

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

December 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,

Christmas. What more can be said about it than what has already been stated before? That was the question that came to my mind many years ago not long after I had begun serving as a pastor. I had been ordained no more than four or five years, when as December 25 approached, I sat down to prepare a message for the Christmas Eve service. Inspiration was not immediate. But then I realized something that changed my mind and has made my appreciation of Christmas very significant ever since.

What brought insight was recognizing the Church's adherence to the Liturgical Year calendar which takes us through its seasons of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Pentecost. Each of them with its particular emphasis is to assist us in appreciating the richness and fullness our faith. It is a cycle that brings us back again and again to aspects of our faith which are reinforced by its discipline. However, this can lead to a feeling of "we've been through this before". Such is probably true, but there is something else we have to bring to this aspect of our worship that makes a significant difference, and when I recognized this the floodgates of insight opened.

What was that epiphany? Simply stated it was this: *As the Church moves through the year so does the world and our lives.* In other words the celebration of a season such as Christmas comes at the same time every year, but in the span of twelve months many things change in our world as well as our individual lives. Thus Christmas 2012 will be not be observed in the same context as that of last year nor any other previous year. And so there really is always something new to say so as to connect the gift of God's love to what, in a manner of speaking, is a new world. And what better example of this than what we are experiencing in the wake of super storm Sandy. Who would have ever imagined that at this time last year we would be immersed these matters that have impacted us so deeply. And on a personal note who would have thought Ruth and I must now deal her cancer which was only recently diagnosed.

If we can appreciate that the mission of the Church is above all else to speak relevantly and prophetically in a manner so as to connect the healing power of faith to the issues that beset mankind then it becomes evident how meaningful it is to hear the Christmas message anew and recognize that the spirit of divine love does have the power to encourage and enliven people everywhere so as to make the world a better place for all.

What is the real essence of Christmas? I think these words of the hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem" states it best:

*"How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessing of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming; But, this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still the dear Christ enters in."*

Despite our worldly or personal strivings that impact us so deeply there is a divine gift of love and grace given to us which when received with an open mind brings new life, new joy and a peace beyond human understanding. May all of us be determined to find the time amid all the rush of this season to ponder what is the greatest of all – God's love revealed the child born in Bethlehem.

Ruth and I extend to all of you our prayers for a truly blessed and joyous Christmas, and may the peace of God be a lasting gift through the coming new year.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Jack

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SINCERE THANKS

I want to express my sincere thanks to you all for the support, prayers and love that Pastor and I have received regarding the issues around my thyroid cancer. With the grace of God and the support of His angels on earth, I feel ready to move forward in the process before me. I have been inspired by the various acts of courage that I have witnessed or heard about in our faith community. I will carry them with me in the months ahead.

Love to you all,
Ruth

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SPECIAL TIMES AT GOOD SHEPHERD
Christmas Party – Sunday, December 9, 5pm
Christmas Eve Services – Monday, December 24, 4pm & 10pm

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Poinsettias for the Altar

The sign-up sheet for Christmas poinsettias is in the narthex. Please help beautify the sanctuary as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. Our order must be placed on December 16th.

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Council Minutes 11/12/12

In attendance were the following: Garry Westerweller, Steve Miller, Jamie Antonacci, Andy Mathisen, Sharon Oberkehr, Mike Carp, Clem Hergenhan, Tom Tehve, and Nancy Hergenhan.

Absent: Andy Lichter, Karl Tourjussen, Pastor Jack

The meeting was called to order with a quorum declared.
Steve reviewed the website available for all past documents
Steve reviewed the agenda for the evening
Andy Mathisen led us in devotions with the topic “ready for anything”
September minutes were approved as written.
Treasurer’s report was presented by Tom and was approved as read.

Discussion ensued regarding the validity of continuing to use “Church Windows” as a financial program. **Jamie and Clem will look into a replacement program, possible Quickbooks. (Garry will assist)**

Mike Carp looking for account codes to better track giving to charities such as “Project Paul” and “Shop for a Cause”
This will be part of potential fix in future computer programming.

Pastor’s letter to the congregation and his submitted report were reviewed.

Social Ministry

Mike presented a breakdown of where monies donated for social ministry were allotted. Noted that giving chart was on the rise.

