

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

November 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,

If you are like me you have probably taken note of the fact that the perennial “holiday season” is already being felt, or shall I say “hyped.” This means that for the next ten weeks there will be a number of celebrations to be observed and hopefully in the midst of all the activity we will be able to sense, to some degree at least, the “true purpose” of each of them. Because this is the November issue of *The Voice* let me share a few thoughts about the first of these observances: Thanksgiving.

First of all, please note that **Sunday, November 18 will be observed as a Day of Thanksgiving** at the usual 10:00 am hour. I have chosen to do this because from past experience it is evident that very few people find neither Thanksgiving Eve nor Thanksgiving Day a convenient time to worship. Unlike earlier times people are either travelling or are overwhelmed in making preparations for all the activities associated with that Thursday. Thus the opportunity to worship as a church family on a Sunday morning seems the most appropriate way to mark a “national day of Thanksgiving” as first suggested by President Abraham Lincoln in 1864.

Secondly, I think that instead of confining the emphasis of giving thanks to one particular day of the year that individually we develop the discipline of what I would describe as “thanks-living.” What would this imply? Primarily being mindful of the fact there is always something for which we can be thankful: our life, our loved ones (both the living and those who have preceded us), our nation, and above all, God’s love and grace, to name just a few to which you can add your own personal thanksgivings. In addition we evidence gratitude to God by caring for own personal well-being, recognizing the importance of being good stewards of creation, and assisting in meeting the needs of others. All of the above is summed up so well the Prayer of the Day appointed for a Day of Thanksgiving:

“Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.”

Ruth and I extend our best wishes for your enjoy the joy of a happy Thanksgiving and a blessed holiday season.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Jack

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Council Minutes 10/08/12

In attendance were the following: Garry Westerweller, Jamie Antonacci, Tom Tehve, Karl Tourjussen, Clem Hergenhan Mike Carp, and Pastor Jack

Absent: Andy Mathisen, Steve Miller, Sharon Oberkehr, Andy Lichter

The meeting was called to order and Pastor Jack led us in devotions.

Last month's minutes were unanimously approved.

Marion Williamson stopped in to discuss an ongoing problem with garbage collection and general complaints about our current cleaning service. Marion also decided to donate the money she received as a service award last year back to the Church. Marion wrote a nice letter stating that she feels her time is a donation to the Church.

Karl will e mail Steve to find out who the contact person is for the cleaning service so that we can review what the list of cleaning responsibilities are. In addition, we will need to review if we want to retain our current cleaning service or change.

Council then discussed the Synod's request of what Good Shepherd commitment should be for 2013. It was recommended that the finance committee review this request and come back to council with the plausibility of Synod's financial request.

Pastor introduced the LIFT program to Council (L- living I-into F-future T – together) as he will be on vacation on 11/5, he asked for volunteers that might be able to attend a local workshop in Red Bank on that date.

Narthex Renovations continued to be discussed. Mike brought up the fact that Bill Nemcik might be a good person to head a committee on this. **Karl will ask Bill if he would be willing to head such a committee and report back to council with some ideas and costs of such a project.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Pastor's Report: Pastor submitted a report which highlighted the fact that we would be receiving two new families into the membership. Jason and Greta Buerkle and their three children, Jason, Ella, and Charlotte, along with Kieth and Maggie Purcell and their two children, Colin and Emma. Emma will be baptized on October 21.

Treasurer's Report: approved as submitted, however Mike brought to light some issues in his Social ministry report

Property Report: Jamie submitted his property report with a review of the recent work day. Only three people showed up for this but much was accomplished in cutting down trees and brush to make the Church more visible.

Social Ministry Report: Mike had several concerns with how money that is allocated to various social ministry causes, is recorded and distributed. As this discussion continued for a long time, it was suggested that we look at our entire accounting system in an effort to improve reporting and dispersal of funds.

