach Group), Nancy Fitch, has announced a special fall program to help needy children prepare for school. The "Back to School Project" will help to provide clothing certificates, shoe certificates and school supplies this year so that parents can get their children new outfits, shoes and some supplies for the new school year. The Back to School Project will continue from August 1 through October 3.

If the project receives sufficient support, COG will also offer help to families who are referred by Monmouth County Department of Social Services. Social workers will be asked to list families having hard times and who truly need help because of unemployment, sickness or other social problems, even though the family may not yet qualify for public assistance or may be waiting for assistance to kick in.

You can get involved by buying a \$15 shoe certificate, a \$25 clothing certificate or just putting a check in the offering plate for whatever you can afford marked "COG Back to School". COG hopes to help at least 150 children. Gift certificates from Target, Kohl's Sears/Kmart, etc. are needed. COG has made a special arrangement with Payless corporate headquarters for shoe purchases at an attractive discount price. So, cash donations will be needed to buy shoes.

Good Shepherd has been asked to send at least \$400 as our share of the program. This means that, if twenty families give \$20 or ten families give \$40, we will have reached our goal. This is a priority activity by the churches supporting COG as they try to help some of the neediest children in our neighborhood lead as normal a school life as possible. Act now. Please help us help these children.

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**A FEW NOTES FROM THE CHOIR**

The first Choir practice for the 2011 - 2012 season is scheduled for Thursday September 8, 2011 at 7:30 PM in the sanctuary. Everyone is welcome to join the Choir on September 8 for an evening of singing and fellowship.

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**WHO DOES WHAT AT GOOD SHEPHERD**

by Gil Vatter

"Give thanks everyday for everything..." Ephesians 5:20

This series is provided in order to help the congregation learn who has taken thr responsibility for leadership in our church.

**THE COUNTER CORPS**

Clem Hergenhan

Doreen Hoffman

Glenn Hoffman

Walter Keyl

Elaine Medici

Lou Medici

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**SCHOOL IS IN** (by Gary US Bonds)

We are happy to welcome back our 2 schools – should you drop by the church any weekday you will see them in session.

Little Chiefs - Starting on Monday, Sep 12th

Mon, Wed, and Fri 8:30 - 3:30

Tues and Thur 8:30 - 11:30

German School – Starting on Tuesday, Sep 5<sup>th</sup>

Tues 5 - 8:45pm, Thur 4 - 8pm, Fri 9 - 10:30am

# September 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>	<b>10</b>
10 – Service		1:30 – 3:00 Courage In Aging	1pm - Bible Study	7:30pm-9:00 choir practice		10a – 4pm NJ State Youth Orch
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service	7pm – Council Meeting		1pm - Bible Study	7:30pm-9:00 choir practice	12:30 – Ladies Lunch Grp, @ Crown Palace in Middletown	1pm – 4 NJ State Youth Orch
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service		7:30pm – 9:00 Compassionate Friends		7:30pm-9:00 choir practice		1pm – 4 NJ State Youth Orch
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service			1pm - Bible Study	7:30pm-9:00 choir practice		