

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

December 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,

Each year at this time as we approach the day which marks our Lord's birth I consider what might be said that has not already been said many times before and then I realize that the message never changes. The world constantly changes as each year passes, but the profoundly simple message of God's gift of love to a weary world remains the same. It needs to be heard, but most importantly, it needs to be lived, and each of us is called to be a bearer of its grace.

Personally I think the poetry of our hymns best convey the deep truths of our faith, and this is especially true at Christmas. And so I will share a few lines of a hymn titled "Love Has Come", which is one of the newer hymns, and I hope the words will fill your minds with thoughts expressing the true spirit of the season.

*"Love has come – a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
Hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love!
Born unto you, Savior!*

*Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love!
Love is the gift of Christmas."*

The composer of the above words, Ken Bible, may have had these words of St. John in mind as he wrote: *"In this is love, not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation of our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No man has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us."* I John 4: 10-12.

Enjoy the season with all its excitement, but remember that among all the gifts you receive there is only that lasts eternally. It is one that does not come wrapped in a package, but rather in the words and deeds of those who share life with you and wrap you in their love. As God has given to us so we give to others.

Ruth and I wish you all a very blessed Christmas. We are so happy to share in the life of Good Shepherd, and are blessed to have all of you as friends as we work together in the ministry to which God has called us all.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jack

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Candlelight Holy Communion
Saturday, December 24
4:00 pm and 10:00 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Sunday, December 25
10:00 am
Lessons and Carols

Please extend an invitation to your friends and neighbors to join with us at this very special time of celebration.

COURAGE IN AGING

Courage in Aging will meet on Tuesday, December 6 at 1:30 in the church library. Our subject this month will be Loneliness and coping with holiday pressures. Feel free to invite your friends to join us. For further information call Ruth Elstad at 732-864-0616.

Sunday School Christmas Pageant
to be presented during the service on December 18th

Poinsettias for the Altar

The signup sheet for Christmas poinsettias is in the narthex. Please help beautify the sanctuary as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. Our order must be placed on December 18th.

Council Meeting Minutes November 14, 2011

In attendance were the following: Andy Mathisen, Garry Westerweller, Steve Miller, Mike Carp, Andy Lichter, Pastor Jack

Absent: Lil Nemcik, Sharon Oberkehr, Tom Tehve, John Crump, Karl Torjussen

Andy opened the meeting with devotions by reading some passages from the Men in Leadership Book. September minutes were unanimously approved

Reports were submitted as follows:

Pastor's Report: Pastor reported that he had just completed the 7 week Bible study and is planning on starting a new series titled, "Table Talk." It was also reported that the interfaith Bible study did not go as hoped and that there were plans to re-visit this sometime in January. Pastor also handed out a graph that charted church attendance for the last three years. Pastor also submitted for consideration that we look at the possibility of re-doing a Photo Directory. Finally he suggested we might wish to consider calling attention to some prominent Lutherans, not only currently but historically as well.

NOTE: All Saints Day was discussed in regard to possibly commemorating additional honorees on the stone in the memorial garden. Garry will discuss with Dick Alberti the current process to get a name engraved on the stone. Council will ask Dick to look into the cost involved so that we can present this program to the congregation along with a deadline date to submit a name for engraving. We will print monthly reminders in the bulletin of this process so that all engravings are complete prior to All Saints Day, 2012 (11/4/12). Program should be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting.

Treasurer's Report: noted that Pat's suggestion to close the Thrivent Money Market account and add the 19K reserves to the ECLA Mission was approved by council via e mail. An additional vote was taken and the suggestion was passed unanimously. Pat's report was also approved unanimously.

The preliminary budget was submitted by Pat and will be sent on to the finance committee for further review and recommendations. Mike Carp suggested that we add a budget line item for Capital improvements. The council concurred with this thought. Council will ask the finance committee to prepare the budget for next meeting so that it can be reviewed and presented to the congregation.

Property Report: Steve submitted a detailed property report that is attached. Big ticket item that needs to be addressed is the roof repair. There are multiple roof leaks. Steve received 3 quotes and proposed we approve the \$8900.00 bid so that repairs can start week of 11/21. Council unanimously approved this proposal. In addition the flat roof on the sanctuary needs repair as well. Steve has several quotes but will research this further.

