

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

May 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,

In the midst of a growing concern for our environment it is imperative for Christians to appreciate the profound theological implications which are inherent in the endeavor of bearing witness in this matter. As I thought as to how this might best be done I realized that Martin Luther provides the basic knowledge needed in this regard through what he wrote in his Large Catechism in the 16th century. Though far removed from the particular environmental and other social concerns which we are facing today, he offers helpful insights as to what is meant when we confess as part of our worship: “I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.” What Luther provides to Christians, both then now, as they search to give meaning to who they are and what they confess to believe in is found in the following paragraphs from the Catechism.

“I hold and believe that I am God’s creature, that is, he has given me and constantly sustains my body, soul, and life, my members great and small, all my senses, my reason and understanding, and the like; my food and drink, clothing, nourishment, spouse and children, servants, house and farm, etc. Besides, he makes all creation help provide the benefits and necessities of life – sun, moon, and stars in the heavens; day and night; air, fire, water, the earth and all that it yields and brings forth; birds, fish, animals, grains, and all sorts of produce. Moreover, he gives all physical and temporal blessings – good government, peace, security. Thus we learn from this article that none of us has life – or anything else that has been mentioned here or can be mentioned – from ourselves, nor can we by ourselves preserve any of them, however small and unimportant. All this is comprehended in the word “Creator.”

He then continues with words which are so appropriate for the world of the twenty first century. “ *Hence, because everything we possess, and everything in heaven and on earth besides, is daily given, sustained, and protected by God, it inevitably follows that we are in duty bound to love, praise, and thank him without ceasing, and in short, to devote all these things to his service, as he has required and enjoined in the Ten Commandments. . . . Here much could be said if we were to describe how few people believe this article. We all pass over it; we hear it and we recite it, but neither see nor think about what the words command us to do. For if we believed it with our whole heart, we would also act accordingly, and not swagger about and boast and brag as if we had life, riches, power, honor and such things of ourselves, as if we ourselves were to be feared and served. This is the way the wretched, perverse world acts, drowned in its blindness, misusing all the blessings and gifts of God solely for its own pride, greed, pleasure and enjoyment, and never once turning to God to thank him or acknowledge his as Lord or Creator . . . Therefore, if we believed it, this article should humble and terrify all of us. For we sin daily with eyes, ears, hands, body and soul, money and property, and with all that we have, especially those who even fight against the Word of God. Yet Christians have this advantage, that they acknowledge that they owe it to God to serve and obey him for all things.*

At a time when it seems as though our priorities are not always what they should be and so much of creation is in turmoil, I think that what Luther has written gives us a means of realizing what results when the first article of the Creed is not honored by remembering the First Commandment: “I am the Lord your God, you shall not have other gods before me.” And in his commentary on that commandment he wrote: “Anything on which your heart relies and depends, I say, that is really your God.” We really need to think about that because it clearly

indicates that at the heart of finding our way through our challenging times there is meant to be a deeper appreciation of the spiritual dimension of life. That will be the focus of next month's message.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Jack

P.S. For those who may be interested please check out the website *Lutherans Restoring Creation* to find "Ecological Theology Through Luther's Small Catechism".

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Council Minutes 04/08/13

In attendance were the following: Garry Westerweller, Steve Miller, Jamie Antonacci, Mike Carp, Tom Tehve, Pastor Jack, Sharon Oberkehr, Karl Tourjussen, and Andy Lichter

Absent: Andy Mathisen

Steve Miller declared a quorum to be present

Pastor opened the meeting with devotions posing the question of why did Jesus die? Discussed the fact that there were forces at work that were unhappy with Jesus and his teachings. Jesus was a threat. Ended devotions with the reading of selected verses from Luther's "A Mighty Fortress" with the message that Easter continues in our lives through witness.

Steve reviewed the agenda for the evening

March minutes were reviewed with Steve saying that he added bold lettering to the March action items. Also noted that Andy Lichter would be the organizer of the proposed 4/20/13 workday. For future reference **All suggested changes to the minutes will be returned to Garry for revision and submission to Pat Dunn.** Minutes were unanimously approved with the above revisions noted.

Submission of **Treasurer's report** as prepared by Clem. Council reviewed the numbers and had the following comments and suggestions:

- **Steve suggested and will ask Clem to switch the 2012 YTD column and the 2013 Budget Column so that all of the 2012 numbered columns run concurrently.**
- **Steve will also request Clem to remove the % Column**
- **Andy would like a hard copy available at the meetings as some council members did not receive an advance copy of the report. – This is an unassigned action item**

Motion by Mike, seconded by Karl to approve report with comments added.

Steve mentioned that the committee reports were available to discuss if needed. We then proceeded to discuss each committee report in detail – Garry later suggested that these be reviewed prior to each meeting so we can focus more on the issues at hand.

Pastor reported that he visited an Episcopal Church and was impressed by their use of flowers and plants to decorate the Narthex and outside areas of their church. He suggested we might want to spruce up our outside area, by the cross, with flowers. **Andy Lichter will contact Paul Krauss and Larry Jackson for planting ideas possibly for the 4/20 workday.**

Property committee will review potential solutions for the bad RR ties in our parking lot.