Tom will review with the finance committee, the Church Windows System, process for receiving and dispersing donations, and ways to solve the social ministries concerns. Tom will report back with some suggestions. (Clem and Garry volunteered to attend the committee meeting if needed)

Christian Education: no report submitted

Spiritual renewal and Outreach: no report submitted

Fellowship: Karl reported that Debbie Blackburn said that the Church Picnic was a tremendous success. The Christmas Party was discussed and Garry reported back on the feasibility of Catering the party, hiring hostesses, bringing our own food, or some sort of combination of these items. It was decided that we would continue to bring our own food as we always have, but we will hire (2) hostesses to set up and serve so that the ENTIRE congregation can enjoy the festivities.
CHRISTMAS PARTY DATE: Sunday 12/9/12. 5:00PM

Mission Support and Outreach: Karl will get back to us after discussing some more marketing ideas with Michael DiPiazza

Finance Committee: Was charged with drafting a Budget by Early next month

Worship and Music: No report submitted

There was no old or new business to discuss.
Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

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AROUND THE PARISH

By Gil Vatter

Good Shepherd - The Friendly Church

1. *Pat and Brian Dunn* spent the first week in October at the big boat show in Louisville, Kentucky.
2. *John Haher's* sister and brother from Florida were in Middletown to help the Hahers celebrate John's 92nd birthday.

Golfer - "My game is so bad I'm going to drown myself in the lake."
Caddy - "Think you can keep your head down that long, sir?" (Dick Havill)

3. *Pastor Jack* turned seventy-five on September 29. Many happy returns and many more.
4. When you sang Hymn 807 on Sunday September 30, did you know what an "ebnezer" is? By the way, it has nothing to do with Scrooge.

The doctor told my uncle Otto to walk five miles a day for his health. That was six months ago and we have no idea where he is.

5. Poor little Jason Buerkle fell on his scooter and broke his wrist early in October. Get well soon.
6. The Social Ministry Committee delivered more than 1,300 cans of food to St. Mark's Pantry through October plus lots of pasta, peanut butter, jelly, baby food and other kinds of food.

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP TO BE A "SPONSOR" FOR SAINT MARKS?

7. *Diane and Andy Mathisen* went to Allentown, Pennsylvania on September 30 to see a band festival featuring many bands from the mid-Atlantic region, including the University of Delaware (Kirstin on clarinet) and Gettysburg College (Kurt on drums). By the way, happy birthday again to the twins, who turned 20 in October.

8. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd beret to everyone who helped on Work Day, Saturday October 6.

You know you're getting old when you know all the answers but nobody asks you the questions.

9. *Pastor Jack* spoke about lawns, plants and photosynthesis during his september 30 sermon.

10. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd coon skin cap to all those who represented our congregation at the annual CROP WALK on Sunday October 21 in Red Bank, *Karen Rajala, Kim Wehrli and Andy Mathisen*. The walkers have raised over \$500 for local food pantries and food kitchens.

From a church bulletin, "Don't let worry kill you - Let the church help!"

SIGN UP TODAY FOR ALTAR FLOWERS

11. Talked with *Bill Theune* on the phone recently and he is coming along well after extensive radiation treatment following an operation. He and wife Jackie are taking a cruise to the Panama Canal in late October.

12. Happy birthday to *Bunny Kuhl* and to *Dick Alberti*. *Dick* turned 70 on October 13. To celebrate, he and Sue had dinner with his mother. Not bad, eh?

Ole was on his death bed, when he smelled the aroma of his very favorite cookies, baking in the kitchen. With all his strength, he got out of bed and walked to the kitchen, grabbed some cookies and started eating them. Just then, Lena walked into the kitchen, smacked his hand and said, "Shame on you Ole! Dese cookies are for after the funeral!"

13. The German School of Monmouth County celebrated Halloween with their annual "Susses oder Saures" party on Thursday October 25.

14. Choir practice was cancelled when *Miae Park's* youngest son, David, broke his leg on October 25th.

What did the Swede say to the Norwegian at breakfast? "Hurry up and Finnish your Danish."

What do you have when you cross a Lutheran with a Buddhist? Someone who sits up all night worrying about nothing.

15. Please add *Ruth Elstad* to your prayer list.

16. Happy to say that *Walter Kyle* returned to church on Reformation Sunday (not that he needed reforming, you understand) after a bout in the hospital and at rehab. He is the proud owner of a brand new pace maker and is ready to face the world again.

Ole ran a dairy farm in Wisconsin and made a lot of money. In appreciation, he hung a sign in his barn, "ALL DAT I AM.....I OWE TO UDDERS"

17. Mark your calendar.....Sunday November 18 will be a SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING at Good Shepherd.

18. The sanctuary really sparkled with the red paraments used on Reformation Sunday, October 28. *Pastor Jack* told us that "people make religion too complicated".

Lars asked Sven, "Do ya know the difference between a Norwegian and a canoe?" "No, I don't", said Sven. "Once in a while, a canoe will tip", explained Lars. (Ernie Brinkman)

19. *Steve and Pat Miller* spent part of October in Germany and *Ellen and Tom Tehve* made a trip to the Amazon region.

