

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

February 2012

(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,

Now that the Christian community has celebrated the birth of its Lord and has also joined the rest of the world in welcoming a new year, we can finally say the “holiday season” is over. That being the case it is now time to look forward to what is next on the calendar; a quick check of which informs us that Easter will be celebrated on April 8, which as I write this article on January 23, is only 76 days away.

With that in mind let us also be mindful that between now and Easter the Church will observe the six week Lenten season which this year extends between **Ash Wednesday, February 22 and Saturday of Holy Week, April 7**. Though the actual total number of days between the fore mentioned dates is 46, only 40 of them are counted days of Lent. This is because Sundays are excluded and are identified as being *in* Lent. The reason I share this distinction is because I want to draw attention to the number 40, which is used numerous times in the Bible. One such occasion occurs on the first Sunday of each year when the appointed gospel reading tells of Jesus being in the wilderness for 40 days being tempted by the devil. (Matthew 4: 1-11, Mark 1:9-15, Luke 4: 1-13)

One website provided this information regarding the significance of the number 40: “*A 40-something time period, whether days, months or years, is ALWAYS a period of testing, trial, probation, or chastisement (but not judgment) and ends with a period of restoration, revival or renewal.*” In other words there is provided a period of time, when through reflection and reevaluation, and prayer, one may be led to make some adjustment in lifestyle which is positive and beneficial. As one psychologist noted it generally takes six weeks (42 days) to adopt some new habit whether it be in terms of behavior or in thinking. So if you truly intentionally want to replace something old with something new you may find Lent the ideal time to make that happen. Don’t try to change everything and in so doing become discouraged. Focus on one thing in particular and allow God’s spirit to be your strength as you move through forty days of building a better you and which will make resurrection a more meaningful word come Easter.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Jack

Lent 2012

This year, Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of the Lenten season, will be February 22. That evening there will be a “soup supper” at 6:00 pm followed by a Vesper service at 7:00 pm which will include the Imposition of Ashes.

On the following six Lenten Wednesdays there will be offered the opportunity to participate in a series of small group discussions using the resource booklet “Caring and Community: Perspectives from Ephesians”, which will be provided for each participant. To assure as much participation as possible, groups may meet during the day (1:00 pm) or in the evening (7:00 pm). In either case at least six participants are necessary to assure maximum benefit from the discussions. As you consider taking part in this helpful program you may find the following information taken from the course booklet’s introduction helpful in encouraging your participation.

“The relationship of faith to daily life is a constant concern for the Christian Community. Caring and Community is a resource to help you explore this concern. The six chapter themes will help you seek out the biblical truth contained in the Epistle to the Ephesians and find ways to relate them to the daily walk of faith. Caring and Community asks questions to stimulate conversation and encourage the exchange of not only thoughts and ideas, but also feelings and sentimentsAs you study together, your growth and effectiveness will come from God’s grace, not from your own ingenuity, gimmicks, or cleverness. God’s presence in your prayers, sharing, conversation, and study will give you the power to grow and change. . . .God has created us for fellowship and relationship with one another, God, self, and nature. God in Christ has established a gracious commitment of caring, which stands as a model of our caring for one another. As each person is open to the leading of God’s Spirit, the insights from God’s Word, and the peace of God’s presence, life will change and work better because God is at work in us enabling us to both “will and work for his good pleasure”. . . .As you study together, the resource will help provide the setting in which community can be created through open, living, and trusting relationships.”

In the midst of a very challenging world it is important that we are not alone. We need each other. Make this your Lenten discipline. Sign-up sheets are available in the entrance way.

COURAGE IN AGING

COURAGE IN AGING will meet on Tuesday, February 7 at 1:30 p.m. in our church library. Pat Jaggie (Pastor Jaggie’s wife) and Ruth Elstad will be facilitating this session on FRIENDSHIPS AND WELL-BEING. Please feel free to invite your friends to join us. Call Ruth Elstad a 732-864-0616 with any questions.

