

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

October 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,

Earlier this summer at the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America held in Orlando, Florida, Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson addressed the delegates as they gathered in worship. In his message he offered what I think are some important and timely words of encouragement for all 4.5 million members of the ELCA to be aware of, and so I share them with you.

At one point in his message he urged his listeners to “live Lutheran.” What did he mean by that statement? By having this understanding: “ In a culture where lines are constantly being drawn in the sand – and now even in concrete – lines that divide, exclude, and demean, to ”live Lutheran’ means to embody the message and ministry of reconciliation that God entrusts to us. Particularly at this time when we are so preoccupied with economic and political infighting, to “live Lutheran” is to heed the words of Martin Luther: ‘We should learn to please Christ. We do please him by dedicating our entire life . . .solely in service to our neighbor.’”

The bishop then offered some words of advice for congregations that are endeavoring to do effective ministry today. “Friends, in a culture that offers so many competing and compelling answers to the questions “what is the good life?” and “what is life well-lived?” we have story to tell, a story to live, a story that changes lives. It is a story you know well, the story of Jesus Christ. It is the story of the abundant life that comes to you in Christ purely out of God’s tender mercy.” When I read those remarks I recalled a story told about Karl Barth who was one of the foremost theologians of the 20th century. He was asked what he considered to be the most significant theological insight he had gained during his lifetime. His response: “Jesus loves me, this I know.” That’s the essence of the story Bishop Hansen refers us to. It’s the story the world needs to hear and to see incarnated in people like you and me.

As the bishop concluded his message he offered words that any individual member and any congregation would do well to take to heart: “I am absolutely convinced that there are people you know, with whom you work or meet in your neighborhood who are ready to hear an invitation to share – in Luther’s words – this “living, daring confidence in God’s grace.”

Right here in the Holmdel area we have ample opportunity to ”live Lutheran” in sense that Bishop Hanson suggests. We do as we gather to worship and fellowship, as we share in various community agencies that assist in meeting the growing needs of so many people, and as we give evidence of caring for one another and welcoming those who are seeking to know the love of God. We are so fortunate to be so blest.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Jack

COURAGE IN AGING

Will meet on October 4 at 1:30 p.m. The topic will be “if only I had More relationships, money, time, peace, etc.” All are welcome to attend. Feel free to call Ruth Elstad at 732-864-0616 with any questions.

Pastor Elstad's bible study "A Look at the Book" will meet on Wednesdays in the library at 1 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Good Shepherd Council meeting minutes, Sept 19, 2011

CONVENED: 7:05PM

ATTENDEES: Andy Mathisen, Mike Carp, Tom Tehve, Karl Torjussen, Andy Lichter, and Steve Miller.
Not present were Sharon Oberkehr (provided report to Andy), John Crump, Garry Westerweller (excused), Lil Nemcik, and Pastor Jack (excused)

DEVOTIONS: led by Andy Mathisen, who read from "Men in Leadership"

MINUTES APPROVED: June, 2011 Minutes were approved after motion by Karl, and 2nd by Tom.

TREASURER'S REPORT (submitted by Pat Miller who had a conflicting meeting). Mike Carp requested additional reports, specific to Social Ministry. There is a potential relationship to a memorial process being written by Dick Alberti. Steve commented that the change to provide additional reporting might coincide with a new treasurer, effective 2012. Next steps:

1. Andy will check Dick Alberti for document status of the memorial process description.
2. Mike will define needed data, and convene a meeting to include the pastor, the Finance Committee, and Social Ministry Committee

WORSHIP & MUSIC: Andy reported decisions from a Sept 18 meeting:

Dec 4, 3PM Miae will hold a benefit concert to support World Relief – perhaps to combat Malaria

Nov 30, Dec 7, and Dec 14 will be Advent Wednesday evening services, 7PM with Soup Supper
(during these Advent weeks, the choir rehearsal will shift from Thursday to Wednesday)

Dec 25 will be a short evening "Service of Carols"

SOCIAL MINISTRY: Mike Carp reported selling 13 tickets for "Shop for a Cause". Resulting donations:

\$20 to ELCA domestic disaster relief

\$20 to "Project Paul"

\$25 to "Crop Walk"

A Crop Walk has been planned. Presently 6 or 7 people are signed up

During 2012, the congregation will be exposed, each quarter, to a talk by principals from Good Shepherd's chief missions – possibilities include Project Paul, Lunch Break, Soup Kitchen, etc

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Andy reported for Sharon Oberkehr who was absent. Three Sunday school staff support 10 children (2 in senior group, and 8 in the children's group). The Sunday School staff will be recognized during the October 9 church service.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – no report

