

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

September 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 summer is ending and people are returning to their more normal schedules and activities, it is also the time when life within the congregation picks up. The first thing I call to your attention is the Church Picnic which will be held on Sunday, September 9. We'll be gathering following the service at 11:30 and we will then be able to enjoy fellowship, good food, games for the children and other activities. Music will be provided by one of our member, Ines Csulak, who is a well-known accordionist. It should be a great time and we should all thank the many people involved in the planning of this event.

That Sunday is also the first day of Sunday School and we anticipate the possibility of a few more young people to be attending this year than last. Even though Sunday School did not meet during the summer we did have a very successful Vacation Church School program with over 30 children attending, and they raised over \$100 to support the ELCA's Malaria program. Congratulations.

Sunday morning worship was enhanced each week in August by having four very talented young musicians play before, during and after the services. Thanks to Miae Park, a singer, a cellist and two violinists made a deep impression on those who heard them. We are deeply appreciative of Miae's work with these fine musicians.

It was heartening to see that our Sunday attendance for the three summer months was above that of the two preceding years. This is very encouraging. We look forward to seeing those members who have been away as we start the fall season.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Jack

COURAGE IN AGING will meet on September 11 at 1:30 in the church library. Please feel free to invite a friend and join with us as begin this series. Call Ruth Elstad at 732 864-0616 if you have any questions.

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From time to time we need to remember that more than just being members of a particular congregation we are also joined together with 10,348 other congregations which make up the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America with a baptized membership of 4,543,037 men, women and children. These few simple statistics represent an awesome potential for ministry to be offered so as to impact the lives of many other people both here in our community, in our nation, and around the world. That is why I chose to share with you some information indicating the present level of financial support being given to the ELCA so as to assist those in need.

In the recent issue of **Life Lines** (ELCA's World Hunger newsletter), an article titled "You Give in Many Ways" provides insight as to what occurred in 2011. Here is one portion of that article:

"People like you gave more than \$19 million to ELCA Hunger, more than \$10 million to ELCA Disaster Response and more than \$2 million to the ELCA Malaria Campaign – through your congregations and synods,

through direct giving by members like you, through employers' matching gift programs, estate plans and other means. . . . Gifts made through congregations and synods are the rock-solid foundation of our work together. In fiscal year 2011 (Feb.1. 2011 – Jan. 30, 2012), donations given through congregations and synods totaled 57% of your support of ELCA Hunger, or \$10.9 million. Gifts through congregations and synods made up 49 percent of giving to ELCA Disaster Response, \$5million. And the ELCA Malaria Campaign received \$1.7 million through congregations and synods, or 73%. Thank you for your generosity.”

Perhaps that brief summary of how the ELCA is endeavoring to minister in some very important ways will stimulate your desire to faithfully support what is mandated in the portion of every ELCA congregation's constitution titled Statement of Purpose. It is there that this directive is found: "To fulfill these purposes, this congregation shall motivate its members to provide financial support for the congregation's ministry and the ministry of other parts of the ELCA." It would be well for all of us to keep this requirement in mind as we plan our giving to the ministry of our church and to prayerfully give with full appreciation of how amply blessed we are.

One final note. In the opening paragraph I mentioned the "awesome potential" we have as the ELCA, and some simple arithmetic will show just how true that is. Multiply 4,543,037 (baptized membership) by \$52 (\$1.00 per week by each of those members and the result is \$236,237,804! What a blessing it would be to see THAT happen. But with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and only one dollar a week and everyone's commitment it could be done. Let's see if we can begin to do that at Good Shepherd.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Jack

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YOUTH AND FAMILY PICNIC

Sunday, Sept 9; conclusion of service until 2PM
HOLD THE DATE for a fun-filled afternoon
Games and prizes for children
Activities will be in Frank Hall, if rain

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VBS 2012

Vacation Bible School was a terrific success this year! We had 32 children attend, and we kept them busy all week with games, stories, music, and arts and crafts. Thanks to all who volunteered their time and talents during the week- Pastor Elstad, Pat Dunn, Kelsey Kazmac, Allison McKnight, Lil Nemcik, Ella Neumann, Elaine Oberkehr-Sedan, and Karen Rajala. In addition, we were very thankful for those who helped decorate the church before VBS started- Jamie Antonacci, Steve Miller, and Gary Westerweller. Thank you!!! Sharon Oberkehr

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AROUND THE PARISH

by Gil Vatter

Good Shepherd.....The Friendly Church

HAPPY LABOR DAY

1. All five members of the *MATHISEN* family spent the second week of August on the beach in Lavalette.
2. Sayonara to our college kids - *Kelsey Kazmac* is off to her Junior year at James Madison University (majoring in Middle School English and History) - *Kirstin Mathisen* to the University of Delaware for her

Sophomore year - brother *Kurt Mathison* to Gettysburg College for his second year and *Amanda Westerweller* returns to Monmouth College for her Sophomore year. Good luck to all of you.