GOOD SHEPHERD COUNCIL MEETING, 1/11/2012

ATTENDEES: Andy Mathisen, Pastor Jack, Sharon Oberkehr, Andy Tehve, Steve Miller, Pat Miller, Karl Torjussen;

EXCUSED: Mike Carp, Garry Westerweller, Sharon Oberkehr; Andy Lichter
Lill Nemcik has resigned due to health reasons

OPENING PRAYER: Pastor Jack

DEVOTIONS: Andy Mathisen

DECEMBER MINUTES. approved

TREASURERS REPORT/BUDGET REPORT Pat Miller reported that the 2012 total budget is unchanged, from the budget approved at last council meeting. Small shifts have occurred between line items. Council approved the following discussion at the Congregation Meeting:

- Pat to describe the purpose of the Endowment fund.
- Pat to describe the plan to move ~\$35K to the endowment fund.

PROPERTY REPORT was given by Steve Miller

NOMINATION COMMITTEE report was given by Steve Miller

MEMORIAL PROCESS DESCRIPTION: Dick Alberti finished the memorial process description.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC: report was given by Andy Mathisen:

STEWARDSHIP REPORT was given by Karl Torjussen

The council reviewed the Annual Report.

Pumpkin painting was a childrens’ project for the October, 2011 reformation day.

Andy will check with Sharon for photos, and obtain any necessary permissions & releases for inclusion in Good Shepherd’s web site, and posting on bulletin board.

PASTOR’S REPORT: Pastor Jack is signing a contract with Singing Boys of PA for a concert Saturday, April 28, 7PM. Good Shepherd must pay a \$1K fee for 90 minute program.

LOGISTICS

- ⤴ :The choir will arrive at Good Shepherd at 3PM for setup.
- ⤴ Debbie agreed to prepare light meal for 15 boy singers and several adults.
- ⤴ Singing Boys requested a photo, plus dimensions for the altar area in which they would be singing. Steve Miller subsequently mailed the requested information to Singing Boys of PA
- ⤴ Council decided on a Freewill offering; a specific cause will be named, later.
- ⤴ Other expenses for the Singing Boys concert:
 - ⤴ CDs will be available for \$18.
 - ⤴ \$25 for 100 copies of the program.
- ⤴ The Evangelism committee will handle the publicity. Send a poster to every congregation in the area – and post in local magazines and papers.
- ⤴ The Council approved payment of \$1K for Singing Boys of PA, to be part of Good Shepherd's 45th anniversary celebration. (Money has been contributed to this activity from a particular member).

RELATED SUGGESTIONS:

- Reach out to former members of the congregation, via email/voice/tel call.
- Have a cake during Sunday service coffee (suggested by Debbie).

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Lent Feb 22 – Ash Wed service – Debbie Black burn to arrange 6PM soup supper + vesper service with ashes.
- On other Wednesdays during lent – small groups will use the “Caring and Community” book to build a sense of congregational community. (Similar to “stress” series last year). This is open to only the congregation, so no press release is to be issued.
- A congregational Pictorial Directory begins Tues Jan 31. Dick and Sue Alberti met with the photo company. Lou Medici will announce the directory on Sunday.
- A congregational picnic will be planned for spring. Andy will coordinate with Sharon Oberkehr – to hold the picnic on the last day of Sunday School, in May or June.
- Shorter acolytes need smaller vestments. The present candles are too high.. Pastor Jack will substitute lower brass candles. - Council approved purchase @\$25-\$30 each.

New Business

Council requested a Congregation Meeting report by Gil Vatter on German school and Pattie Vatter on Little Chiefs.

