

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

March 2013

(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,

Recently I was looking through a copy of a formerly used Lutheran book of worship known as the *Common Service Book of the Lutheran Church*. On page 295 my attention was drawn to a section titled The Easter Table. Beneath the title there is written these words: *A Table of the Days on Which Easter Will Fall From 1918-2005*, and in them there is a message appropriate for our anticipating a celebration of Easter in 2013.

Consider that in the early years of Twentieth century our church was preparing to produce a book of worship at a time when World War I was raging and there was uncertainty as to how matters would workout. And, undoubtedly, there was a myriad of other matters people had to contend with as well. But it is clear from what is stated in the Easter Table our Church was looking towards the future. After all they were thinking of the possibility that their book would be used for over a span of 87 years! They were confidently looking forward. They were filled with life.

Life is the essence of Easter. Easter is about resurrection. Easter is about renewal. Easter is about redemption. Easter is about rejoicing. Easter is about revival. Easter is about recovery. Easter is about rebuilding. If ever there was time when all of the above mentioned items need be emphasized in all we do, it is now because the unfolding of the next 87 years will demand we prepare for them now more seriously than any other previous generation. The Christian faith is meant to be a life giving and life protecting way of living. At its heart is the exclamation: "Behold I make all things new!"

There is a wonderful new book you may want to read titled "*The Next Christians: Seven Ways You Can Live the Gospel and Restore the World*" and I share these words from it with you to keep in mind as the Day of Resurrection approaches:

*"The next Christians believe that Christ's death and resurrection were not only meant to save people **from** something. He wanted to save Christians **to** something. God longs to restore his image in them, and let them loose, freeing them to pursue his original dreams for the entire world. Here, now, today, tomorrow. They no longer feel bound to wait for heaven or spend all of their time telling people what they should believe. Instead, they are participating with God in his restoration project for the whole world. They recognize that Christ's redemptive work is not the end or even the goal of our stories; redemption is the beginning of our participation in God's work of restoration in our lives and in the world. Understanding that one idea literally changes everything."*

Grace and peace to all of you. I look forward to all of us gathering on Easter Sunday to celebrate new life, new hope, and new joy.

Pastor Jack

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Holy Week & Easter Services

Sunday, March 24 – Palm Sunday
Holy Communion 10:00 am
Breakfast at 9am in Frank Hall before the service

Thursday, March 28 – Maundy Thursday
Holy Communion 7:00 pm

Friday, March 29 – Good Friday
Tenebrae Service 7:00 pm

Sunday, March 31- EASTER SUNDAY
Holy Communion 10:00 am

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Easter Lillies

A sign-up charter is in the narthex for purchasing lilies for the altar for Easter. Last date to sign up is March 24. Cost is \$15 per lily.

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GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH SUPPORTS FAMILY PROMISE by Gil Vatter

It has become a tradition at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Holmdel, to send out special monetary gifts at the end of each year as a part of the church's Mutual Ministry program. This year, recipients included several local organizations such as Project Paul of Keansburg, St. Mark's Kitchen, Inc. of Keyport, Lunch Break of Red Bank and Family Promise of Monmouth County. Shown below is Reverend John Elstad, Pastor of Good Shepherd Church as he presents a check for \$500 to Mrs. Elaine Young, representing Family Promise.

Family Promise of Monmouth County, located in Keansburg, is a part of the national group, Family Promise, which works with local community agencies, faith-based services, churches and synagogues to provide shelter, food, transportation and supportive services, including case management for homeless families in the Bayshore area. The motto of Family Promise is "BUILDING COMMUNITY, STRENGTHENING LIVES".

Family Promise's network is made up of host congregations who have pledged the use of their facilities and the participation of volunteer members and also support congregations who provide volunteers and assistance. Family Promise usually accommodates 3 to 5 families or a maximum of 14 people per day in their network, which consists of their Day Center and 12 host congregations. For one week, approximately every three months, congregations furnish a place to sleep, as well as meals and fellowship for families who find themselves temporarily homeless. The Day Center, located in Middletown, has showers and laundry facilities as well as a kitchen for preparing mid-day meals.

Each year, Family Promise of Monmouth County serves about 10,200 meals and 5,100 "bed-nights" for local families who need help. To help or make a donation, they may be contacted at P.O. Box 304, Keansburg, N.J. 07734, by e-mail at info@familypromisemc.org or by phone at 732-495-1050.



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AROUND THE PARISH

by Gil Vatter

1. *Pastor Jack's* February sermon for the kids touched on "Anthropology". Hope you didn't miss it.
2. *Grace Brinkman's* daughter *Bonnie* brought her mother to church on February 3 and 10 while *Ernie* was recovering from a couple broken ribs. Ouch!!!! *Walter Kyle* is battling sciattica. Another ouch! Come back soon Walt, we miss you.