Social Ministry reported that Project Paul would be the designated recipient of the portion of funds collected for Sandy relief from the Gettysburg concert. \$341.00 to Project Paul, \$341.00 to the Well Challenge project

Property Committee reported they are waiting for a phone call from the Fire Alarm Company to update the Fire alarm system. **Jamie will follow up on this.**

Christian Education reported the continued need for a Sunday School teacher. Possible solution would be to get monthly volunteers.

The Evangelism Committee reported that although we had successful concert with Gettysburg Choir, we need to have a designated host for this and any similar event. **Steve suggested that this be made part of the policy and will create a draft of the same.**

Karl will reach out to the respective representatives for both the German School and Little Chiefs with regard to our expectations of keeping the church clean.

Karl will ask Gil to discuss the clutter in the basement with the German School in an effort to make it neater.

Karl also submitted the results of his time and talent survey. As of 1/2/13, It follows as such:

- Shirley and Larry Jackson will help on Usher Duty
- Pam Brown said she would like to help on the Fellowship Committee, however...
 - Pam Brown (leaving NJ - moving to South Carolina)
- Michael DiPiazza said he will help out in the marketing/advertising/promotion
- Andy Lichter said he will help out on the property committee
- Gil Vatter will serve on: Audit committee, Social Ministry, Choir, Narthex Enhancement, Voice
- Patty Vatter will serve on: Narthex Enhancement, Social Ministry, Choir and Fellowship
- Garry Westerweller said he will continue to help out on Fellowship functions, when possible and continue as Church Council Secretary
- Jim Caratura said he will help out on the Environmental Committee

While Karl would like to continue on with the Evangelism Committee, **we need someone else to spearhead mission support and stewardship. This is an ALL POINTS BULLETIN REQUEST!**

The **Finance Committee** reported that they were in the testing phase of bypassing Church Windows with Excel reports. **Tom will keep us posted**

Narthex Improvement Status

- No drawing yet submitted for wall improvement
- Andy thinks we only need one column in place of wall
- **Andy will contact Architect to review the possibility of eliminating one column completely**
- **Decision was made to kick back the choice of tile to Gil's group with the only stipulation being that the choice of tile must be non slip. Andy will contact Gil's group**
- **Gayle McKnight is getting the strip to repair the front door**
- **Gayle is getting a quote for an Awning out front**
- **Council members should take an active role in approaching new people to assist on various committees or projects.**

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer
Respectfully submitted Garry Westerweller.

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COURAGE IN AGING - Please mark your calendars with the following dates when Courage In Aging will be offered:

May 14, Tuesday at 1:30 and June 18, Tuesday at 1:30. Ruth Elstad and Elizabeth Haggerty are looking forward to seeing you again. Please plan on bringing a friend along to join in our conversation. Feel free to call Ruth at 732 864-0616 with any questions.

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NJSYO PLAYS CONCERT FOR WELLS

by Gil Vatter

On April 7, a sunny, cool Saturday afternoon, the musicians from the New Jersey State Youth Orchestra offered their annual Spring Concert at Good Shepherd Church. This year's concert was dedicated to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's campaign to provide wells and clean water for people in all parts of the world. The NJSYO is an all volunteer group, organized for the purpose of providing musical education to the youth in this part of New Jersey. There are now approximately 100 young people currently grouped into three orchestras according to age and ability. The NJSYO also has a chamber music program to offer the opportunity for the young musicians to perform in smaller groups. Rehearsals are held every Saturday at Good Shepherd Church. You may learn more about the NJSYO by going to their web site at www.njsyo.org.

After a few words of welcome from Steve Miller, President of the Good shepherd Council, the first half of the program was presented by nine very young string players from the Preparatory String Orchestra, under the direction of Ms. Katie Gussman. The orchestra's theme for the spring concert was "Marches" and each of the four numbers the youngsters played fell into that category. The first selection was "Concerto for Two Trumpets" by Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741) and reflected the expected Vivaldi flavor. "Desert Sands" by S. H. Newbold was a contemporary song with a feeling of the near-east with camels, oases and desert sand. It was followed by the familiar, lovely "Country Wedding Dance" by Bedrich Smetana (1824-1884). The first half ended with a more ambitious and challenging "Gavotte" by Arcangelo Corelli (1653-1713), for which the audience showed their appreciation to the young string players.

The second half of the program was given over to the Concert Youth Orchestra, conducted by Mr. Leo Soeda and made up of approximately 32 older, more experienced children. In addition to strings, the Youth Orchestra contained brass and reeds, but no percussion. The program given by the larger ensemble was obviously more challenging and more diverse than the earlier string music.. Each piece was introduced by two members of the orchestra, who introduced themselves and then explained something about the composer and the composition they were about to play. They began with an old, familiar musical, character selection, "The Parade of the Wooden Soldiers" by Leon Jessel (1871-1942), a German writer who's music inspired both a Hollywood movie as well as a dance routine by the famous "Rockettes" dance group with a jaunty march originally written for piano in 1893. The also familiar "Rondo alla Turca" by W. A. Mozart (1756-1791) gave the orchestra a more challenging tempo, which they nicely handled in this Mozart rondo. My personal favorite of the day was the "Funeral March for a Marionette" by Charles Gounod (1818-1893) which was used a few years ago as the theme music for the television show, "Alfred Hitchcock Presents".