TIME AND TALENTS discussion by Karl Torjussen:

- Pastor Jack will preach about Time and Talents:
- Time and Talent information will be included in a church bulletin.
- Sunday Feb 19 will be the rollout (this is the last day of Epiphany, which is time of gifts)

Pastor suggested changes to committee names:

- “Spiritual Enrichment and Outreach”. Instead of “Evangelism”
- “Mission Support” instead of Stewardship:

Stewardship –meeting scheduled Tues, 1/17 at 10:30 - Karl, Pastor and Steve: (Steve has a prior commitment, and will arrive when available). Meeting agenda: flesh out the list of all committees and identify 3 bullets per committee

Karl explained a bill from the Asbury Park Press for Good Shepherd Christmas ads

Council planned the election of Officers for 2012

Council discussed possible balloting techniques for the election of Council members at the Congregation Meeting.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lords Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Steve Miller (substituting for Garry Westerweller, Secretary)

Congregational Meeting Minutes 1/15/12

The meeting opened with Andy declaring a quorum to be in attendance

Pastor opened the meeting with a prayer

Last's years minutes were approved as written.

The following is a brief synopsis of all the reports that were submitted. A copy of each report, in detail, was handed out as part of the annual report.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Elstad

- Pastor declared us a healthy congregation as he did not have to schedule any hospital visits in 2011
- Good Shepherd will be celebrating its 45th anniversary this year.
- During 2011 Three people were confirmed, there were three weddings, 14 new members joined, (including children), and attendance was up 10% from the previous year
- Pastor also took a moment to thank his wife, Ruth

President's Report – Andy Mathisen

- Declared 2011 to be a year of growth for Good Shepherd
- Pastor Jack has now been with us for a year and a half
- The church continues to offer Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Adult Bible Studies, as well as first communion, confirmation classes, and instruction classes for new members
- We have committed members and committees that continue to help run and care for the church.
- We are grateful for everyone's help and assistance

Treasurer's Report – Pat Miller

- Exceeded last year's giving
- Expenses lower than expected
- Received \$13K in donations for the repair of the roof
- Looking to move \$33500 to the endowment fund and to be set aside and not spent on church operations.

Christian Education Committee Report – Sharon Oberkehr

- Small amount of growth as enrollment is up to 11 students
- Staff of three split into three separate classes
- \$140 was sent to ELCA Good Gifts "Buck a Chick" Program
 - 140 chicks were purchased and sent to help families in need
- 40 Children attended VBS.
- The Children did a GREAT job with the annual Christmas Pageant.

Fellowship Committee Report – Debbie Blackburn

- Thanks to the good people of Good Shepherd in supporting the fellowship events in the Church
- Continued our old traditions such as the Easter Breakfast and the Family Christmas Party
- Thanks to all who contributed food and talent.

Stewardship Committee Report – Karl Torjussen

- 2011 Stewardship program was very successful
- Temple Talks were held and we had a dedicated sermon in November to Stewardship
- We emphasized Mission support
- We need continued support from the congregation

Property Committee Report – Steve Miller

- Thanks to all who contributed their time and talent
- Successful drive to repair the roof leaks
- Re inform everyone on importance of keeping thermostats to 50 degrees when no one is in church

Social Ministry Report – Mike Carp

- Mike submitted a detailed report of giving that was part the package handed to the congregation
- Total giving was \$19,023.50 in 2011
- Submitted calendar of Social Ministry dates
- Asked for volunteers to help deliver food and household item donations

Worship and Music Committee Report – Andy Mathisen

- Adult Choir going strong with approximately 12 members
- Always looking for volunteers
- Bell Choir looking for members as well
- Altar Guild needs volunteers
- Sunday School has grown in attendance

Youth Group Committee Report – Garry Westerweller

- Youth group has grown to 11 members
- Year of leadership transition as Elizabeth Westerweller has retired as committee chair
- Sharon Oberkehr has graciously accepted the leadership role
- Plans are to have more formalized events throughout the year.