The police were called in to an apartment and they found a woman holding a bloody five iron over a lifeless man. An officer asked her, "Ma'am, is this your husband?" "Yes", said the woman. "Did you hit him with this golf club?" "Yes, yes I did." The woman began to sob and she dropped the club and put her hands over her face. "How many times did you hit him?", asked the officer. "I - I don't know", replied the woman, "but put me down for a five." (Bill Wehrli)

3. *Kirsten Mathisen* was in church on Sunday February 3, after returning from a month of study in Chile. *Rachel Mathisen* returned to work, when her hospital was finally re-opened after serious damage from Hurricane Sandy.

4. Want to improve the environment for future generations? Call *Nancy Fitch* (732-946-8940) to join the new ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE. The group met for the first time on Sunday February 24.

Tax time and Golf - Why is golf a lot like taxes? - You drive very hard to get to the green only to wind up in the hole! (Barbara HaHer)

Ever wonder why there isn't mouse flavored cat food? (Dick Alberti)

5. Our thanks goes to former member *Mabel Diercks* who provided a gift for *Good Shepherd* in her estate.

6. Still not too late to sign up as a "Sponsor" to support *St. Mark's Kitchen, Inc.* in their work of feeding the hungry.

I heard from a CPA that the IRS called the pastor of a church and asked, "Smith claims that he gave \$10,000 to your church. Is that true?" To which the pastor replied, "Not yet, but he will." (Grace Brinkman)

You can tell you're old when everything starts to click.....your elbows, your knees, your neck! (Grace Brinkman)

7. Happy Birthday to former member Dick Havill and Garry Westerweller.

8. Mark your calendar - The 2013 Good Shepherd Concert Series -
Monday March 11 - The Gettysburg College Choir
Saturday March 23 - The New Jersey State Youth Orchestra
Sunday April 14 - The Young Musicians Concert by Miae Park

Ole - "I've found a great job. Good salary, free health and accident insurance, paid holidays and coffee breaks."

Lena - "That's wonderful Ole."

Ole - "I knew you'd be pleased. You start Monday." (Grace Brinkman)

9. Members of Good Shepherd emerged from the February 8 storm with flying colors. The Friday night storm and 12" of snow didn't keep more than 60 people from worship on February 10.

10. The Narthex Enhancement Committee made its first report to the Council on Monday February 11.

Zen for people who take life too seriously - Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine. (Dick Havill)
A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory (Bill Wehrli)

11. The Women's Luncheon Group had lunch at the House of Chong Restaurant in Middletown on Friday February 15 at 12:30. For information about the March get-together, see Barbara HaHer.

12. The annual collection of cleaning and personal care items for the COG Calico Cat Evening Pantry has begun. *Good Shepherd* is responsible for June. Details will be listed in the Sunday bulletin. We collected plastic sandwich bags and toothpaste in February and we will collect shampoo and tissues in March.

Ole played football in college for twelve years. He could run, he could kick but he just couldn't pass. (Grace Brinkman)

Sven - "What is your son going to be when he graduates?"

Ole - "An old man".

13. "Ash Sunday" began Lent at Good Shepherd on Sunday February 17. *Pastor Jack* challenged the congregation to do some soul searching.

14. We were all glad to see *Ernie Brinkman* back in church on Sunday February 17.

A little boy asked his grandfather why he had false teeth. The grandfather thought for a moment and then said, "Well, I didn't brush my teeth enough when I was little." The boy looked at him quizzically and said, "You must not have brushed your hair enough either."

15. *Andy Lichter* was the best man at a wedding, appropriately, on February 14, Valentine's Day.

16. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd stetson to the folks who served on the 2013 Audit Committee, *Elaine and Lou Medici, Walter Kyle* (and me) and thanks very much to *Dick Alberti*, our Treasurer and *Doreen Hoffman*, our Financial Secretary, who do a terrific job. By the way, the books were in great shape.

Ole - "I quit exercising."

Sven - "How come?"

Ole - "Well, with me, unfortunately, the routine was - 1-2-3.... 1-2-3.... 9-1-1."

17. Thanks to a recent e-mail from a friend, I discovered that I am 31,186 days old. That's frightening.

18. *Rachel Mathisen* attends church at *Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church*, on 22nd Street, in Manhattan, near the hospital where she works.

Ole - "Hey, Sven, do you have any money in the bank?"

Sven - "Certainly I have money in the bank."

Ole - "How much do you have?"

Sven - "I don't know. I haven't shaken it lately."