YOUTH COMMITTEE – no report (Garry Westerweller was absent with excuse)

PROPERTY COMMITTEE – Steve Miller reported that 16 work items were completed on or near the June 11 workday. 76 work items remain "todo". Another work day will be soon scheduled (perhaps to coincide with parking lot gravel delivery -discussed below). Phil Petrone continues grass mowing and grounds cleanup/facility repair. Timers were reset for scheduled times of Little Chief, German School, and Sunday School. There appear to be at least 3 roof leaks around the sanctuary perimeter; roofing quotes are being sought. Holmdel Garden Center provided an earlier \$5000 quote for parking lot gravel rejuvenation; we are now evaluating a limited gravel proposal for \$3200. The "Pink House" is slowly disintegrating; we are looking at

other storage options. The service drop wire, to the parking lot pole lights, was broken by the hurricane; Jersey Power & Light has not finished the repair.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE. Karl Torjussen described plans for the Fall.

Each member will receive a mailed letter (and pledge card) The pledge card will provide an option to volunteer time and talents. "Temple Talks" are planned Nov 6 (Andy Mathisen); Nov 13 (Karl Torjussen) and Nov 20 (Gil Vatter?). During one of these "Temple Talks", Nancy Finch will be asked for a short presentation on COG (Community Outreach Group).

FELLOWSHIP: Debbie Blackburn and Pastor are discussing a possible Octoberfest. We might combine a newcomers welcome. Mike Carp proposes to donate a gift basket of perfume that could be raffled as a fundraiser.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: Steve Miller (as customarily handled by the Council VP) will convene a nomination team to replace the Treasurer and council members whose terms expire the end of 2011. Nominations for Treasurer were discussed. All nominations are due by 12/31/2011, for vote during the early 2012 annual congregation meeting.

ADJOURNED: at 8:30PM with Lord's Prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Steve Miller (substituting for Garry Westerweller).

INTERFAITH NEIGHBORS OPENS NEW SPRINGWOOD CENTER

by Gil Vatter

Interfaith Neighbors of Asbury Park is on schedule to open their new 27,500 square foot Springwood Center by the spring of 2012. The three-story concrete and glass building will be the first commercial location to be built on Springwood Avenue since before July 1970. Interfaith Neighbors, the non-profit organization which has played a dominant role in rebuilding Asbury Park's west side over the past ten years, is in partnership with the city to provide a senior center on the second floor of the new building, located at Springwood Avenue and Atkins Avenue.

The first floor will house three storefronts for retail, another storefront housing Asbury Park Police Department units and Interfaith Neighbors' new business development center, which will provide up to nine cubicle spaces, a conference room and assistance from the director of the organization's Business Development Program.

The senior center on the second floor will include a veranda, a large meeting room, a full-service kitchen, an arts and crafts room, computer rooms, administrative space and other, smaller utility rooms. Interfaith Neighbors will also operate their senior meal program there instead of at its present location at Asbury Tower. The new senior center may be reached by stairs or elevator.

The third floor will contain eight affordable rental apartments, priced from \$700 to \$1,200 per month with a second private elevator from a first floor lobby. There will be three one-bedroom units, four two-bedroom units and one three-bedroom unit.

Paul McEvily, Associate Executive director of Interfaith Neighbors and project manager of the new building, announced that the building is already 60% complete and should be occupied by the spring target date. Interfaith will own 60% of the building and the city of Asbury Park will own 40% of the building which is expected to cost \$6.9 million, with the city paying about \$3 million for the senior center. Interfaith paid the city \$247,500 for the land. Interfaith has already built 30 new affordable homes in the Asbury Park-Neptune area, has

three more under construction and has been instrumental in administrating the NJ Youth Corps program in the city.

HUNGER IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK

by Gil Vatter

The Foodbank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties reminds us that \$16,630 is the average annual income for a family of four who receive emergency food. These families are forced to make the challenging choices to:

- Pay for food or pay for utilities
- Pay for food or pay for rent
- Pay for food or pay for medical care

Over 127,500 people in Ocean and Monmouth Counties receive emergency food, an 84% increase over 5 years ago. The number of children receiving emergency food has increased by 150%, with more than 51,000 served in our local communities. About 14,000 of the children served are under the age of five. Failing to provide children with adequate nutrition in the first three to five years of life can have dire consequences.

