

# *The Voice of the Good Shepherd*

July 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,

My calendar informs me that by the time you read this message we will have reached the point marking the completion of the second full year of my serving as your pastor. I am ever grateful for the opportunity you have afforded me to serve in this capacity, and I know Ruth joins me in thanking you all for your kindness and support. We are blessed to celebrate the friendship of so many fine people who are determined to have their congregation strive to make the message of the Gospel central to all they do. As has been stated on other occasions it obvious that there is a strong positive and welcoming spirit in the fellowship of this congregation which can serve as an important catalyst as we move forward.

During the next couple of months, activities slow down and people are able to take advantage of an opportunity to enjoy a break from their normal routine. But let me encourage you not to forget that first and foremost is the opportunity of starting each week in the fellowship of worship gathered to share the means of God's grace which come through the hearing of his Word and the gifts of Bread and Wine. These are the means by which are souls are fed and our hearts are warmed. So whether you are at home or in some other part of the country, God's directive stands first: "Remember the Sabbath day and make it holy."

I will be doing some planning during the coming weeks so that in the next issue of the Voice, and in the Sunday bulletins, there will a definite schedule of educational courses to be offered in the months following Labor Day. Among those I am considering are the following:

1. Honoring our Neighbor's Faith: A resource supporting the ELCA's Initiatives for a New Century which provides participants the opportunity to honor our neighbor's faith and so acknowledge the obvious: "that different people-especially in pluralistic America- have different beliefs and those beliefs are worthy of respect."

2. Luther: Gospel, Law and Reformation: A six session video course led by Dr. Phillip Cary, Eastern University.

3. Biblical Amnesia: Written by ELCA Pastor Scott. W, Gustafson who subtitles this book with these words A Forgotten Story of Redemption, Resistance and Renewal.

4. Embracing an Adult Faith – What it Means to Be Christian by Marcus Borg. This course was enthusiastically experienced as a 2011 Lenten series at the Episcopal Cathedral in Trenton. As one participant stated: "The sharing that took place was incredible. The purpose was not to have everyone agree on a particular issue. Rather it was to explore various points of view, to examine recent scholarship and to respect individual opinions even if they did not coincide with our own."

I'll tell you more next month. In the meantime be well and enjoy the wonderful summer season.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Jack

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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – will be held August 6-10 The theme this year is "Listen to the Wind". Kids will be learning bible stories that include the wind. Art, music, dance and games will all be centered around this theme.

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## **Council Meeting Minutes 06/11/12**

In attendance were the following: Garry Westerweller, Tom Tehve, Jamie Antonacci, Andy Lichter, Karl Tourjussen, and Pastor Jack

Absent: Andy Mathisen, Steve Miller, Clem Hergenhan, Sharon Oberkehr

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM after which a quorum was declared.

Pastor Jack led the council in devotions and discussed his attending the NJ Synod Assembly with Andy Mathisen.

Last month's minutes were approved as submitted

Available committee reports were briefly reviewed and approved by council after which time much of the remaining meeting was spent on property issues and discussing potential ways to grow the congregation.

### **Property Issues:**

Jamie presented the council with two estimates to replace some of the existing carpet with tile. Pricing ranged from \$5,000 - \$9,000 from Lowes and Home Depot, respectively. Discussion ensued on the difference in pricing on quality of tile, wall treatment, (where carpeting would be removed), etc.. There were many variables, so discussion was tabled for future discussion.

**Jamie will contact a contractor he knows to further explore additional possibilities and to get his feedback and suggestions as to how to proceed.**

The Pink House was discussed and we re-visited the possibilities of what to do with the property.

**Jamie to arrange a dumpster for cleaning up of debris**

**Pastor will talk to Wendal Smith in an effort to decide if the Pink House could be a viable real estate option at some future time.**

### **Growth of the Congregation:**

As requested, Pastor contacted 4 successful churches to see if we could figure out what they were doing differently from everyone else. He determined that there were various contributing factors to the different parishes. One attributed its growth to having the same pastor and a strong youth push. Another church had a professor in the parish that did a communications audit. A third, was very involved in social ministry.