19. Congratulations and a tip of the Good Shepherd beret to the congregation which has already given over \$830 to the SOUPERBOWL OF CARING.

20. *Pat and Steve Miller* returned from a three week trip to South America and Antarctica on February 21.

Diane and Andy Mathisen will sing in Austria from March 7 to 17.

21. The Social Ministry Committee has begun a campaign to raise enough money to "DIG A WELL" in Africa. If the campaign is successful, the gift will provide enough clean water for 500 families. You will be hearing more about this later.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

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CHURCH CONSIDERS BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS by Gil Vatter

Last June, the Congregation Council decided that there ought to be a reassessment of the appearance of the narthex, the first part of the inside of the building seen by visitors to the church. By November, a brief outline of the duties of the committee had been written and a rough description of what ought to be changed had been submitted to the Council President. A notice to the congregation was included in the January issue of the "Voice" asking interested people to attend an organizational meeting, which was held in the library on Sunday

January 13, following the 10 AM service. Attending the meeting were Barbara Haher, Gail McKnight, Patty Vatter, Gil Vatter and Pastor Elstad and Council President Steve Miller.

The duties and goals of the committee were explained and a general discussion was held reviewing some of the things that would be examined at the next meeting, planned for Sunday February 3.

At the February 3 meeting, the committee made a "walk-through" of the narthex and surrounding areas and made a list of changes and additions, which could be made in order to make the church more attractive. The suggestions include the following:

A. Walls and Floors

1. Paint walls a neutral color (beige, cream, ecru, ivory, etc.)
2. Replace carpeting, which stains and is hard to keep clean, with non-skid ceramic tile, similar to tiles being used by other area churches, such as St. Catherine's RC Church (next door)
3. Replace ceiling tiles in the hallways and narthex with new uniform tiles to match the new wall color (#1 above)
4. Replace narthex lighting with "high-boy" lighting as is already found in the hallway to Frank Hall
5. Add double doors to entry to Education wing and Frank Hall, matching sanctuary doors
6. Remove door to Pastor's office leading into "cry-room" (low priority)
7. Remove wall opposite coat racks - Replace with steel beam covered with decorative column - Helps to open up the whole narthex area - Relocate light switch

B. Art/Decor

1. Clean up "clutter" in narthex
2. Catalog existing art (Luther, needlepoint cross, Good Shepherd mural) - decide where it should be hung - Buy additional art to hang in narthex
3. Hang "Vine" memorial where "tract rack" now hangs - install spot lights on opposite wall to highlight memorial

C. Furniture/Accessories

1. Continue to use tripods for posters and sign-up sheets - Put tripods in a storage room when not in use - Keep narthex open
2. Remove and discard "tract rack" - Move tracts, "Voice", Lutheran Magazine, etc. to ushers stand - More accessible - Can be distributed by ushers
3. Repair wooden bench by front door - Move to present location of Good Shepherd mural - Open up entry way
4. Buy second wooden bench - Move under new location of "Vine" memorial
5. Move overstuffed chairs to library - Keep narthex open - the narthex should not be a lounge
6. Move coffee service table under the window to the sanctuary - Use for food, COG collections
7. Buy 2 new "coffee service" tables with wheels - One to move to the center of the narthex each Sunday - One for "all purpose" use - Store "Coffee table" where the Luther picture now hangs - Store the "General purpose" table under the coat rack, outside the church office
8. Consider drapes/curtains for the nursery and class room windows on the parking lot side of the building and library windows

D. Storage

1. Remove everything from the old Xerox room - Use as storage for tripods, tables, bell choir pads and items occasionally used in the narthex and the sanctuary - After use, these items belong in this storage room, not cluttering the narthex
2. Clear out "cry room" area by moving everything to new storage room (#1 above)

- 3. Remove existing ladies room next to kitchen - Renovate and change men's room to "unisex" bathroom - remove walls from part of the ladies room - Part becomes new "Cloak room", part becomes "storage closet" for Altar Guild
- 4. Remove both existing coat hanging racks - Use new cloak room

E. Outside the Building

- 1. Cement steps and entryway - Cement cracked - Should be replaced with new cement or cement/bricks
- 2. Railroad ties are broken and unsightly - Replace with new wood/concrete ties - Paint
- 3. The hose should always be put away after use
- 4. Consider a fence to hide the trash area in the parking lot
- 5. Remove the box for mail and packages outside the old kitchen
- 6. Design and install a cover over the gas/electric meters
- 7. Stain/laquer the woodwork outside the entrance to the church
- 8. Design and install a cover/overhang outside the church entry doors
- 9. Pave half the parking lot

Undertaking the project described above will be costly and time consuming and it means another confrontation with the Holmdel Township authorities, a daunting challenge in itself. Still, many of these improvements can be made using a time line schedule in order to find the funds needed to make them possible. A few are not expensive.