20. We hope that everyone emerges from the wind and rain of Hurricane Sandy unscathed. *Lou and Elaine Medici* were told to evacuate but decided to ride out the storm at home.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

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FORTY-FIVE YEARS AT GOOD SHEPHERD - PART 6
by Gil Vatter

1998 - Carol Henderson was appointed Minister of Music and assumed full responsibility for all music ministry programs. At the annual meeting in January, major revisions to the church's Constitution and By-Laws were presented and approved by the congregation and Gil Vatter was elected President of the Congregation Council. New liturgical resources were introduced through the newly published "With One Voice", which contained many different hymns and new settings for the liturgy. A self-contained worship booklet was introduced and the role of the lay assistant was expanded. In April the church began regular, monthly responsibility for preparing lunch, one day a month, at Saint Mark's Kitchen in Keansburg. Through Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, Good Shepherd, along with Grace Freehold, adopted a family of five from Bosnia and settled them in Freehold. The church celebrated a joint Lenten service with neighboring St. Catherine's Roman Catholic Church. Good Shepherd participated in a communion service at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Middletown to recognize a new "Formula of Agreement". Pastor Gebhart delivered the sermon at this historic event.

1999 - Brian Schultz was elected President of the Congregation Council. The Children's Choir expanded into two groups with the younger children continuing as the Little Flock Singers. The older children became the Good Shepherd Chorale. The Hand Bell Choir was reactivated and a new sound system was installed and used for the first time on Palm Sunday. An 8:00 a.m. spoken service of Holy Communion was added to the summer schedule.

2000 - Brian Schultz was re-elected President of the Congregation Council. A Sunday evening contemporary service of Holy Communion was added to the worship schedule in January. A capital improvement program to finance much-needed repairs on the parsonage was organized with a goal of \$55,000. Carol Henderson resigned as Minister of Music and relocated to Virginia. She played her final service on Sunday June 11, Pentecost. On June 28 - July 2, five young people with Pastor and Mrs. Gebhart attended the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Saint Louis, Mo. Pastor Gebhart announced his resignation, effective July 30, to accept a call from St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Cherry Hill. Miae Park was hired as Organist and Choir Master.

2001 - Warren Gifford was elected President of the Congregation Council. Rev. Penny Stechman was appointed Interim Pastor by the New Jersey Synod.

2002 - Lou Medici was elected President of the Congregation Council at the annual meeting in January. In April, the congregation celebrated its 35th anniversary. A Call Committee, chaired by Bill Theune, recommended the Rev. David Lauder to be pastor of Good Shepherd and the congregation called Rev. Lauder in July. In August the Lincroft Center for Children closed its operation at Good Shepherd because of low enrollment. In November the Rev. David Lauder was installed as Pastor of Good Shepherd.

2003 - Sharon Goodman was elected as President of the Congregation Council at the annual meeting in January. Sharon Goodman resigned as Council President in May and Ellen Tehve, Council Vice President became President. In September a new pre-school, the Little Lambs of the Good Shepherd was opened with Barbara Benson as Director.

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SHORE FOOD BANKS FACE DIFFICULT FUTURE

By Gil Vatter

The October 15 edition of the "Asbury Park Press" unfolded the story of the problems facing the food banks and food kitchens in Monmouth and Ocean Counties as winter approaches. According to the "Press", "the shelves at the Foodbank of Monmouth and Ocean are in a constant state of flux. One day the shelves are full and the next day they are empty as more and more people turn to the facility for help."

At the moment, the Foodbank is assisting 127,000 people in both counties and this staggering number of county residents is making it very hard for the program to keep up with demand. According to Barbara Scholz, Director of Advocacy and Programs for the Foodbank, "The worst part is that as the need increases, there seems to be a

reduction in response and donations. Right now, we are struggling to keep our shelves stocked." Carlos Rodriquez, Executive Director for the Foodbank said, "Of the 1.2 million residents in Monmouth and Ocean Counties, one in ten are in need of emergency food."

Good Shepherd has been responding to the local need for food since the late 90's with a formal program of food collection for Saint Mark's in Keansburg and regular donations to Lunch Break and other Monmouth County organizations that provide help to the hungry. These programs need your help. When you shop, remember your needy neighbors and get some extra food to bring to church or write a check for one of the local foodbanks or soup kitchens. Without our assistance, the foodbanks cannot fully function and hungry families will receive smaller allocations of food.....or perhaps no food at all. Your donation will make a difference.