Pastor suggested that we look within our neighborhood and find out what's happening in Holmdel.

Other suggestions for growth were;

- St. Francis Day – a blessing of the animals'
- Inviting the neighborhood to the September 9<sup>th</sup> Picnic
  - Promotion of the event in the paper
- Make the church more visible.

Jamie and Garry will contact Sharon, regarding the invitation of the VBS families, to the picnic.

Meeting was closed with the Lord's prayer

**It was decided that Council will next meet on September 10<sup>th</sup>.**

Respectfully submitted by  
Garry Westerweller

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## AROUND THE PARISH

by Gil Vatter

### GOOD SHEPHERD - THE FRIENDLY CHURCH

1. Congratulations to the six young people from the congregation who received their first Holy Communion on Sunday June 3 - *Isabella Antonacci, Katey Howard, Kolby Howard, Bella Miller, Leah Oberkehr and Timothy Wilgus.*

2. Please remember to buy food for Saint Mark's Food Pantry when you do your grocery shopping.

Ole and Sven went ice fishing.....they came home with twenty five pounds of ice.

Letter from a college student: Dear Mom and Dad, School is really swell. I'm making lots of friends and studying is hard. With all my stuff, I can't think of a thing I need. So, if you would like, just send me a card, so I can hear about things at home. Love, Your Son.

The parents replied: Dear Son, We know that astronomy, economics and oceanography are enough to keep even an honor student busy. Do not forget that the pursuit of knowledge is a noble task and you can never get enough. Love, Mom and Dad.

3. The Social Ministry Committee has delivered more than 730 cans of food to Saint Marks, plus lots of additional dry food.

4. Mark your calendar-----Vacation Bible School runs from Monday August 9 through Friday August 13 from 9 am to 11:30 am. All children in the age four to ten group are welcome to attend.

Little Susie's mother saw that she was playing church with the cat. The cat was sitting quietly and Susie was preaching to it. Mother went about her tasks and, a while later, heard loud screeching and hissing from the cat. She ran to the window in time to see that Susie was in the process of baptizing the cat in a tub of water. She called out, "Susie, stop that! Can't you see that the cat is afraid of the water?" Susie looked up from her work and said, "He should have thought of that before he joined my church." (Bill Wehrli)

5. Three out of four *Frank* daughters were in church on Sunday June 3 to see niece *Hannah Oberkehr* receive her first Communion.

6. Congratulations to *Pastor Jack Elstad*, who celebrates his anniversary at Good Shepherd on July 1. Wow!!! Time flies.

Ole's son, Ole, Junior, said to his father, "Papa, I have the biggest feet in da third grade. Is that because I'm Norwegian?"

"No", replied Ole, "It's because you're NINETEEN."

I'm reading a novel about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.

7. Happy birthday to *Maggie Harris, Debbie and John Blackburn's granddaughter.*

8. Happy anniversary to *Anne (Rajala) and Scott Metling*, who celebrate on July 5 and a big congrats to *Grace and Ernie Brinkman* who celebrated their 57th anniversary in June.

#### JOB SEARCH:

I tried being a tailor, but I just wasn't suited for it.

So, I tried working in a muffler factory, but it was too exhausting.

9. The *Kazmac* gang spent some time in Spain in late fall.

10. We were sorry to hear that *Bunny kuhl's* cousin died in early June. Our prayers go out to the Kuhl family. - And God will wipe away all tears.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR PLEDGES UP TO DATE THIS SUMMER

11. The *Women's Luncheon Group* had lunch at Windansea in Highlands on Friday June 15. For information about future luncheons, see *Barbara Haher*.