Discussion ensued regarding how to help the victims of Sandy. Nancy Hergenhan presented the option of using "Beacon of Hope" as a potential outlet to directly assist these victims. She said that many local drop off points are overloaded with donations at the moment.

\$800.00 was collected in Sunday's special offering for Sandy's relief. Clem pointed out that the money should specifically go to the victims of Sandy as dedicated

Several suggestions were made on how best to distribute these funds with a focus on helping those most closely affected by the storm. Distribution to be determined, pending Pastor's approval.

Property Report

Steve estimated that we need around 20 cubic yards of bluestone for the parking lot

Jamie brought up the point that our parking lot is really a detriment to attracting new members.

Discussion on the possibility of paving a minimum of ½ the parking lot.

Steve will check costs as to what our options might be to improve the parking lot.

Mike mentioned that our Church sign need some attention as it is askew.

Jamie volunteered to repair sign. Steve said he would assist.

Steve will discuss signage with the German School.

Christian Education Report

Sharon reported that there are 12 children attending Sunday School.

Looking to nail down a date for the Christmas Pageant.

Assistance is needed to teach Sunday School. Sharon suggested a sign in sheet to have congregational members volunteer as needed.

Discussion ensued regarding youth guidelines in regard to volunteers working with youth.

Steve will check for more current ELCA guidelines

Sharon will discuss with Pastor.

Stewardship Report

Karl submitted a report for review in which he mentioned that he and Michael DiPiazza were working on a marketing plan for Good Shepherd.

Karl also submitted that he and Pastor visited 2 Churches to see how tile in the Narthex worked for them.

Fellowship Report

Christmas Party plans were discussed. Approval was given to hire two waitresses to relieve our church helpers from having to work the evening. Christmas Party is December 9th at 5 PM.

Need to get a count of how many children will be attending so that event can be planned to include them more in the festivities

Garry will reach out to Dick Alberti to request he once again lead us in song.

Old Business

Mike expressed a concern that if we take down the carpet on walls in Narthex, we would need to check on codes. Jamie says he thought we would be ok to do so.

E mail approval was given to donate \$570.00 to COG for Back to School

Discussion on cleaning service continued and it was determined we need a list to present to the cleaning service, clearly outlining what they are to clean. **Steve, Nancy and Marion will work on putting this together.**

Septembers action items were discussed and reviewed

Jamie will continue his attempt to put together an Energy Audit

New Business

Tom will work on presenting a budget draft for 2013 by next council meeting so that it can be reviewed and then approved at the January council meeting.

Steve will get the nominating committee started on attracting nominees for next year's council

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer
Next Council Meeting will be on December 10, 2012

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Wednesday Morning Adult Study
10:00 AM

Beginning January 2 Pastor Jack will offer a five session course titled Embracing an Adult Faith – Marcus Borg on What it Means to be Christian. The purpose of this program which has been enthusiastically received in a number of churches of various denominations is to spark interest, conversation and sharing. Each of the sessions includes an opening DVD input by Dr. Borg followed by group discussion on the following 5 distinct topics: Session1 – God, Session 2 – Jesus, Session 3-Salvation, Session 4, Practice, Session 5 Community. Participant Booklet: \$10.00. (Advisory: Schedule may be influenced by matters pertaining to Ruth's medical treatment scheduling.) This is the first of a series of other short term studies that will be offered during the year.

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AROUND THE PARISH

By Gil Vatter

I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men. (Henry Wadsworth Longfellow)

GOOD SHEPHERD - THE FRIENDLY CHURCH

1. Everyone in the congregation has a story to tell about their adventures during and after Hurricane Sandy hit the Jersey shore:

- At the Vatter house, we were without power from Monday afternoon until Saturday night.
- KAREN AND ANDY LICHTER live in the woods, so by Tuesday, there were limbs and trees down everywhere.
- ELAINE AND LOU MEDICI had two feet of water in their home and went eight days without power.
- TERESA AND PAT NICHOLS lost their home in the Highlands area and have moved into temporary housing.
- SARAH (BLACKBURN) AND TOM HARRIS lost their home in Atlantic Highlands FOR THE SECOND TIME.
- BOB FULMER got his power back from a team of workers from ALABAMA.
- BARBARA HAHER AND WALTER KEYL were sorry to see the Ship Ahoy swim club sustain a lot of damage.
- VIVIAN AND BOB SISLIAN lost a century old tree in front of their home, which broke in half.
- PAT AND STEVE MILLER are relieved that they no longer have a place on Long Beach Island.
- BILL WEHRLI had almost no damage to his place along the shore.
- GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH had no damage other than some limbs and branches down.

