

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

November 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,

Back in January members of several local churches worshiped together here at Good Shepherd in a service marking the annual observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Following the service those attending had the opportunity to share conversation in small groups. At the conclusion of the program it was evident that everyone had been enthusiastically involved in the discussions and very much appreciated the fellowship. It also was something they would like to experience again. And that's the way it stood until just recently.

In September I emailed the pastors who had participated in the January event and asked them to meet so that we could formulate a program which would pick up on and expand what had taken place in January. Not all would be able to attend the meeting scheduled for October 4 but they did express interest. Thus it was that Brian Croak, pastor of Lincroft Presbyterian Church, Rusty Eidmann-Hicks, pastor of the Holmdel Community Church and I did meet and put together the basic idea of developing a year-round series of ecumenical "conversations" similar to what was done in January. Each month and in a different host church those attending would share in Bible study, prayer and conversation.

On Sunday, November 6, a gathering of the clergy and lay members of the participating congregations will meet at the Holmdel Community Church to finalize the plans for implementing the ideas suggested.

I truly believe that this type of program is much needed. Christians need to evidence their being a part of something greater than themselves personally, and something greater than their own congregations. We are all a part of the body of Christ and are searching for a deeper sense of fellowship. Too often we do not sense the connectedness we truly really have as brothers and sisters in Christ. We are neighbors and need to know each other better. To me, and I think for the other pastors as well, there is something we can do positively so as to connect in a spirit of mutual love and understanding.

For us a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America our participation in this developing program will evidence an example of fulfilling a portion of our Statement of Purpose which directs us to: *"Manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives"* and *"To foster and participate in ecumenical relationships consistent with church-wide policy"*

I look forward to seeing this plan being implemented after the first of the year and hope that many of you will choose to participate as you are able.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Jack

P.S. The 2012 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be held on Sunday, January 15 at St. Catharine's Roman Catholic Church starting at 3:00 pm.

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

A community Thanksgiving Eve service will be held on Wednesday, November 23 at the United Methodist Church of Middletown at 7:30 pm. Pastor Elstad will be the preacher and our choir will be joining others from the participating congregations.

COURAGE IN AGING

Courage In Aging will meet Tuesday November 1 in our church library at 1:30. Our subject this month will be ANGER – Yours and that of others.

Please plan on joining us. All ages are welcome. Please call Ruth Elstad at 732-864-0616

CROP WALK NEWS

by Andy Mathisen

At the Red Bank Crop Walk this past October 16th, we raised \$905 from donations given by Good Shepherd members. Thanks to all. The Good Shepherd members who walked were Pastor Elstad, Kim Wehrli, Andy Mathisen and Teresa and Pat Nichols.

AROUND THE PARISH

by Gil Vatter

GOOD SHEPHERD - THE FRIENDLY CHURCH

1. ERNIE BRINKMAN is recovering at home from surgery on his ear and is doing well. Send him a card.
2. RANDI STETZ is coming along fine after surgery on her right eye.

The Human Canonball died during a performance at a local show. It will be difficult to find a replacement of the same caliber.

Why do we buy hot dogs in packs of 10 and buns in packs of 8? (Bill Wehrli)

3. The Children's sermon was presented by PASTOR JACK on October 2 - "What's Your Favorite Day?" Hope you didn't miss it.
4. Good to see KIRSTEN MATHISEN who was home from the University of Delaware on October 2.
5. The Social Ministry Committee has taken more than 1000 cans of food, lots of dry food, baby food and peanut butter and jelly to St. Mark's Food Pantry through September.

BRING SOME FOOD TO CHURCH THIS WEEK

A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. On my desk, I have a work station.

Whenever I fill out a form, in the area that says, "In case of emergency, notify....", I always write, DOCTOR!!!

6. PAT and STEVE MILLER sailed from St. Petersburg to Moscow during two weeks in October.

7. Happy birthday to PAT SCHMIDT.

8. DIANE MATHISEN had a beach reunion in October with six women from her Holmdel High School class of 1975.

Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in a hallway. One hat said to the other, "You stay here and I'll go on ahead." (Larry Jackson)

I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury. (Groucho Marx)

9. Charter member PAM (Everett) BAGLIERI joined us for worship on Sunday October 9, along with her husband FRANK. Come back soon, Pam.

10. KURT MATHISEN was home from Gettysburg College on October 9. Higher education seems to be agreeing with him.

Sunday after church, a Mom asked her young daughter what the lesson in her Sunday School was that day. The little girl replied, "Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt." The mother, being perplexed, phoned her daughter's Sunday School teacher and asked what that morning's lesson was all about. The teacher said, "Be not afraid, the comforter is coming."