7.0 million pounds of food are distributed through a network of over 260 different feeding programs, including food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, senior housing and day care centers in low income areas. Among these programs are both St. Mark's, Keansburg and the Calico Cat, Middletown, both supported by Good Shepherd. In addition to food distribution, some of the programs administered by the Foodbank include:

- The Kid's Cafe - 120 hot meals a day for kids in Red Bank and Asbury Park
- The Kid's Backpack Program - 6 weekend meals for up to 300 kids in Ocean and Monmouth
- Culinary Training - 13 week course for unemployed adults - Over 200 have already graduated
- Mobile Pantry - Takes food to people with no easy access to a food pantry - Over 600 are fed
- Foodbank Organic Garden - Provides fresh produce to all feeding programs

To put it in perspective, about 1.2 million people live in affluent Monmouth and Ocean Counties; but, about 1 in 10 of that 1.2 million, about 120,00 people, need emergency food. If all the people of that number, fed by the Foodbank last year joined hands, the line would reach from Point Pleasant to Trenton - THREE TIMES!

We can make a difference. For every \$1.00 given, the Foodbank can provide almost three meals. A \$25 gift provides 75 meals. A \$100 gift provides 300 meals. Three specialty coffees a week translates to almost 70 meals a month.

Good Shepherd's continued support of St. Mark's Food Pantry and Food Kitchen with both cash and canned goods, is one of the ways the hungry are fed in our neighborhood. Please continue to contribute cash or food to St. Mark's, the Calico Cat and the Foodbank of Monmouth and Ocean counties. It may be the difference between life and death.

AROUND THE PARISH

by Gil Vatter

GOOD SHEPHERD - THE FRIENDLY CHURCH

1. The congregation managed to survive Hurricane Irene but church had to be cancelled on Sunday August 28. What a day that was.....RUTH and PASTOR JACK were in Vermont and had to return home after just one day of vacation.....BOB FULMER moved in with his kids in Allentown, N.J.....PAT NICHOLS took a Coast Guard boat up the Hudson River to protect it from the storm.....BILL WEHRLI didn't get his power back until the

following Thursday.....DEBBIE and JOHN BLACKBURN'S daughter, SARAH and her family had to leave their home in Highlands because of storm damage. What a weekend!!

2. Congratulations to FRED OBERKEHR, who was unanimously appointed Colt's Neck superintendent of schools by the local school board. Dr. Oberkehr was formerly superintendent of schools in Roselle Park.

- The "Evening News" is where they begin with "Good evening" and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.

- Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.

3. The Social Ministry Committee has delivered more than 900 cans of food to St. Mark's Food Pantry through August. Good shepherd has also contributed over \$750 to the Pantry.

4. PASTOR NEIL JAGGIE was substitute for Pastor Jack on September 4. MRS. JAGGIE was also with us that Sunday. PASTOR JAGGIE also substituted on September 25, while PASTOR JACK was in Florida.

- A woman came home, screeching her car into the driveway and ran into the house. She yelled to her husband at the top of her lungs, "Quick, pack your bags, I won the lottery." The husband said, "Fantastic. What should I pack, beach stuff or mountain stuff?" She replied, "I don't care. Just get out!"

- The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending and to have the two as close together as possible. - George Burns

BRING SOME CANS OF FOOD TO CHURCH THIS WEEK

5. BILL WEHRLI took a ride in a World War II B-17 bomber from Wall Airport. The flight went over the bay area and lasted about one half hour.

6. Happy birthday to JOHN HAHER who will be 91 in October and to the MATHISEN twins who will be 19.

- I used to be indecisive. Now, I'm not sure.

- You know you are living in 2011 - when you pull into your driveway and use your cell phone to see if anyone is home to help you carry in the groceries.(John Haher)

7. Don't forget to support the CROP WALK, which will take place on October 16. See ANDY MATHISEN or MIKE CARP to find out what you can do.

8. The Ladie Luncheon Group met at the Crown Palace in Middletown in September. To join the gang for lunch in October see BARBARA HAHER for details.

- At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be, "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice. (Dick Alberti)

SPONSORS ARE NEEDED FOR ALTAR FLOWERS. SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX.

- Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie. (Larry Jackson)

9. Congratulations and a hearty WELCOME! to the folks who became NEW MEMBERS of Good Shepherd Church on Sunday September 18:

LISA, JAMES, ISABELLA and MICHAEL ANTONOCCHI

KATHLEEN DAGIAU
DORA, KEITH, KATEY, KOLBY and SUMMER HOWARD
FRED OBERKEHR

10. Everyone enjoyed PASTOR JACK'S children's sermon on Sunday September 18, "Erasing Our Mistakes".

- Only In America - are there handicap parking spaces in front of a skating rink. (Bill Werhli)

- Only in America - do we buy hot dogs in packages of 10 and buns in packages of 8. (Bill Werhli)

11. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd fedora to ROBERT KIM, who accompanied the choir on Sunday September 18 and also supplied both the prelude and the postlude. Always great to hear you play, Robert.