2. Adding insult to injury was the nor'easter that followed Sandy a week later with 4" to 8" of snow in Monmouth County. The weight of the snow on already weakened trees caused even more damage to many trees and homes and some people lost their electric power again. Good Shepherd, also without power, cancelled services on two Sundays in a row, an unprecedented move in the history of the congregation and the choir

cancelled rehearsal on November 1 and November 8, since the church had no electric power. AND WINTER ISN'T EVEN HERE YET.

BEAT THE CHRISTMAS RUSH.....COME TO CHURCH THIS SUNDAY

3. We are happy to report that *Ruth Elstad* is doing well after her treatment in Philadelphia. Please keep her on your prayer list.

4. Minister of Music *Miae Park* got frostbite during the storms. She is recovering very well.

A modern version of Paul's Letter to the Romans - an E-mail addressed to abuse@romans.gov

Did you know Santa's nationality? - He's North Polish

5. The Ladies Luncheon Group met at the Pour House in Shrewbury on Friday November 16. In December they expect to meet at Nauvoo in Fair Haven. See *Barbara Haher* for details.

6. We welcomed *Andy Lichter's* son *Paul* in church on Sunday *November 11*.

Question - What did Santa and Mrs. Santa call their first son? - Answer - A subordinate Claus.

What do you get when you cross a snowman and a vampire? Frostbite.

7. We welcomed *Pastor Neil Jaggie* to the services of November 11 and November 18, while *Pastor Jack* was away.

8. Happy Birthday to *Bob Stetz* and *Pat Schmidt* who celebrated birthdays in November and to *Ed Schmidt*, *Julia Blackburn*, *Marian Williamson* and *Charlotte Buerkle* all of whom celebrate December birthdays. And to *Clem Hergenhan* who has a Christmas Day birthday. Many Happy returns to all.

Ole - "Doctor, I keep thinking I'm a Christmas bell."

Doctor Olsen - "Take these pills and, if they don't work, give me a ring."

What does Santa call reindeer that can't fly?.....Dinner.

9. Happy wedding anniversary to *Lil and Bill Nemcik*, who celebrated FORTY-ONE years of wedded bliss this past November.

10. *Vivian and Bob Sislian* made their annual pilgrimage to Williamsburg, Virginia the last week of November.

Ole - "Tell me Lena, what would make you kiss me under the mistletoe?"

Lena - "At least one bottle of slivovitz"

11. Thanksgiving was a favorite holiday for many folks from our parish:

Grace and Ernie Brinkman and their family dined at Our House Restaurant

Trudy and Charlie Miller hosted dinner at their house with *Trudy* doing the cooking.

Randi and Bob Stetz entertained at home.

Garry Westerweller's family visited his brother-in-law's for dinner.

Diane Mathisen cooked for the Mathisen/Wehrli clan (Bill made the filling).

Ellen and Tom Tehve drove to North Carolina to be with their daughters' families.

12. *Ruth and Pastor Jack* recommend the new "Lincoln" movie, which was mentioned in the sermon of November 25.

One day, God was looking down at the Earth and saw all the misbehaving going on. So, he sent one of his angels to Earth. When the angel returned, he told God, "Yes, it is bad on Earth; 95% are misbehaving and only 5% are not.

God thought for a moment and said, "Maybe I should send down another angel to get a second opinion." So, God called another angel and sent him down to Earth too. When the angel returned, he went to God and said, "Yes, It's true. The people on Earth are in decline; 95% are misbehaving and only 5% are being good."

God was not pleased. He decided to e-mail the 5% who were good because he wanted to encourage them to keep going.

Do you know what the e-mail said?

No?

Okay. Just checking with you. I didn't get an e-mail either. (Ruth Elstad)

13. Don't forget.....the annual parish Christmas Party is on Sunday December 9th at 5:00 PM in Frank Hall. Fun for all and lots to eat. See you there.