The 2012 Church Budget was formerly presented to the congregation and subsequently passed with no dissenting votes

There was no old business presented

New Business

The following people were presented as nominees for Council

- Clem Hergenhan (unexpired 1 year term)
- Jamie Antonacci (first time, 3 year term)
- Steve Miller (returning for a 2nd, 3 year term)
- Sharon Oberkehr (returning for a 2nd, 3 year term)
- Tom Tehve (returning for a 2nd, 3 year term)

Ernie moved for approval of council nominations by acclamation. Andy seconded that this group be accepted as new council members. The congregation approved.

Nominations were opened from the floor as the council still has three potential open slots. No nominations were presented and the voting was closed.

The nomination committee for 2012 was presented to the congregation as follows;

- Ellen Tehve
- Debbie Blackburn
- Diane Mathisen
- Grace Brinkman

Mike moved and Gil seconded that this group be accepted as the new nomination committee for 2012. The congregation approved.

The endowment committee was presented to the congregation as follows;

- Diane Mathisen
- Bill Wehrli
- Nancy Fitch
- Nancy Hergenhan (1 year term)
- Walter Keyl (1 year term)

Mike moved and Lou seconded that this group be accepted as the new endowment committee. The Congregation approved.

Suggestions for the good of the order

- Question presented on what we would be doing with the pink house. It was determined that it will continue to be used for storage with no new plans for it

- Lou mentioned that the lighting on our sign was inadequate. It was decided that this was something we should look into in the near future.
- Parking lot lighting needs to be addressed. We have asked JCP&L to donate the poles before we can take action.
- Ernie wished to go on record as thanking Pastor Jack and his wife Ruth
- Lou wished to thank the council, and Nancy and Clem for their work on the Voice
- Pastor Jack thanked and acknowledged his wife, Ruth for her work with “Courage in Aging” program.

A special recognition award was presented to Marion Williamson for her hard work and dedication.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Garry Westerweller

Council Minutes 1/15/12 (Special Meeting for election of Council Officers)

In attendance were the following: Andy Mathisen, Garry Westerweller, Clem Hergenhan, Steve Miller, Karl Torgussen, Tom Tehve, Andy Lichter, Jamie Antonacci

A brief meeting was held for the election of Church Council Officers for 2012. The following Council Members were elected as noted below:

Steve Miller – Council President

Karl Torjussen – Council Vice President

Garry Westerweller – Council Secretary

In addition Pat Miller and Sue Alberti were nominated for the Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund. Council voted unanimously to approve these nominations.

Lou Medicci, and Gil Vatter were nominated for the audit Committee to audit the treasurer. Once again, Council voted unanimously to approve these nominations. Marion Schloemer was asked to join the committee and we are awaiting her response.

Respectfully submitted by Garry Westerweller

SOCIAL MINISTRY and Environmental Tithing

Nancy Fitch

The by-laws of Good Shepherd state that the purpose of the Social Ministry committee “shall be to extend Christian compassion and helpfulness to the ill, the aged, the orphaned, the underprivileged, the imprisoned and, in general, to persons of all ages in need of aid in body or soul”. To address this mission our congregation through the years has been supporting groups such as Lunchbreak , the Kitchen at Saint Mark's in Keansburg, Family Promise, World Hunger Appeal and the Community Outreach Group, Inc. (COG).

Today well over a billion people in the world are deprived of what they need to meet their basic needs. Many lack clean water, adequate sanitation, housing or health services. In the near term supporting agencies responding to immediate needs is very important but in the long term meeting today’s and future generations need for food, clothing and shelter requires a sound environment.

The ELCA’s social statement on Caring for Creation states that action to counter degradation, especially within this decade, is essential to the future of our children and our children’s children. As members of the church we are asked to commit ourselves to personal life styles that contribute to the health of the environment – to consider tithing environmentally, e.g. producing ten percent less in waste, consuming ten percent less in non-renewable resources.

Environmental tithing also entails giving time to learn about environmental problems and to work with others toward solutions. The issue of global warming and actions to address it, questions about extracting natural gas through hydraulic fracturing and water rights are often news items getting national and local attention.