The Narthex Enhancement Committee has presented their findings to the Council, which must now decide what we can afford to do and when it should be undertaken.

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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

February 3 - "Laudate, Praise the Lord" - M. Weston

February 10 - "In the Beauty of Your Presence" - D. Lantz

February 17 - "Jesus, With Us Abide" - W. Glen Darst

February 24 - "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" - Lloyd Larson

The Choir rehearses every Thursday evening at 7:30 PM in the sanctuary. Everyone is

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DONATING STOCK TO GOOD SHEPHERD by Clem Hergenhan

With the run up in the stock market, you may have stocks whose value has gone up. You can avoid paying tax on the gain in these investments and receive a charitable donation for their current value by donating them to Good Shepherd. If you would like more information please contact me, clem@csfcorp.com 732-224-8808.

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ST. MARK'S KITCHEN, INC. MOVES TO KEYPORT by Gil Vatter

The Kitchen at St. Mark's, Incorporated, which operated in Keansburg from 1994 to the end of October 2012, opened a new facility in late February in the Fellowship Hall of the Community Church of Keyport, on Warren Street, between Division and Osborn Streets. The Kitchen will offer a hot lunch at 11:30 am each Monday Wednesday and Friday and plans to expand this schedule as people in need learn of the new location. Nancy Mester and Doreen Minutella, who remain co-directors of the Kitchen, have announced that they will not re-open the pantry portion of the program, since The Ministerium of Keyport already has such a service up and running in St. Mary's Episcopal Church of Keyport.

In January, members of the Social Ministry Committee presented a check for \$1,000 to Nancy and Doreen on behalf of Good Shepherd. This money is in addition to gifts to St. Mark's Kitchen, Inc. made earlier through various programs of the church, including the "St. Mark's Sponsors Program", a part of the CROP Walk funds collected by Good Shepherd and monthly donations of food, including more than 1,200 cans of food brought to church by members of the congregation. Good Shepherd has been supporting this service to the hungry of the Bayshore area for over 15 years.

Anyone wishing to make a special gift to St. Mark's Kitchen, Inc. may do so by becoming a member of the St. Mark's Sponsors program or by contacting the co-directors at 732-495-5227 or kitchen_at_st.marks@verizon.net.



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SAINT MARK'S KITCHEN OPEN FOR BUSINESS
by Gil Vatter

The Co-Directors of the new St. Mark's Kitchen at the Community Church in Keyport have requested that any organization collecting food for the Kitchen change the mix of what they have been contributing to include food now needed by a "soup kitchen" rather than by a "food pantry". The list includes food that St. Mark's, Inc. began serving for lunch on February 11 in the new location on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. They will serve only three times a week until those needing the service discover the new Keyport kitchen and increase the demand for meals.

Meantime, St. Mark's Kitchen, Inc. will not re-open a food pantry and will refer their clients to the existing Keyport food pantry located at St. Mary the Virgin Episcopal Church and operated by the MInisterium of Keyport.

The new "mix" of food requested by the food kitchen includes :
cold drink mix, pasta sauce, pasta (especially ziti and elbow macaroni), canned potatoes, instant mashed potatoes, sugar (bags are OK, since they have their own dispensers), salad dressing, canned gravy, tea bags, coffee, ketchup, canned vegetables, paper plates, paper hot cups, plastic utensils, napkins, paper towels and toilet paper.

To learn more about the Keyport Kitchen, visit www.kitchenatstmarks.org or their Facebook page.

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Welcome little Brynn Leila Wilkinson – Marion & Ed’s new granddaughter!!!!

“ Born at 9:03 February 13th, 7lbs 1oz, 20 inches. She is such a blessing and an angel! Ali and Matt couldn't be happier! And we, of course, are over the moon! “ Marion and Ed Schloemer



March 2013

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1	2
						1-4pm NJ State Youth Orch
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service			1pm– Adult Forum	7:30pm – choir practice		1-4pm NJ State Youth Orch
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service	7pm- Concert Gettysburg Choir		1pm – Adult Forum	7:30pm – choir practice	12:30 – Ladies Luncheon Group @ Molly Pitcher	1-4pm NJ State Youth Orch
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service	7pm Council Meeting	7:30 – 9:00 Compassionate Friends	1pm– Adult Forum	7:30pm – choir practice		1-4pm NJ State Youth Orch
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9 – Breakfast 10 – Palm Sunday Service				7pm – Maunday Thursday Service	7pm – Good Friday Tenebrae Service	1-4pm NJ State Youth Orch
31						
9 – Sunday School 10 – Easter Service						