Worship and Music: Andy discussed the process of how hymns are chosen for Sunday worship. Hymns are suggested based on the recommendations of "Sunday's in Season". Then the choir and Miae review them, and finally they will be passed along to Pastor for final approval and what order should be utilized.

Social Ministry: Mike Carp reported on the Crop Walk results. Final numbers still uncertain. Mike also feels we need a better way of reporting Social Ministry donations. Steve asked Mike to take ownership of this problem and report back to council with some suggestions. Mike also suggested the raffling off of some perfume samples at the Christmas Party, with the funds to go to Project Paul. Council approved of this suggestion and Mike will take care of setting this up.

Evangelism, Christian Education, Stewardship: No reports were submitted.

Youth Committee: Garry reported that Elizabeth Westerweller will be resigning from this committee. Garry will continue on as chair and ask Sharon and possibly Karen Rajala to possibly assist on this committee. Garry presented the following ideas for upcoming youth activities that were presented to him by Sharon Oberkehr. A December event where the youth group would make Christmas ornaments to hand out to a local Nursing home, a possible February event where the youth group would decorate cookies to send to our Good Shepherd College Students. Garry also mentioned that the goal is to have a minimum of 4 gatherings per year that we can build upon.

Old Business: Plans for the Christmas Party were discussed. Garry volunteered to be the unofficial emcee. Garry will coordinate with Debbie Blackburn regarding the evening's festivities.

New Business: No new business was discussed

Election of officers: Steve requested volunteers for the nomination committee. Andy and Mike volunteered. Although Mike will be leaving the council, he agreed to stay on as the chair of Social Ministry.

Steve suggested we get every council member a copy of the constitution and by-laws.

Treasurer position: Council will ask Dick Alberti to be a co treasurer with Tom Tehve

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by
Garry Westerweller

GOOD SHEPHERD WILL SUPPORT SAINT MARK'S FOOD KITCHEN IN 2012

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"

Next year, the congregation of Good Shepherd Church will help to support the program at Saint Mark's Episcopal Church in Keansburg to feed those in the area who are in need of assistance. Good Shepherd has been involved, in one way or another, with the Saint Mark's Food Kitchen and Pantry for nearly fifteen years.

For ten years, beginning in 1996, four volunteers from the parish prepared and served a hot meal at the Food Kitchen on the first Tuesday of every month and continued that schedule until 2007. Although the menu varied over the years, the meal generally consisted of pasta and meat balls, a mixed salad and coffee and cake for dessert and was served to a group of forty to sixty people, including a half dozen or so meals which were delivered to shut-ins. The meal was always very well received by those who came to the Kitchen for their one hot meal of the day.

In 2008, in order to continue the congregation's relationship with Saint Mark's, the "Saint Mark's Sponsors Program" was instituted. This program provides a check for at least \$75.00 from each monthly "sponsor" and has continued to send a minimum of \$900.00 each year to help feed the needy. Because of increased participation this year, the "Sponsors" will send at least \$1,200.00 to Keansburg. During the existence of the program, twenty different families from the parish and the Women's Luncheon Group have been "sponsors".

The third part of Good Shepherd's involvement in feeding our neighbors, consists of the ongoing "bring some food to church" program. The members of the parish place canned food, baby food, dry, boxed food, peanut butter and jelly and cereal in the large basket situated in the narthex and volunteers from the church deliver whatever has been accumulated to Saint Mark's at the end of each month. This activity will provide about 1,500 cans of food (more than 1600 in 2010) to the Pantry by the end of December. As the Director of Saint Mark's Pantry remarked, "The need is so great, we'll take anything."

If you are not already involved in any of the ways we give food to those who so desperately need our help, please choose either one of the church's two programs to participate:

1. Bring some food to church next Sunday and place it in the basket.
2. See Patty or Gil Vatter to add your name to the "Sponsors" list for 2012.

AROUND THE PARISH

by Gil Vatter

GOOD SHEPHERD - THE FRIENDLY CHURCH

1. I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving. DEBBIE and JOHN BLACKBURN went to Sugar Loaf, PA to be with the HORLACHERS; TRUDY and CHARLIE MILLER hosted at their house (Trudy cooked); ANDY LICHTER went to North Carolina; PAT and STEVE MILLER also went south; LINDA BURNS and JOHN CRUMP went into New York to see the big parade; BOB FULMER went to Allentown; PATTY and I went to Long Island.