12. Old friends and former members, *Bob and Joan Horlocher* worshiped with us on Sunday June 24.

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

13. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd fedora to *Pat Miller* who played the hymns and liturgy at the Jun 24 communion service. *Pat and Steve* just returned from three weeks "Downunder", celebrating a wedding anniversary.

14. Thanks to *Pastor Jaggie* who substituted for *Pastor Jack* on Sunday June 24.

15. And.....speaking of *Pastor Elstad*, we were all surprised when we heard that he had been admitted to the Ocean Medical Center in Brick for observation after an "episode" on Monday June 18 (Not long after he visited our home in Middletown). The very good news is that everything tested OK and he was pronounced in good health. Whew!!!! Still, remember Pastor in your prayers.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

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FORTY-FIVE YEARS AT GOOD SHEPHERD - PART 2

by Gil Vatter

September 14, 1969 - 429 people were in attendance for the two Services of Dedication of the new church building. At the morning service, the Rev. Dr. Edwin H. Knudten, BAM Regional Secretary, the Rev. Thomas Weber and Pastor George Frank officiated with the Rev. Dr. Walter Wagner of Upsala College as preacher. The afternoon Service of Thanksgiving featured the Rev. Edwin L. Ehlers, Assistant to the President of the New Jersey Synod as guest speaker. Pastor Frank served as liturgist. Officials from both Holmdel and Middletown Townships brought greetings to the congregation.

November 1971 - A Stewardship program was introduced, which emphasized "Serving Others". The program resulted in pledges increased more than 57% over 1970 as well as a substantial increase in current pledges (23%) and a small increase in Building Fund pledges (4 1/2%).

January 1972 - Because of increased congregational support, Good Shepherd no longer required program aid and became a self-supporting congregation.

April 28, 1972 - Fifth Anniversary was celebrated with a congregational dinner at the Shore Point Inn in Hazlet.

April 30, 1972 - Fifth Anniversary Festival Service featuring the Rev. Dr. Edwin L. Ehlers, Synod President, who preached the sermon. During 1972, social concerns were evident as the congregation aided flood victims in the Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania area, including clothing, furniture and a chartered bus trip by the parish to work on repairing flood damage.

March 1973 - A Future Directions Committee recommended new areas in which the congregation should move during the coming years. Recommendations included refinancing the mortgage and finishing the parish house garage for classrooms.

June 4, 1973 - The church building was refinanced, eliminating a guarantee loan with Chase-Manhattan Bank and releasing over \$28,000 to the Board of American Missions. Refinancing raised the church's commercial debt to \$100,000.

June 1973 - Initial steps taken to convert the parish house garage to classrooms.

September 30, 1973 - Conversion of the parish house garage to classrooms completed and two new rooms dedicated. Funds to do this work were given by members beyond regular pledges. Asa O. (Pete) Blackburn was chairman of the project.

December 1974 - Due to increased giving and a special gift of \$3,000 from a member of the congregation, the second mortgage parsonage obligation to the Board of American Missions was eliminated. In 1974 and for a period of 18 months, Good Shepherd was opened, at cost, to the Early Intervention Program, which sought to aid children below three years of age who suffered birth defects.

1975 - Social concerns continued to be addressed as the church sponsored three young Vietnamese men who were refugees from the war in their home country. Along with Holy Trinity, Red Bank, we provided them with an apartment, furniture, food, clothing, transportation, English instruction, jobs and helped them adjust to life in the U.S.A. Many people from the congregation were involved in the project.

March 1976 - A program of early communion was implemented. After a period of instruction, students in grade five and above received First Communion on Easter Sunday.

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On Mon. June 25<sup>th</sup> the items collected for the Calico Cat Evening Food Pantry were delivered to the Pantry. Thanks to all of you for your generous contributions! A very special thanks to Pat Dunn for tracking and packing the articles over the last several months and to Clem Hergenhan and grandson Tom Petr for seeing them to their destination at the Calico Cat in Middletown.