You know you're living in the 21st century when every commercial on television has a web site at the bottom of the screen. (John Haher)

11. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd panama to the NEW JERSEY STATE YOUTH ORCHESTRA (which rehearses every Saturday at Good Shepherd) for all the beautiful mums they placed at the entrance to the church.

12. CAROL WERNLI, a representative of Thrivent Financial Services, shared a few words with us before the service on October 9 and hosted the coffee hour following the service.

If "Jimmy cracks corn" and no one cares, why did someone write a song about him?

The sermon this morning - "Jesus Walks on the Water". The sermon next Sunday - "Searching for Jesus" (Dick Alberti)

13. A hearty welcome to TERESA and PAT NICHOLS who became members of Good Shepherd on Sunday October 16.

14. The LADIES LUNCHEON GROUP met at Bahr's Restaurant in the Highlands for Oktoberfest on Friday October 21. For information about the November get-together, see BARBARA HAHER.

From the church bulletin - "For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a baby sitting service every Sunday during church.

A Sunday school teacher said to her children, "We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But, there is a higher power. Can anyone tell me what it is?" Little Willy yelled out, "Aces!"

15. FALL WORK DAY is set for SATURDAY OCTOBER 29 from 8:00 AM 'til 2:00 PM. MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!

16. The 494TH ANNIVERSARY of the REFORMATION takes place on Sunday October 30 at Good Shepherd. Join us for brunch after church. There will be a special presentation by PASTOR FRED SCHUMACKER.

Did You Know - Warner Communications paid \$28,000,000 for the copyright to the song, "Happy Birthday".
(Bill Theune)

You will never find anyone who can give you a clear and compelling reason to observe Daylight Savings Time.
(Bill Wehrli)

17. You can support the COG Thriftshop by bringing new and used jewelry to church - See NANCY FITCH

18. Good Shepherd gave more than \$900 to local food pantries through the CROP WALK.

I went to San Francisco. I found someones heart. Now what do I do? (Carol Seip)

Honk, if you love Jesus. Text while you drive, if you want to meet Him. (Carol Seip)

19. It must be autumn - BILL WEHRLI is closing his beach house.

20. Did you know that PASTOR JACK'S great grandfather immigrated to Wisconsin from Norway in 1850?

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. One little boy suggested, "They couldn't get a baby sitter." (Lil Nemcik)

Did you know - If you don't pay your exorcist, you may be repossessed.

21. ANDY LICHTER and his family were together in North Carolina in early October.

22. Join us for the 494th REFORMATION DAY celebration on Sunday October 30

23. Good shepherd sent more than \$700 to the COG Back to School Project.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

SET AN EXTRA PLACE THIS THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving Day will be here on November 24. It is a time for us to celebrate with family and friends and to be thankful for all the good things we have received in our lives. It is also a time to remember the less fortunate people in our community who will not have a table laden with special food this month. In many cases their tables will bear no food at all unless they are able to turn to one of the local foodbanks, food pantries, soup kitchens or shelters, such as St. Mark's Food Pantry or the Foodbank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties.

Without the aid of food pantries, there will be no laughter for so many in our community. Poverty and hunger are overwhelming them and they face emptiness and the loss of hope. While life is so festive and so secure for us, poverty haunts thousands of our neighbors every day, even during the holidays. Hunger knows no season. It feels no joy.

This month and in December, please remember these needy families with a special Thanksgiving or christmas check to a local food pantry. Give others in our community something for which they can be thankful this year.

A FEW NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

by Gil Vatter

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you...we are an offering.

Miae Park - Minister of Music

October 2 - "My Jesus, I Love Thee" - P. Rodriguez
October 9 - "Oh, Sing to God Your Joyful Praise" - G. F. Handel
October 16 - "Father We Worship You" - Victor C. Johnson
October 23 - "Rejoice, Be Glad, Give Praise!" - Dale Wood

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 the activities of our church.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sharon Oberkehr - Superintendent; Karen Rajala; Andy Mathisen; Julia Blackburn; Debbie Blackburn

November 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
		1:30 – 3:00 Courage In Aging		7:30pm-9:00 choir practice		1pm – 4 NJ State Youth Orch
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service				7:30pm-9:00 choir practice		1pm – 4 NJ State Youth Orch
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service	7pm – Council Meeting	7:30pm – 9:00 Compassionate Friends		7:30pm-9:00 choir practice	12:30 – Ladies Lunch Grp, at the Pour House	1pm – 4 NJ State Youth Orch
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service			7:30pm – Community Service at Middletwon United Methodist			1pm – 4 NJ State Youth Orch
27	28	29	30			
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service			7:30 – choir practice			