I would appreciate learning of other members of Good Shepherd who are interested in discussing/suggesting ways we as individuals or a congregation can work together to tithé environmentally.

As a starter tithing step towards lowering air pollution by toxic emissions--

STOP IDLING YOUR CAR!!

Did you know

- 10 second of idling uses more fuel than turning the engine on and off?
- State law prohibits idling for more than 3 minutes?
- There is a \$100 fine for idling of passenger cars?
- An idling vehicle emits 20X more pollution than one traveling at 30 mph?
- 15 minutes of idling emits almost 1 lb. of carbon dioxide?

AROUND THE PARISH

by Gil Vatter

GOOD SHEPHERD - THE FRIENDLY CHURCH

Do you know someone who should be receiving the "Voice"? Please notify Pat Dunn in the church office or send their e-mail address to Clem Hergenhan @ clem@csfcorp.com.

1. In January, the Social Ministry Committee delivered 190 cans of food plus other miscellaneous items of food to Saint Mark's Food Pantry in Keansburg.

2. Many Happy Returns to - GEORGE FRANK, TOM TEHVE, PAM (EVERETT) BAGLIARI and a very special hppy birthday to DOROTHY GROH, who turned 90 in January.

Ole - "What's the penalty for suicide in Sweden?" Sven - "Life in prison."

God made the heavens and the earth, but everything else seems to be made in China.

3. BILL WEHRLI spent most of January in Florida.

4. GINA BLACKBURN has been ill. Remember her in your prayers.

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY - Nostalgia just isn't what it used to be.

When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.

5. The SOUPERBOWL OF CARING is February 5, 2012. All money collected will go to local food pantries and the ELCA World Hunger appeal.

6. OUCH! KURT MATHISEN had to have his wisdom teeth removed just before Christmas.

Ole and Sven went ice fishing last week. They came home with a ten pound block of ice.

Bumper sticker - "IF YOU OBSERVE THIS VEHICLE BEING OPERATED IN AN UNSAFE MANNER, PLEASE TRY TO THINK OF IT AS ONE MORE ANOMOLY IN THE COSMIC ORDER."

7. Our condolences go to BILL WEHRLI who's sister died in December. And God will wipe away all tears.

8. While we were celebrating the New Year, PAT NICHOLS was on the job with the U.S. Coast Guard. Thanks for your service Pat.

Is a person who jumps off a bridge in Paris "in Seine"? Or, is a person who wades into a river in Egypt "in de Nile"?

A hamburger goes into a bar and asks for a beer. "Sorry", says the bartender, "We don't serve food."

9. PAT MILLER was all smiles when her West Virginia Mountaineers destroyed Clemson 70 to 33 in the Sugar Bowl

10. KATIE BRUNDAGE BRANTNER (daughter of JON and WENDY BLACKBURN BRUNDAGE) is a Lutheran pastor in Mount Joy, Pennsylvania. Wendy and Jon's son, MATTHEW BRUNDAGE, is a U. S. Army captain in a Special Forces Unit in Okinawa. He and his wife, BETH, are expecting a baby next April.

Two snowmen were in adjoining front yards. The first snowman said to the second snowman, "It's strange. but yes, I seem to smell carrots too."

What's the difference between Swedes and Norwegians? - The Swedes have very nice neighbors.

11. The WOMEN'S LUNCHEON GROUP met at Huddy's Restaurant in Colts Neck on Friday January 20. For information about the February get-together, see BARBARA HAHER.

12. MARIAN WILLIAMSON was named "Person of the Year" at the annual meeting of the congregation on Sunday January 15. Congratulations, Marian.

Ole asked Sven how he got the black eye. "Well", he replied, "My wife asked me what was on the TV and I told her....dust."

A good way to determine if you are an intellectual or not is if you can listen to the "William Tell Overture" and NOT think of the Lone Ranger.

13. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd fedora to LOU MEDICI and DICK ALBERTI for taking charge of the 45th anniversary church directory project. A big job, well done.

14. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd panama to PAT MILLER for providing the music at the January 15 service while MIAE PARK was away.

A man was asked if he knew the difference between ignorance and apathy. He replied, "I don't know and I don't care."

Golf has been described as that game where the ball always lies poorly after almost every shot, but the golfer lies exceptionally well after almost every game. (Bill Wehrli)

15. Congratulations to the newest Congregation Council member, JAMES ANTONACCI. Thanks for serving, Jim.

16. Have you noticed the broad smile on FRED OBERKEHR'S face. His New York Giants are going to the Super Bowl. (Go Giants).

Sven said to Ole, "Why do you call your wife, "Three Horses"?" Ole replied, "All day long, it's NAG, NAG, NAG."

Another Thought for the Day - If you get the urge to fight fire with fire, just remember, most firemen use water.

17. Congratulations and thanks to the newly elected officers of the Congregation Council:

President - Steve Miller
Vice President - Karl Torjussen
Secretary - Garry Westerweller
Treasurer - Dick Alberti
Assistant Treasurer - Tom Tehve

Also, thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd bonnet to PAT MILLER for her years of devoted service as Treasurer of the congregation.

18. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd fez to the members of the congregation for again providing more than a tithe of their contributions for "Outreach". This is getting to be a habit. (and a good one).

After being away for 20 years, a man went into a shoe repair shop in his home town. He found everything to be exactly the same as he remembered.

He went to the counter and asked the shoe repairman about a pair of shoes he had left there for new soles and heels the last time he was in the shop.

"One minute, I'll check". replied the repairman. A few minutes later he returned and said, "They'll be ready next Tuesday."

19. The church has received word that GEORGE MARVEL, husband of MARILYN MARVEL, a former member of Good Shepherd, died on January 15. And God will wipe away all tears.

20. An art exhibit featuring works by CAROL SEIP continues at the Monmouth Beach Cultural Center, 128 Ocean Avenue, Monmouth Beach from Wednesday February 1 through Saturday February 4, from 4 Pm until 6 PM (Saturday 10AM to 2 PM).

My first job was at an orange juice factory but I got canned. I just couldn't concentrate. (Dick Alberti)

After many years of trying to find steady work, I finally got a job as an historian - until I realized there was no future in it. (Alberti again).

21. PASTOR JACK was the preacher at the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity program held at Saint Catherine's Roman Catholic Church on Sunday January 15.

22. WALTER KYLE just finished reading "Black Bananas" a book by a former FBI agent who speaks Arabic. Sounds interesting, Walt.

A distraught senior citizen phoned her doctor. "Is it true", she asked, "that my new medication has to be taken for the rest of my life?" "Yes, I'm afraid so", the doctor replied. There was a moment of silence before the woman continued, "I'm wondering, then, just how serious my condition is, because this prescription is marked, 'NO REFILLS'". (Dick Havill)

23. This year, the Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22, with a soup supper. Check the back of your bulletin for opportunities for extra worship during Lent.

24. GARRY WESTERWELLER and his family made their annual pilgrimage to Broadway on Sunday January 22. Hope the show was good, Garry.

A man brought his dog to a friend's house and told him, "My dog is amazing. He is very intelligent and HE CAN TALK." His friend, asked skeptically, "OK, have him say something." On cue, the dog began telling tales of his many travels around the globe to most of the countries of the world. "Wow, I'm impressed", said the friend. "How much do you want for this amazing animal?" The man replied, "Oh you don't want this dog. He talks, but he is such a liar. He hasn't been to half the countries he talks about." (Pastor Jack).

25. PASTOR JACK figures that he has preached more than 5,000 times.

26. Thanks and a tip of the choral derby to KIRSTEN and KURT MATHISEN who sang with the choir during their holiday vacation from school. Thanks guys, it was nice to have you with us.