12. BECKY BARTLETT and her husband are living in Spain.

- Going to church doesn't make you a good person, any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.

IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO SHOULD BE RECEIVING THE "VOICE", PLEASE NOTIFY THE
CHURCH OFFICE.

- You don't need a parachute to skydive. You just need a parachute to skydive twice. (Ernie Brinkman)

13. Did you notice CHARLIE MILLER'S frown and FRED OBERKEHR'S smile after the New York Giants upset the Philadelphia Eagles.

14. Congratulations and best wishes to RACHEL MATHISEN, RN, who recently became a member of the staff in the Pediatrics Unit at NYU Medical Center in New York. Way to go Rach!!!

15. Both the German School of Monmouth County and the Little Chief Pre-School resumed operation this month.

A Polish immigrant went to the DMV to apply for a driver's license. First, of course, he had to take an eye test. A clerk showed him a card with the letters CZWIXNOSTACZ. "Can you read this?", the clerk asked. "Read it?", the Polish man replied, "I knew this guy back in Poland."

SEE YOU IN CHURCH ON SUNDAY

ANY NEW OR OLD JEWELRY FOR COG?

by Nancy Fitch

Many thanks to Good Shepherd for supporting the Calico Cat Pantry and Cupboard's Back to School Project. With your help at least 142 children will receive a shoe and a gift certificate on 9/27 at the Evening Pantry.

Looking ahead to the Holiday Season, Good Shepherd can support the Community Outreach Group (COG) by providing the Calico Cat Thrift Shop with new and gently used jewelry. The resale of jewelry along with clothing, shoes, bags, housewares, etc. helps COG raise funds for groups assisting the homeless and others in crisis. As you go through your wardrobes this fall and winter keep an eye out for collectable old gems. Since the Calico Cat Thrift Shop features seasonal items to attract customers be assured holiday jewelry and trinkets are also well received.

During the month of October please place any jewelry contributions in the box marked **cog for COG** (collectable old gems for Community Outreach Group).

A FEW NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

by Gil Vatter

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. - Psalm 100

September 11-"He Leadeth Me" - John Purifoy

September 18 - "Love Unmeasured, Love of God" - L. Larson

Robert Kim - Violin accompaniment

Prelude - "Adagio Cantabile" - Ludwig Van Beethoven

Postlude - "To God Be the Glory" - G. Parker

- Robert Kim, Violin

September 25 - "I Worship You, Almighty God" - Mary McDonald

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 the responsibility for leadership in our church.

THE SENIOR CHOIR

Miae Park - Minister of Music

Andy Lichter, Andy Mathisen, Diane Mathisen, Charlie Miller, Pat Miller, Trudy Miller, Randi Stetz, Ellen Tehve, Tom Tehve, Gil Vatter, Patty Vatter, Bill Wehrli, Kim Wehrli

IRENE LUEDERS CUNNINGHAM DIES AT AGE 76

Irene Lueders Cunningham, a former member of Good Shepherd Church, died on Monday September 19 at the age of 76 at Seabrook Village in Tinton Falls, New Jersey, where she resided with her husband Jack. She had been suffering from rheumatoid arthritis for several years. Irene Cunningham was born in Kuliang, China on July 26, 1935, the daughter of Albert and Jenny lueders. She was among the third generation of the family to live in china, where her family had established a tea business in the mid-1800's.

The family returned to Germany following World War II, where Irene finished secondary school and began her university studies. The family immigrated to the United States in March of 1955, after which Irene graduated from Wagner College in the class of 1957 and became a social worker in Camden, New Jersey. She was married to Jack in June 1959 in Haddonfield, New Jersey.

In addition to her husband, Jack, she is survived by a daughter, Jill Cunningham, a son Jeffrey, his wife Lori, two grandchildren and two sisters, Gisela Seaman and Gudrun Irwin.

A memorial service was held at Seabrook Village on Saturday September 24

October 2011

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						1
						1pm – 4 NJ State Youth Orch
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service		1:30 – 3:00 Courage In Aging	1pm - Bible Study	7:30pm-9:00 choir practice		1pm – 4 NJ State Youth Orch
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service	7pm – Council Meeting		1pm - Bible Study	7:30pm-9:00 choir practice		1pm – 4 NJ State Youth Orch
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service Crop Walk		7:30pm – 9:00 Compassionate Friends	1pm - Bible Study	7:30pm-9:00 choir practice	12:30 – Ladies Lunch Grp. @ Bahr's for Oktoberfest	1pm – 4 NJ State Youth Orch
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service			1pm - Bible Study	7:30pm-9:00 choir practice		1pm – 4 NJ State Youth Orch
30	31					
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service						