14. *Karen and Andy Lichter* are working on the Fox Trot. Earlier in the year it was the Tango.

15. St. Mark's has decided to discontinue the Kitchen and Pantry operation at their church. The co-directors and the Board are frantically trying to find a new site for this critical community service. When a new location is found, we will advise the congregation.

Isn't it nice that wrinkles don't hurt!!! (Bill Wehrli)

16. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd shako to *Bunny and Herb Kuhl* who donated a frozen turkey to Good Shepherd's food collection.

17. *Trudy and Charlie Miller's* daughter *Pam*, and her family in Connecticut, are raising a Seeing Eye Dog.

Doctors tell us that over seven million people in this country are overweight.....These, of course are only round figures.

18. The congregation welcomed *Anne (Rajala) and Scott Medling* from Santa Cruz, California on their annual Thanksgiving visit to Colts Neck.

19. Remember *Joan Horlocher* in your prayers. She will soon be undergoing an operation.

It was almost Christmas and the judge was in a very good mood, when he asked Sven, "What's the charge?"

"Doing my Christmas shopping early", replied Sven.

"That's not a crime", said the judge, "How early were you shopping?"

"Before the store opened", said Sven.

20. A special thanks to everyone in the congregation who brought food to church over the past month. Some is on the altar to remind us how much our neighbors need help.

HAVE A MERRY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS SEASON AND A HEALTHY AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

SEE YOU IN CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

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FORTY-FIVE YEARS AT GOOD SHEPHERD - PART 7

by Gil Vatter

2004 - Nick Suhr was elected Congregation Council President.

2005 - Louis Medici was elected Congregation Council President.

2006 - Louis Medici was re-elected Congregation Council President. Pastor Lauder elected to move his family out of the Parsonage to another, nearby home. The church council, after long discussion, decided to sell the Parsonage because of financial considerations. The Congregation Council decided to undertake the Natural Congregational Development Program. The "early service" was discontinued and only one service at 11:00 am was offered. Tom Tehve modernized the "old kitchen" near the narthex. Dick Alberti was appointed Treasurer.

2007 - Anne Rogers was elected Congregation Council President. The church celebrated its 40th anniversary in April. The new "Evangelical Lutheran Book of Worship (the Red Book) was introduced to the congregation. The choir attended several workshops to become familiar with the new hymns and liturgy in the Red Book, including one held at Good Shepherd. The German School of Monmouth County began operating at Good Shepherd. The German School provided an educational opportunity to speak, read, understand and write the German language. Pastor Lauder became ill and Pastor Frederick Neiderheiser was assigned as interim Pastor. In August 30 children attended the annual Vacation Bible School. In December the final meal was prepared by Good Shepherd volunteers at St. Mark's Kitchen in Keansburg. The St. Mark's "Sponsors Program" to help support the Food Pantry and the Kitchen was organized by the Social Ministry Committee.

2008 - Anne Rogers was re-elected Congregation Council President. In February Nancy and Clem Hergenhan began publication of "The Voice of the Good Shepherd", the congregation's news letter, which had not been published for more than a year. On May 3, the New Jersey State Youth Orchestra's Chamber Music Players presented a concert in the sanctuary to benefit the Little Lambs of the Good Shepherd Pre-School. In May Pastor David Lauder resigned after Bishop Roy Riley met with the Congregation Council to discuss the future of Good Shepherd. Council President Anne Rogers and three other Council members resigned at the same time. In June, Council Vice-President Gilbert Vatter became Council President replacing Anne Rogers, who had left the congregation. The Congregation Council reorganized and substitute ministers were obtained to handle Sunday services. Miae Park and her sister, flutist, Mikyung Park, presented a benefit concert for the Little Lambs of the Good Shepherd Pre-School. Pastor Edward C. Schmidt was appointed Interim Pastor by Bishop Roy Riley. Patricia Dunn was hired as parish secretary. Patricia Miller replaced Dick Alberti as Treasurer. In August, 60 children attended the annual Vacation Bible School. In September the Counseling Centers for Human Development began using Good Shepherd facilities. The reorganized Congregation Council was installed at the service on Sunday September 14.