SPONSORS ARE NEEDED FOR ALTAR FLOWERS - AVAILABLE SUNDAYS ARE LISTED IN THE NARTHEX

GOOD SHEPHERD SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE SETS PLANS FOR 2012

by Gil Vatter

The Social Ministry Committee has already begun planning "outreach" activities for the new year. For example, the SOUPERBOWL OF CARING is scheduled for the last two Sundays of January and the first two Sundays of February to coincide with the National Football League's annual extravaganza, the Super Bowl. The difference in spelling between the two events underscores the goal of the SOUPERBOWL, which will collect funds to help support local food kitchens and food banks.

Various other projects will continue through Lent as the parish takes part in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's WORLD HUNGER DRIVE. As spring and summer arrive, LUTHERAN SOCIAL MINISTRIES, INTERFAITH NEIGHBORS and LOVE INC will be promoted as well as SHOP FOR A CAUSE and the COG HOUSEHOLD ITEMS COLLECTION. In the fall we will turn to other, ongoing projects such as the RED BANK CROP WALK and we will end the year with a special CHRISTMAS PROJECT spearheaded, as always, by the Sunday Church School.

Special, unexpected disaster appeals will also be brought to the attention of the congregation, if and when they arise, and ongoing programs, such as SAINT MARK'S SPONSORS and FOOD COLLECTION and LUNCH BREAK COFFEE COLLECTION will continue throughout the year.

In 2011, with some assistance from Thrivent, the Good Shepherd congregation provided over \$19,000 to "outreach", a larger sum than in 2010. The goal for 2012, of course, is to give even more. How the congregation is able to "reach out", of course, depends on the response of every member.

WHO DOES WHAT AT GOOD SHEPHERD

2012 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Steve Miller, President - Karl Torjussen, Vice President - Garry Westerweller, Secretary - Richard Alberti, Treasurer - Tom Tehve, Assistant Treasurer

James Antonacci, Clem Hergenhan, Andreas Lichter, Andy Mathisen, Sharon Oberkehr

Audit Committee - Lou Medici, Gil Vatter - Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund - Sue Alberti and Pat Miller

Little Chief Liaison - Patty Vatter - Representative to COG - Nancy Fitch - German School Liaison - Gil Vatter

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

January 1 - "The Shepherd's Farewell" by H. Berlioz - Miae Park - January 15 - "Cavalleria Rusticana
Intermezzo" by Mascagni

Choir anthems -

January 8 - "Sing Out This Day" - J. Haydn - January 22 - "You Are My Light" - D. and J. Perry
January 29 - "Be Still and Know" - Victor C. Johnson

PROJECT PAUL SUPPORTED BY GOOD SHEPHERD YEAR-END GIFT

Project Paul
211 Carr Avenue
Keansburg, NJ 07734

January 6, 2012

To: The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

Project PAUL has been providing food, clothing and homelessness prevention services to the needy in the Bayshore area of Monmouth County New Jersey for 30 years. With the financial crisis and high unemployment, the number of qualified, needy people seeking our services has increased. At Project PAUL, it's about caring for people, one person at a time. Your generous donation of \$400 in December 2011 will help people throughout the Bayshore area with food and other client services.

We, at Project PAUL, want to thank you on behalf of the many people you will have helped with your contribution.

We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Sal Cortale
Executive Director

FOOD PANTRIES STRUGGLE AFTER HOLIDAY GIVING

by Gil Vatter

In the Sunday January 15 edition of the "Asbury Park Press", staff writer Paula Scully reported that the holiday "good will" to the local soup kitchens and food pantries from local residents began evaporating sometime after the new year arrived. The continuing weak economy and reductions in federal food allotments could make this an even more serious problem for local, needy families. Fortunately, a part of the shortage is being filled by help from some major supermarket chains, local churches and organizations and private citizens.