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A FEW NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

By Gil Vatter

"Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee." (Hymn 685)

Miae Park - Minister of Music

- September 30 - "Rejoice in the Lord Always" - Henry Purcell
- October 7 - "I Will Lift Up My Eyes" - S. Pethel
- October 14 - "Oh, Sing to God Your Joyful Praise" - G. F. Handel
- October 21 - "Rejoice in the Lord" - S. Pethel
- October 28 - Reformation Sunday - "Our Dwelling Place" - Victor C. Johnson
Julia Shapiro - Descant

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Letter of Thanks to Good Shepherd

August 17, 2012

John Elstad, Pastor
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
112 Middletown Road P.O. Box 452
Holmdel, NJ 07733-0452

Dear Pastor Elstad and Members of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd,

On behalf of the FoodBank and the charities we serve, I would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$721.00 raised through the musical concerts. This contribution is especially appreciated at this time of the year, since so many families struggle to provide food for their children in the summer months.

The FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties provides donated food to more than 127,500 individuals through over 260 community feeding programs. As a result of the recession, last year we saw a record number of requests for food; up 84% compared to 5 years ago. The number of children has increased by 150%, with over 51,000 served in our local communities.

During the last twelve months, we distributed almost 7 million pounds of food to help those struggling to meet their basic needs. In addition to food distribution, some of the programs we administer include:

- The Kid's Café** for which we prepare 120 hot meals per day for the after-school program at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Asbury Park and Red Bank.
- The Kid's Backpack Program** in which we work with 15 schools in Monmouth and Ocean Counties to provide 6 weekend meals for over 300 at-risk students.

-**The Culinary Training Program** which offers a 13-week educational program for unemployed and underemployed adults. We have had 33 classes, with over 200 students who have graduated with employable skills.
-**The Mobile Pantry** which brings food to individuals who do not have easy access to food pantries,. We stop at 16 sites each month, providing emergency food boxes to over 600 families.

Please know that many more children and their families will be able to enjoy a nutritious meal together this summer, as a result of your kindness. Thank you for your donation from the musical concerts.

Sincerely,
Linda Keenan
Director of Development

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Another Letter of Thanks to Good Shepherd

August 14, 2012

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
Attn. Pastor John Elstad
112 Middletown Road Box 452
Holmdel, NJ 07733

Dear Pastor Elstad,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, staff, and clients at Lunch Break, please accept our gratitude to you for your recent generous donation of \$1,109.00 raised at your musical concerts. You've exemplified the spirit of community and giving back. We are extremely grateful for your support and thoughtfulness towards our agency.

Only with good friends, such as you, are we able to provide our services to those in need. With the current economic situation, those services are needed more than ever.

We invite you to send us and email at info@lunchbreak.org so we can keep you updated About Lunch Break. You can also check out our website at www.lunchbreak.org. Here You will find links if you would like to follow us on Facebook and or Twitter.

Again, we thank you for this generous and thoughtful contribution. Please feel free to contact me to discuss opportunities to build upon this mutually beneficial relationship all year.

Very warmest regards,
Gwendolyn O. Love
Executive Director

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College News

Amanda Westerweller is attending Monmouth University and plays on the Field Hockey team. In their recent game against Saint Francis, MU news reported:
Sophomore Amanda Westerweller (Holmdel, N.J./Holmdel) and junior Teresa Mathews (Lumberton, N.J./Holmdel) split time in cage for the Blue and White. Westerweller, making her first career start, made five saves in just over 23 minutes of action, while Mathews turned away one shot.

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Thrivent Chapter says Thank You

The Thrivent NJ North Shore Chapter has made a contribution to the Good Shepherd general fund to say thank you for allowing them to use the facilities for their meetings each month in 2012.

November 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
				7:30pm – choir practice		NJ State Youth Orch 1- 4pm
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service				7:30pm – choir practice		NJ State Youth Orch 1- 4pm
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service	7pm Council Meeting			7:30pm – choir practice	12:30 – Ladies Luncheon Group @ Pour House, Tinton Falls	NJ State Youth Orch 1- 4pm
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service Thrivent Chap. Board Elections		7:30 – 9:00 Compassionate Friends		THANKS GIVING DAY		NJ State Youth Orch 1- 4pm
25	26	27	28	29	30	
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service						