2. On Sunday November 6, ALL SAINTS DAY, the church remembered all of Good Shepherd's saints who have entered the church triumphant during the past year.

You never know when it will strike, but there comes a moment during the afternoon when you know that you just aren't going to do anything productive for the rest of the day.

CHOIR - A group of people whose singing allows the rest of the parish to lip-sync.

3. The SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE has taken almost 1,300 cans of donated food plus lots and lots of pasta, cereal, baby food, peanut butter and jelly and even a frozen turkey (thanks to BUNNY and HERB KUHL) to SAINT MARK'S PANTRY in Keansburg. What you gave last month made November the biggest month for donations this year.

4. Happy birthday to JULIA BLACKBURN. (and many more!!!)

A police recruit was asked during an exam, "What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?". He answered, "Call for backup." (Lil Nemcik)

Ever wonder why Noah didn't swat those two mosquitos? (Ernie Brinkman)

5. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd derby to all those who participated in the CROP WALK which raised over \$900 for local food pantries, more than three times last years effort.

6. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd fez to the SISLIAN BRASS TRIO which provided wonderful music on Sunday October 30.

How many times is it appropriate to say "What?" before you just nod and smile because you still didn't hear or understand a word someone said?

TEN COMMANDMENTS - The most important Top Ten list not given by David Letterman.

7. We were happy to welcome BECKY BARTLETT in church on Sunday October 30.

8. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd bonnet to DEBBIE BLACKBURN and her hard working Fellowship Committee for serving the Reformation brunch. It was delicious. Special thanks to ELLEN TEHVE and PATTY VATTER for making the flower arrangements for each table and to TOM and ELLEN TEHVE for setting up the chairs and tables beforehand.

Those few pounds you wanted to lose has now grown to 15 pounds and you have a better chance of losing your car keys than 15 pounds. (Bill Theune)

I planted some bird seed. A bird came up. Now I don't know what to feed it. (Carol Seip)

9. The OBERKEHRS went to Florida in early November.

10. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd beret to my fellow TEMPLE TALKERS, ANDY MATHISEN and KARL TORJUSSEN. Hope the stewardship effort turns out better than ever.

I can't remember the last time I wasn't at least kind of tired.

Only in America do we use answering machines to screen calls and then have call waiting so we won't miss a call from someone we didn't want to talk to in the first place. (Bill Wherli)

11. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd fedora to all those who have been bringing food for the Saint Marks Food Pantry. While the need is growing....support from the community seems to be fading.

12. Happy birthday to PASTOR ED SCHMIDT. PAT and PASTOR ED send greetings to all their friends at Good shepherd. Pastor Ed is now the Interim Pastor at Holy Trinity in Wildwood. The Schmidts spent November 9 to 16 in Ireland.

Inside of every older person is a younger person wondering, "WHAT HAPPENED?" (Bill Wherli)

Until I was thirteen, I thought my name was SHUT UP. (Bill Cosby)

13. Make a note - The ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY will be held at the church on Sunday December 11 at 5:00 PM - THIS IS THE FELLOWSHIP EVENT OF THE YEAR, SOEVERYBODY COME!!!!

14. Sunday November 20 was the "United We Sing" celebration at the Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse in Lincroft, an inter-faith, inter-cultural service of music, word and dance.

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Shirley interrupted, "My Mommy looked back one time while she was driving", she announced, "and she turned into a telephone pole."

You know you're living in 2011 when every commercial on television has a web site at the bottom of the screen. (John Maher)

15. We welcomed PASTOR NEIL JAGGIE on Sunday November 13, during Pastor Jack's absence.

16. Great to welcome MARION and ED SCHLOEMMER to Good Shepherd on Sunday November 16.

HYMN - A song of praise, usually sung in a key somewhat higher than that of the congregation's vocal range.

Nothing is worse than that moment during an argument when you realize you're wrong.

17. Good to see GRACE BRINKMAN back in church after a short illness.

18. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd panama to STEVE MILLER for unloading and spreading a huge pile of stones on the church parking lot.

Santa Claus has the right idea. You should visit people only once a year. (Victor Borge)

MAGI - The most famous trio to attend a baby shower.