2009 - In January, Gilbert Vatter was re-elected President of the Congregation Council. In April, Kurt Mathisen presented his Eagle Scout project, a new Memorial Garden, to the Congregation Council for approval. In May an Executive Committee, consisting of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Congregation Council, was formed to handle emergency matters, so long as the church does not have a full time Pastor. In June, the Congregation Council reluctantly closed the Little Lambs of the Good Shepherd Pre-School because of low enrollment.

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A FEW NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

By Gil Vatter

Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with loud songs of joy. (Psalm 47)

Miae Park - Minister of Music

November 4 - Hurricane "Sandy" - Church cancelled

November 11 - "Be Still and Know" - Victor C. Johnson

November 18 - Service of Thanksgiving - "Think on These Things" - P. E. Schram

November 25 - Festival of Christ the King - "Soon and Very Soon" - A. Crouch

The Choir welcomes *Pam Brown*, who has joined the Alto Section and thanks *Kirsten Mathisen*, who sang with the choir on November 25.

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The Kitchen at St. Mark's, Inc.

P.O. Box 193, Keansburg, NJ 07734

Phone: 732-495-5227

November 26, 2012

For almost two decades, local churches, service organizations and foundations have generously supported the Kitchen at St. Mark's, Inc. Your support has challenged us to serve the hungry in the Keansburg area and we have done our utmost to achieve this goal. We are humbled and inspired by your confidence in us.

We are surprised and saddened by the recent turn of events in which we find the kitchen and facilities occupied by St. Mark's Church as they have decided to take over our operation. After almost two decades of service at this location, we are distressed to be summarily dismissed without notice. The timing of this action comes during the hours of immense need in the Keansburg community. It appears that preparations for our expulsion were underway for several months. During recent Board meetings attended by Fr. Chinery and their vestrymen, they never shared their intent to evict us until Hurricane Sandy hit. Fr. Chinery's website even described the great work of our organization and the excellent and well-deserved reputation of our directors, Nancy and Doreen.

It is our sincere desire to continue serving the many, many hungry and deserving clients in this area. We face the daunting task of finding a new building and relocating our facilities. We cannot be certain that this is economically viable. Therefore, we are not appealing for donations this November. Instead, we are seeking financial pledges to help us assess our ability to relocate and continue in a new facility. We thank all of you volunteers and donors for your help in the past but before we move forward, we need to know if you can continue to support us with the same commitment of time, talents and funding. Please favor us with a firm pledge of the support you will be able to extend.

We are gratified that FEMA, the Red Cross and *ad hoc* emergency centers are providing immediate aid to the community but these operations are temporary in nature. The broad support of ecumenical churches in the local ministerium, service organizations and concerned individuals is what is needed to guarantee continued success of a soup kitchen and pantry. We intend to fill that need with your support. Once we confirm that this is feasible, we will inform you of our specific plans. Again, let us thank you for all you have done to enable us to feed the hungry and care for the needy these past nineteen years. May God bless you.

Sincerely,



Doug Dimperio
President of the Board of Directors
of The Kitchen at St. Mark's, on behalf of the Board of Directors

The Kitchen at St. Mark's, Inc. Board of Directors

Doug Dimperio, President
Theresa Veilleux, Vice President
Melanie Jacob, Secretary
Linda Gould, Treasurer

Sam Jones III, Director
Robert Randall, Director
Joan Rhodes, Director
Martin Veilleux, Director

Doreen Minutella, Co-Director
Nancy Mester, Co-Director

kitchenatstmarks.org
Federal i.d. no. 22-3313175

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December 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
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service				7:30pm – choir practice		NJ State Youth Orch 1-4pm
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service 5PM – Christmas Party at GS	7pm Council Meeting			7:30pm – choir practice	12:30 – Ladies Luncheon Group @ Navou in Fair Haven	NJ State Youth Orch 1-4pm
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service		7:30 – 9:00 Compassionate Friends		7:30pm – choir practice		NJ State Youth Orch 1-4pm
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service	4pm & 10pm Christmas Eve Services	CHRISTMAS DAY		7:30pm – choir practice		NJ State Youth Orch 1-4pm
30	31					
NO Sunday School 10 - Service						