He who hesitates is probably right.....I intend to live forever-So far, so goodAs long as there are exams, there will be prayer in public schools. (Grace Brinkman)

Appetizers are little things that you keep eating until you lose your appetite.....In cards, a good deal depends upon luck and luck depends upon a good deal. (Bill Wehrli)

3. *Dick Alberti* and his son recently attended a Philadelphia Phillies game.

4. It was great to see *Bob Rasmussen* in church on Sunday August 5.

Sign on a back fence - "Everyone on the premises is a vegetarian except for the dog"..... How do you fix a broken tuba? With a tuba glue. (Grace Brinkman)

Teenagers are people who express a burning desire to be different by dressing exactly alike. (Bill Wehrli)

5. Need help with a sub par lawn? See *Pastor Jack*.

6. *Steve Miller* had an article in the August 2012 edition of **The Lincroft Village News** about Miae Park and the young musicians who played at Good Shepherd's Sunday services during July and August.

Ole - "What do you think about Red China?" - Sven - "It's not bad if you use a yellow table cloth."

Lena - "Everybody should believe in something." - Ole - "Well, I believe I'll have another beer."

7. Mark your clendar - THE PARISH PICNIC WILL TAKE PLACE ON SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 9 - FOOD AND FUN FOR ALL!!!!!!!

8. The *Little Chief Learning Center* had an advertisement in the August 9 edition of the **INDEPENDENT**. School starts this month.

Perks of Being Older - Things that you buy now won't wear out - Your joints are more accurate weather forecasters than the guy on television. (Bill Wehrli)

You know golf rules your life if: The bride was escorted down the aisle and when she reached the altar the groom had his golf bag and clubs at his side. She said, "What are your clubs doing here?" He replied, "This isn't going to take all day, is it?" (Bill Theune)

9. **The German School of Monmouth County** will begin their fall sessions in September.

10. *Cynthia Kazmac* is reading "The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris" by David McCullough.

Things we learn from our children : No matter how much Jell-O you put in your swimming pool, you still can't walk on water.

Pool filters do NOT like Jell-O.

11. Coastguardsman *Pat Nichols* is wearing out the roads between here and Baltimore while his "boat" is in dry-dock down there.

12. *Pastor Jack* called attention to Hymn 850 - "When in Our Music God is Glorified" - when he preached on the "Conventional Gospel".

Rev. Ole, the Pastor of the Norwegian Lutheran Church and Rev. Sven, Pastor of the Swedish Lutheran Church (right across the street) were pounding a sign into the road that said "Da end iss near - Turn yourself around now before it's too late." A car sped past them and the driver yelled out the window of his car, "Leave us alone, you religious nuts." From the curve the clergymen heard the screeching of brakes and a loud splash. Rev. Ole turned to Pastor Sven and said, "Do ya tink maybe da sign should yust say, BRIDGE OUT ?"

13. *Walter Kyle* is reading "The Admirals" by Walter Borneman, the story of Admirals Nimitz, Halsey, Leahy and King during World War Two.

14. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd mortar board to *Sharon Oberkehr* and all her volunteers who helped during the church's annual Vacation Bible School in August. More than 31 youngsters participated in the week-long program.

IT'S BEEN SO HOT THAT.....the temperature falls below 90 degrees and you feel a little chilly.....the best parking places are determined by shade, not distance.....the farmers are feeding their hens ice cubes so that they don't lay hard boiled eggs.

A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

15. *Bunny and Herb Kuhl* had a house full of family in August, when their kids and grand kids came to visit the old plantation. Bet it seems quiet now that they have gone home.

16. Happy Birthday to *Rich Bartlett*, who assures me that he is only 39 (Sounds like Jack Benny all over again). Daughter *Becky* worshiped with us on Sunday August 19...all the way from San Fran.