19. MIAE PARK and ROBERT KIM will present a concert at the Holmdel Community Church on Sunday December 4 at 3:00 PM for the benefit of World Relief to Combat Malaria.

20. Sunday November 27 was ABBEY MILLER'S debut as an acolyte. Good Job, Abbey!!!

PROCESSION - The ceremonial procession at the beginning of the service consisting of the Pastor, the choir and late parishioners looking for a seat.

A group of men were discussing how to deter possible home burglaries. One said he kept a gun by the bed. Another said he had an expensive alarm system. The third, the father of six young children, said, "If a burglar came into our bedroom during the night, I'd probably get up, take him by the hand and walk him into the bathroom." (Grace Brinkman)

21. DIANE and ANDY MATHISEN are experiencing the well known "empty nest syndrome" with RACHEL living in Manhattan and the twins away at college.

22. Good Shepherd began the ADVENT season on November 27. Christmas will be here before we know it. Come to church to celebrate the coming of the babe to the manger.

I totally regret all those times I didn't want to take a nap when I was a kid.

A Sunday School teacher was explaining the ten commandments to her five year olds. When she got to 'honor your father and mother', she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without a moments hesitation, one little boy answered, "Thou shalt not kill."

23. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd beanie to JOYCE and PASTOR FRED SCHUMACHER, who lectured about Martin Luther at the Reformation Brunch this year.

24. The Ladies Luncheon Group met at the Pour House for lunch on Friday November 18. They are scheduled to dine at Bamm Hollow Country Club on Friday December 16 at 12:30 PM. See BARBARA HAHER for details.

25. A reminder----Calico Cat is in need of "gently used" children's winter clothing.

26. Bring your pledge for 2012 to the church this week.

27. Some members of our congregation attended the 50th anniversary celebration of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Neptune on Sunday November 20. BISHOP ROY RILEY presented the message.

28. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd tam to everyone who participated in the Community Service of Thanksgiving this year; Pastor Jack, who presented the message, the members of the choir who sang in the combined choirs and those who worshiped.

HAVE A MERRY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS SEASON AND A HEALTHY HAPPY NEW YEAR
SEE YOU IN CHURCH

Your gift is needed to repair Good Shepherd “holy” roofs.

Two roofs (both over the sanctuary) must be replaced; together, these require a \$16K (unplanned) expenditure.

1. The low sloped asphalt shingled sanctuary roof (last repaired in mid 90s?) is leaking in several spots into the sanctuary and narthex. Shingle wear and surface holes are obvious. (\$8900 was the low of 3 bids to remove shingles and install a new roof with 40 year shingles).
2. The flat sanctuary roof (composition rolled roofing) is worn. All the original granular surface has worn off. There is evidence of (old?) water stains in the SW corner of the sanctuary attic. The roof may be from the original 1971 construction. (\$7500 is the best of 3 bids; the roof will be recovered with 2 layer “GAF torch”).

But didn't we recently replace the roof?

Let me know if you have a better memory of the following:

1. The (steep) mansard roof was replaced ~2004 (\$27K bid was received in 2003; final price was lower).
2. The flat roof over the south education wing was replaced ~1999 (wing constructed ~1980)

The church has several other roofs over the narthex and Frank Hall (constructed ~1992). These all appear in good shape.

Please complete an envelope (see the poster in the narthex) to designate a gift for the “Holy Roof” repair.

Steve Miller, Property Co-Chair

Community Outreach Group COG by Nancy Fitch

The mission of the Community Outreach Group (COG) is to be a compassionate, effective, dependable and innovative part of the local community support system for individuals in need. To do this they also provide financial support to other local nonprofit agencies to expand their ability to effectively serve the needy in our community.

The board of trustees meets a minimum of 4 times a years and currently has 10 voting members representing Christ Church (Episcopal), Middletown Reformed Church, Westminster Presbyterian, Lincroft Presbyterian, Holmdel United Church of Christ, St Catharine’s (RC), St. Leo the Great (RC), Middletown United Methodist, and Good Shepherd.

There are 5 standing committees of the Boards of trustees who manage and oversee the four major activities of COG. These activities are the Food Pantry, the Cupboard, the Thrift Shop and the Emergency Assistance Fund. They are all housed at 95 King’s Highway in Middletown.