## JUNE COG REPORT

Nancy Fitch

As your representative I attended the quarterly meeting of The Community Outreach Group, Inc. (COG) on June 13, 2012. The following are some of the items of business –

- Looking forward to school needs in fall COG wants to provide \$25 gift certificates and \$15 shoe certificates for the Evening Pantry families and the families who regularly come to the Calico Cat Food Pantry and Cupboard. Each church will be asked to aid in sponsoring these activities.
- The profits of the Calico Thrift Shop sales from Jan thru May 2012 provided the Board with \$1500 to be voted on for distribution to local non-profits. The result is as follows:
  - Aslan Youth Ministries \$1000
  - Counseling CTR for Human Development \$ 500
  - Family Promise of Monmouth County \$3000
  - Habcore \$1000
  - Kitchen at St Marks \$1000
  - Manna House \$1000
  - New Creations in Christ \$ 500

- St Ann's Day Care \$1000
- The Parker Family Health Care Center \$1000
- EAF \$4000
- Tower Hill Nursery School Foundation \$1000

Jan-May 2012 COG profit and loss report (I have a copy if any would like to review it.) showed Good Shepherd's \$208 contribution to the Emergency Assistance Fund (EAF) and our \$877 Christmas families contribution for a total contribution of 1,095. Total income from COG churches for this period was \$6,329. Jane Chou, EAF Coordinator, reported that for the 2012 first quarter EAF made pledges to 48 families. Each pledge averaged \$284. For the first two months (April and May) of the second quarter, EAF has already made pledges to 48 families with an average pledge amount of \$210. When funding is down, the amount that can be given to each client correspondingly goes down. This families use this money for heating, electricity, rent, water, etc. needs.

## ELCA CAMPAIGNS TO PREVENT MALARIA IN AFRICA

by Gil Vatter

After recently providing a "band-aid" to help people in Zimbabwe and several surrounding countries fight off the scourge of malaria, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has begun a full-scale crusade against a disease that continues to kill millions throughout the continent. As many as six or seven children out of ten die each year from this dreaded disease....lost to a *treatable, preventable* disease. In Africa, Malaria claims the life of a child every 45 seconds. Most African children have between 1.6 and 5.4 episodes of malaria every year. In countries with high rates of malaria, the disease accounts for 60% of health clinic visits.

The goal of the ELCA Malaria Campaign is to raise \$15,000,000 in conjunction with the United Nations Millennium Development to contain malaria by 2015. This goal is now fully within the reach of the ELCA, thanks to a global movement of governments, international organizations, business, the religious community and health organizations. This historic movement is already being backed by the ELCA and the Lutheran churches in Africa. The Lutheran churches in Africa are more than churches; they are the center of many communities. That's why the church is the ideal place for malaria education, prevention and care. Malaria makes children too sick to go to school and adults too sick to go to work. Malaria makes poor communities even poorer.

The ELCA and the Lutheran churches in Africa know what it takes to stop malaria. The disease was virtually eradicated from our country in the 1950's and the same methods can be used in Africa to do the job there.

### What can you do to help?

LEARN more about malaria, the ELCA Malaria Campaign and how you can help.

INVITE people you know to take a stand and help end malaria.

PRAY for the health and well-being of those who suffer from malaria.

GIVE what you can.

\$10 provides an insecticide-treated mosquito net and education to protect a family

\$50 provides enough medicine to treat 25 people infected with malaria.

\$100 trains a village health team to help treat and prevent malaria in that community.

\$250 provides enough medicine to prevent 125 women and their babies from contracting malaria during pregnancy.

You may send donations to...ELCA Malaria Campaign  
P.O. BOX 71764  
Chicago, IL 60694-1764

For more information, call 800-638-3522 or go to [www.elca.org/malaria](http://www.elca.org/malaria)

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# July 2012

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
10 – Service						
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
10 – Service						
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
10 – Service		7:30 – 9:00 Compassionate Friends			12:30 – Ladies Luncheon Group @ Bahr's	
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
10 – Service						
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				
10 – Service						