At the FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties, based in Neptune, federal food allocations were down 32% for the first six months of 2011, according to the organization's director. "Our agencies are seeing an increase in the number of people coming in and asking for food", she added. Somewhat offsetting this reduction from the government are donations from major chains, including BJ's, Costco, Acme, Trader Joe's, Sam's Club and Walmart. Donated food is up 35% while federal allocations dropped by 32%, thereby keeping the supply available. The Tuckerton Food Pantry reports that they must spend about \$500 a month at various super markets to offset the decreased allotments it receives from the FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties.

Gwen Love, executive director of Lunch Break, which has served Red Bank for more than 25 years, said they have seen an increase in the demand for all their services, including the food pantry and the lunch program. "In

December 2011 we served 1,151 families, compared to 659 families in December 2010. The number of families almost doubled in just one year." "When I came here in October 2008, we served 80 families", she said. "We have people who have jobs, but it's so expensive to pay for everything..... Which bill should they pay first?" "But, it's not all 'Gloom and Doom'. It's about people in the community helping others".

Doreen Minutella, co-director of Saint Mark's food Kitchen and Pantry in Keansburg, said, "Each month is a challenge. Even if we get enough vegetables, fruit and pasta, we are always short of meat. We try to give them a little bit of meat and meat has to be bought at some local store and that takes money, money that has been harder and harder to come by."

Ask yourself - How can I help to feed my hungry neighbors in Monmouth County? Good Shepherd Church has a variety of ways you can help:

1. Bring food to church each month for Saint Mark's Pantry.
2. Add your name to the "Saint Mark's Sponsors" list.
3. Write a check for any of the food pantrys in this area.
4. Bring a can of coffee for Lunch Break.
5. Write a check for the FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties.
6. Telephone any of the local food kitchens and volunteer to help.

As Gwen Love of Lunch Break put it, "It's about members of the community helping others."

HOW TO MAKE A SPECIAL GIFT TO THE CHURCH

During the past year there has been a problem identifying and recording special gifts to the church by members of the parish. For example, money given to the Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund and designated for a specific fund (World Hunger, St. Mark's Food Pantry, Malaria, SouperBowl of Caring etc.) ended up in the general fund and was used for day-to-day expenses. Those who recognized that their special gifts to the church were not properly assigned may have been able to notify the Treasurer. In most cases, however, the donor never realized the problem and, therefore, the designated fund was never increased by the proper amount.

In order to insure that all special gifts are assigned to the fund for which they were originally designated, donors can take a few easy steps:

1. Write an individual check or use separate funds for your special gifts.
2. Use a separate envelope for your special gifts. Do not use your regular, weekly offering envelopes. Special Social Ministry envelopes are now available in the wooden racks by the main door.
3. Mark the separate envelope for your special gifts with the name of the fund to which you want the gifts assigned (World Hunger, St. Mark's Food Pantry, Malaria, SouperBowl of Caring etc.) along with your name and envelope number.

The volunteers who count the weekly offering will be alerted that your envelope contains a gift for a special fund only if you mark your envelope accordingly. In the future, please follow these simple directions to make your special gifts to or through the church, including gifts to the Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund.

February 2012

<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
			1:00 – Bible Study	7:30pm-9:00 choir practice		1pm – 4 NJ State Youth Orch
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service		1:30 – 3:00 Courage In Aging	1:00 – Bible Study	7:30pm-9:00 choir practice 6pm – NJ North Shore Thrivent Mtg		1pm – 4 NJ State Youth Orch
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service	7pm – Council Meeting		1:00 – Bible Study	7:30pm-9:00 choir practice	12:30 – Ladios Luncheon Group @ Nauvoo in Fair Haven	1pm – 4 NJ State Youth Orch
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service		7:30 – 9:00 Compassionate Friends	6:00 – Soup Supper 7 - Service	7:30pm-9:00 choir practice		1pm – 4 NJ State Youth Orch
26	27	28	29			
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service			1 & 7PM Lenten Discussions			