Ole and Lena went to the hospital to have their first child. After only a few hours, the doctor found Ole in the waiting room and said, "Good news. It's a healthy boy. The bad news is it was Caesarian" Ole looked startled and replied, "I'm glad he is healthy but I was really hoping that he would be Norwegian, not Caesarian."

Lars - "Hey, Ole, I heard you shot your dog. Was he mad?"Ole - "Well he wasn't exactly pleased about it."

17. *Lou and Elaine Medici* saw the famous Thunderbirds Air Force flying group perform at the Atlantic City Air Show on Saturday August 18. Both said that they were amazing.

18. *The Ladies Luncheon Group* dined at Woodies Restaurant in Sea Bright on August 17. For the site of the September lunch, see *Barbara Haher*.

Hans answered the phone at 3 AM. It was a wrong number and the caller apologized. "That's OK", said Hans, "I had to get up to answer the phone anyway."

19. *Pastor Jack* spoke about new, unfamiliar hymns on Sunday August 19, before we sang Hymn 735, "Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth". He was right we didn't know it. Still, it went pretty well.

20. The first choir practice of the new season will be held on Thursday September 6 at 7:30 PM. See you there?

Lena - "I jyst bought this new hat. I like to buy a new hat when I'm down in the dumps." Sven - "Aha. I was wondering where it came from."

Doctor - "The best thing you can do for your health, Ole, is to stop drinking." best?"

Ole - "And what's next best?"

22. It was great to have *Aleta Genova* worship with us on Sunday August 26.

23. We welcomed *Pastor Neil Jaggie* to Good Shepherd on Sunday August 26. He spoke on "The Bread of Life".

24. The Social Action Committee has already taken more than 1,000 cans of food to St. Mark's Food Pantry in Keansburg. Please remember your hungry neighbor the next time you shop for food and bring a few cans to church.

25. Happy wedding anniversary to *Ellen and Tom Tehve*.

26. Happy Birthday to *Shirley Jackson* and *Barbara Haher* whos brother from North Carolina spent a week in Middletown to help Barbara and John celebrate the event.

And just one more Sven and Ole joke - - - Ole complained to Sven, "The people upstairs are so annoying. Last night they stomped and pounded on the ceiling 'til almost 1 AM." Sven asked, "Did they wake you up?" Ole replied, "No. Thank goodness, I was playing my tuba 'til very late."

SEE YOU IN CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

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FORTY-FIVE YEARS AT GOOD SHEPHERD - PART 4

By Gil Vatter

1986 - A Worship Enhancement program began to improve the appearance of the worship area. In September the congregation adopted some of the recommendations of the Enhancement Committee and the Choir and chancel areas received new carpeting, seating and a new organ. Lois Lehrer became organist and choir master as Robert Murphy accepted a new position at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in St. Paul, Minnesota. Good Shepherd welcomed a part of the Lincroft Center for Children (TLC) which had been burned out of its facilities at the Lincroft Unitarian Church.

1987 - February 8 - The congregation approved affiliation with TLC, with preparations to continue until September, when the school year began. The church's 20th Anniversary celebration was held on April 26 with a Festival Service of Holy Communion with Pastor Thomas Weber, Assistant to the Bishop of New Jersey, followed by a luncheon at the Buttonwood Manor, Matawan.

1988 - January 1, Good Shepherd became a part of the newly formed Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The congregation participated in an ecumenical service held at St. Catherine's R.C. Church, Holmdel. Pastor Frank was the preacher for the service. Compassionate Friends, a support group for parents who have lost children, began to meet in our facilities. Architect Paul Reilly was chosen to design and prepare plans for a new addition to the building. The congregation also agreed to join a Community Outreach Group, which supports a Thrift Shop and various ministries in the area. It was also agreed to support Lunch Break in Red Bank.

1989 - Building plans were submitted to Holmdel Township for approval. The Youth Group continued to grow and become more active in parish activities. Social Ministry supported Interfaith Neighbors and Manna House. Lois Lehrer resigned as organist and choir director to join her husband (a Missouri Synod Army Chaplain) who had been assigned to Germany.

1990 - Kevin Davis became the new organist and choir director. A second pictorial directory for the congregation was published.