- **Calico Cat Thrift Shoppe** sells new and gently used merchandise. Money raised through sales is used to assist the homeless and others who are in financial crisis. All of the items in the store are donated. To date this year the thrift shop sales have totaled \$51,067 – down 8.6% from last year at this time. This past month (Oct) here at Good Shepherd we collected jewelry 300 pieces of jewelry which has been donated to the shop for resale. Thank you all for your support and if any are interested in purchasing some nice looking jewelry the store hours are Mon - Fri, 9:30am - 2:30pm; Sat, 9:30am.
- **The Cupboard** offers clothing and household items free of charge to families who have been referred by municipal and Monmouth County agencies and shelter programs. In late Aug. and Sept. good shepherd’s church council provided \$400 to support the Cupboard’s Back to School Program which provided clothing certificates, shoe certificates and school supplies to help prepare at least 142 children for school. Member contributions increased this support to \$565.
- **The Food Pantry** provides without charge emergency food by referral. In June Good Shepherd collected 30 orders of needed personal care items to support the evening food pantry. These items of soap, toothpaste, tissues, etc. are all not supported by food stamps. Our contributions were most appreciated. Obviously there certainly is a need for this Pantry – in the Sept. Board meeting it was reported that 2731 clients have been served through the months of Jan to Aug.
- The fourth activity is the **Emergency Assistance Fund (EAF)**. EAF assists with one-time aid 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. The mission is to provide one-time assistance to help low-income households with utility and rent/mortgage assistance. To date for this year almost \$38,000 has been provided. Good Shepherd in the first quarter of this year made a donation of 655.50.

Since becoming your representative on the COG board I have been very impressed by the efficiency and dedication of the people working on the committees and the many volunteers that support the four activities. COG has been in existence for over 20 years and I believe is meeting its mission goals to be a compassionate, effective, dependable and innovative part of the local community support system.

Designating Your Contributions by Clem Hergenhan

A primary goal of the counters, who tally and post the contributions made each week, is to get your donation credited to the proper church account. Lacking information to the contrary, your contribution will go to the General Fund. If want it to go to a different purpose (such as the recent Crop Walk or Flowers) please clearly

mark this on your contribution envelope. Some people note this on the "memo" field of your check but the checks are immediately deposited at the bank and so we do not retain that information. We do look at checks to see if there is "memo" information but the best rule is:

PLEASE, MARK SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS ON YOUR ENVELOPE, NOT ON YOUR CHECK.

GOOD SHEPHERD COMMEMORATES THE REFORMATION OF 1517

by Gil Vatter

On Sunday October 30 Good Shepherd Church celebrated the annual observance of Martin Luther's reformation of the 14th century Roman Catholic Church. Luther instigated the "Reformation" by posting his "95 Theses" on a wooden church door in Wittenburg in 1517, inviting discussion and debate with his local, fellow theologians over what he considered abuse of church doctrine. The impact of this event changed European history as well as world history, contributed to the development of protestantism and led to the birth of the Lutheran Church.

The special celebration began with the Prelude provided by the Sislian Brass Trio, Dave Corsello, Robert A. Sislian and Robert J. Sislian, "Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling" as arranged by Dave Corsello, followed by the Gathering Song, "The Church's One Foundation" which led into the Communion liturgy. Pastor Elstad spoke on the significance of the Reformation in our modern lives, which was followed by the theme song of the Reformation, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God".

The choir, under the direction of Miae Park, Minister of Music, presented its musical offering, "One Faith, One Hope, One Lord" by Craig Courtney and Holy Communion completed the service. The choir recessed to the Sending Song, "You Satisfy the Hungry Heart" and the brass trio provided the Postlude, "To God Be the Glory" by William H. Doane.

Following the service, the Fellowship Committee, chaired by Debby Blackburn, presented a "Reformation Brunch" in the brightly decorated Frank Hall, which was attended by more than 60 people, including the children from the Sunday School, dressed in Halloween costumes. The delicious buffet style brunch, prepared by the women of the parish, consisted of a wide variety of homemade food guaranteed to fit every taste. To add to the atmosphere of the Reformation celebration, Pastor Fred and Joyce Schumacher were guests of the congregation. Pastor Fred, a retired Lutheran Pastor, is an expert on Martin Luther in Numismatic Art and is in the process of writing a five volume book on the subject. He displayed many examples from his personal collection and spoke extensively about Martin Luther's life, "the third most important event in the last millanium", using slides to illustrate each part of his lecture.