1991 - On April 14, the congregation agreed to proceed with the new education wing, which will provide class rooms for Sunday Church School, day care, fellowship and a more elaborate serving area. Dinner Groups were formed as a part of the church's fellowship effort. The new facilities were dedicated on December 8. The parish also submitted a new Constitution to the New Jersey Synod.

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CONGREGATION THANKS SUMMER MUSICIANS

This congregational announcement was presented at the service of Sunday August 26 by Gil Vatter

During the history of the Christian Church, music has played a very important part in almost every aspect of both the traditional liturgy as well as in many of the rites of worship. In the Lutheran Church, we have been blessed with beautiful music from some of the great masters of sacred music such as Johan Sebastian Bach and with a Book of Worship containing some of the masterpieces from the history of hymnody.

Good Shepherd Church has always maintained a high musical tradition, as well, from the very first days of the congregation when we organized at Thompson Junior High School and continuing through forty five years with professional choir directors and organists and a senior choir which leads the liturgy and makes an offering of music every Sunday morning from September to June, on holidays and on many special occasions.

Since August 1, 2000, the congregation has been most fortunate to have Miae Park as its Minister of Music. Miae has continued and even enhanced the musical traditions at Good Shepherd Church through her proficiency at the organ and piano, her leadership of the choir and her enhancement of the services with a variety of musical talent from within and from beyond the parish.

This summer has been no exception. For the months of July and August, those who attended our summer services were treated to a wonderful repertoire of music from four very talented young people who provided solos, duets, trios and quartets as preludes, offering music and postludes. As I mentioned in the August issue of the "Voice", it was like being at Lincoln Center on Middletown-Lincroft Road.

So, on behalf of the Good Shepherd family, thank you very much, all of you:

Thank you Julia,
Thank you Jon,
Thank you Na Young,
Thank you Euihyun,
And, of course, thank you Miae.

We appreciate all your hard work and your talent. We hope you all come back soon so that we may enjoy more of your beautiful music.

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Back to School!!

Just a reminder that Little Chiefs will be using our building with an orientation day on September 7 and then Monday thru Friday beginning September 10.

And the German School meets Tuesdays, 5pm to 8pm and Thursdays 4pm to 8pm beginning September 11.

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MEET THE CHOIR

by Gil Vatter

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



September has rolled around again. The kids are back in school and the family activities of summer have been stored away for another year. Like your family, the Good Shepherd family ends the rather quiet summer months and hits the ground running with a variety of fall activities.

One of the longest running congregational activities at our church has been the traditional Thursday evening choir rehearsal which has taken place for the entire 45 years the church has existed. This year, choir rehearsal begins on Thursday September 6 at 7:30 PM until 9 PM in the sanctuary. Miae Park, Minister of Music, has announced that the choir will begin its routine of preparation of the anthems to be offered each Sunday after the sermon, the Creed and the Prayers of Intercession. During the 2011-2012 season (September through May), the choir offered 38 anthems and the 2012-2013 season should be pretty much the same.

The choir consists of thirteen people who love to sing and who are dedicated to making sacred music an important part of the services at Good Shepherd, including:

Sopranos - Pat Miller - Randi Stetz - Patty Vatter - Kim Wehrli

Altos - Diane Mathisen - Trudy Miller - Ellen Tehve

Tenors - Andy Mathisen - Tom Tehve

Basses - Andy Lichter - Charlie Miller - Gil Vatter - Bill Wehrli

If you like to sing or if you are looking for a way to serve your church, please come to choir practice next Thursday evening and help the choir to augment the communion services with their offering of sacred music, help them to lead the hymns and the liturgy and have fun in the fellowship of learning vocal music along with others who enjoy it. See you Thursday night.

September 2012

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						1
						NJ State Youth Orch 1-4pm
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10 – Service			1pm – Table Talk	7:30pm – choir practice		NJ State Youth Orch 1-4pm
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service and church picnic after church until 2pm	7pm Council Meeting	1:30pm - Courage in Aging	1pm – Table Talk	7:30pm – choir practice		NJ State Youth Orch 1-4pm
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service		6:30 – NJ Chapter Thrivent Mtg 7:30 – 9:00 Compassionate Friends		7:30pm – choir practice	12:30 – Ladies Luncheon Group @ Off the Hook in Highlands	NJ State Youth Orch 1-4pm
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service			1pm – Table Talk	7:30pm – choir practice		NJ State Youth Orch 1-4pm
30						
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service						