Pastor Schumacher showed and explained coins and medals from all over the world honoring Luther (1483 - 1546) , Katharina Von Bora (1499 - 1552), Luther's marriage to Katharina in 1525, Philipp Melancthon, the Pope, the King and other figures of the time. He reminded us about the importance of Guttenburg's invention of the printing process, Luther's translation of the Bible into German and the impact these two events had on the church, on the German people and on the World. He ended his presentation by noting that October 2017 will be the 500th anniversary of the 95 Theses and suggested we be on the lookout for all the special coins and medals which he expects will be offered all over the world at that time.

The people of Good Shepherd Church are grateful to all those who contributed toward the success of the 2011 Reformation celebration.

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 30 - "One Faith, One Hope, One Lord" - Craig Co= urtney

Sislian Trio - Robert A. Sislian, trombone; Robert J. Sislian, trombone; Dave Corsello, baritone horn
Prelude: "Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling" - arr.by Dave Corsello
Postlude: "To God Be the Glory" - William H. Doane

November 6 - "With a Voice of Singing" - Martin Shaw

November 13 - "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" - Lloyd Larson

November 20 - "Proclamation of Service" - Joseph M. Martin

November 23 - Community Thanksgiving Eve Service, Middletown United Methodist Church
"Canon of Thanks" - arr. by Donald Moore

November 27 - "Even So Lord, Quickly Come" - Douglas E. Wagner

Concert - Sunday December 4 - 3:00 PM - Holmdel Community Church
Miae Park, organ - Robert Kim, piano
To benefit the World Relief to conquer malaria

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 ACOLYTES

Hunter Druer Taylor Druer Abbey Miller

LOCAL CHURCHES JOIN FOR THANKSGIVING EVE CELEBRATION

 by Gil Vatter

Four churches from the Middletown - Holmdel area joined together on Wednesday evening November 23 to offer thanks for all the blessings of the past year. The Community Service of Thanksgiving was hosted by the Middletown United Methodist Church, Dr. Glenn C. Ferguson, Pastor. Also participating were the Lincroft Presbyterian Church, Rev. Brian Croak, Pastor, Good Shepherd Lutheran church, Rev John Elstad, Pastor and the Middletown Reformed Church.

The service was opened with greetings by Rev. Ferguson the traditional Thanksgiving Day hymn, "Come Ye Thankful People Come" as the Gathering Song, and by a Prayer for Thanksgiving. Dr. Ferguson, also read the original "Thanksgiving Proclamation" written by President Abraham Lincoln almost 150 years ago, which heralded the modern celebration of a national "Thanksgiving Day" in the United States. Rev. Brian Croak read from the fourth chapter of Philippians and led the Litany of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer. The congregation sang the hymn, "Praise the Lord With the Sound of Trumpet" and Pastor John Elstad offered the Thanksgiving Meditation, "In All Things Be Thankful" in which he cited some of the ordinary things of life for which we should take the time to say thanks.

The twenty voice choir made up of members from all four participating congregations and accompanied by Mrs. Kris Bomersbach at the organ, sang the anthem, "Canon of Thanks", arranged by Donald Moore. The offering for the evening was earmarked for the benefit of Family Promise of Monmouth County. Following the Offertory Prayer for Thanksgiving and the recessional hymn, "Now Thank We All Our God", the service was ended with the Benediction by Pastor Elstad.

December 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
				7:30pm-9:00 choir practice		1pm – 4 NJ State Youth Orch
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service		1:30 – 3:00 Courage In Aging		7:30pm-9:00 choir practice		1pm – 4 NJ State Youth Orch
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service 5 pm – Christmas Party	7pm – Council Meeting			7:30pm-9:00 choir practice	12:30 – Ladies Luncheon Group @ Bamm Hollow	1pm – 4 NJ State Youth Orch
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10 – Sunday School Christmas Pageant during Service				7:30pm-9:00 choir practice		4 & 10 pm Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Services
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
10 – Lessons & Carols						