The afternoon's music ended with "The Imperial March" by the highly regarded contemporary American composer John Williams (b. 1932) who wrote this piece as well as many others for the "Star Wars" saga and was commissioned to write music for scores of other movies, including "Superman", "Jaws" and "Indiana Jones". The young people obviously enjoyed playing this music and the audience showed their appreciation of the orchestra's efforts with a standing ovation as the exciting "Jedi" music was completed. A reception with refreshments to honor the orchestras was held in Frank Hall after the concert.

Good Shepherd thanks the NJSYO for their spring concert which raised over \$560 to help dig wells to provide clean, pure water for our neighbors throughout the world.

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AROUND THE PARISH by Gil Vatter

1. The congregation welcomed *Pastor Neil Jaggie* on Sunday April 7, while *Pastor Jack* was away. His sermon topic was, "Laughter is the best medicine". If you missed his sermon, ask him about the young Methodist minister and the donkey on Easter Sunday morning. *Pastor Jaggie* will be with us again at the end of may.

2. The GOOD SHEPHERD SPRING CONCERT SERIES has raised more than \$1,900 for the water wells project. Thanks to all who worked on these musical events.

Around the curve
Lickety split
Beautiful car
Wasn't it?
BURMA SHAVE

3. Happy birthday to *Ernie Brinkman* and *Jeff Miller*.

4. Happy wedding anniversary to *Pat and Brian Dunn*, *Elaine and Lou Medici*, *Becky Bartlett* and the 60th for *Patty and me*.

The color of my pastor's eyes
I simply can't define.
For when he prays he closes his
And when he preaches I close mine. (Grace Brinkman)

5. It was just great to see my old pal, *Walter Kyle*, back in church after several months of fighting sciatica. *Walt* gives credit to physical therapy for his recovery.

6. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd coonskin cap to the *New Jersey State Youth Orchestra* for dedicating their Spring Concert to raise money for the "Wells" Project.

When you need advice, everyone is ready to give you advice. But, when you need help, everyone gives you advice. (Bill Wherli)

7. *The Ladies Luncheon Group* met at the Sono Japanese Restaurant in Middletown on Friday April 19. See *Barbara Haher* for next month's event.

8. *Bill Wherli* returned to Boynton Beach, Florida on Thursday April 11 to "close up" for the spring. He should be back home in early May.

A jet plane was in a terrible storm. The Captain called in the chief flight attendant and asked her to do something religious, so, she took up a collection.

9. *Vivian and Bob Sislian* paid a visit to Williamsburg, Virginia in early April.

10. *Elaine and Lou Medici* returned from a cruise to Florida and the Bahamas in mid-April.

Ole was telling Sven about the night he took Lena to an amusement park. Sven asked him, "Did you take her through the tunnel of love?" Ole replied, "Yah, but we didn't like it at all. It was dark and damp and we got all wet." Sven said, "Was there a leak in the boat?" Ole replied, "There's a boat?"

11. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd stetson to Miae Park and the trio of young musicians who presented an afternoon concert on Sunday April 14 to benefit the Good Shepherd "Wells" Project. The concert raised over \$1,000.

12. It was nice to see former member *Elsa Snow* at the April 14 concert. Elsa send regards to all her old friends.

Speed was high
Weather was not

*Tires were thin
X marks the spot
BURMA SHAVE*

13. The newly organized *Good Shepherd Environmental Committee* had its first meeting on Sunday April 14. If you are interested in becoming a member, speak with *Nancy Fitch*, committee chair.

14. *Pastor Jack* used a Christmas hymn (Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" #270) to illustrate his sermon on Sunday April 14, the Third Sunday of Easter :

"Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings."

Lena went to see Doctor Swenson to talk about Ole's snoring. "It's so loud", she said, "I get no sleep. What can I do?" "Well", said the doctor, "there is an operation that will cure Ole. It will cost \$1,000 down and \$450 a month for two years plus payments for any extras." "My goodness", said Lena, "It almost sounds like leasing a new Lexus." "Hmmm", said Dr. Swenson. "too obvious, Huh?"

15. Spring has sprung and the Bradford pear trees on the Good Shepherd campus are in beautiful bloom. Too bad that the utility company saw fit to cut the middle out of all the trees. They look like Y's in bloom.

16. *Andy Lichter* thanks everyone who helped on the narthex clean-up day, Saturday April 20.

Young man - "Without you, everything is dark and dreary.....the clouds gather and the wind beats the rain.....then comes the sun.....you are like a rainbow."

Young woman - "What is this, a proposal or a weather report?" (Grace Brinkman)

17. Thanks to the children of the Sunday School who are discussing the environment and, in the process, drawing pictures. Two pictures were used during April for the cover of the Sunday bulletin:

Sunday April 21 - *Summer Howard*

Sunday April 28 - *Matthew Oberkehr*

18. *Pastor Jack's* sermon on "Earth Day", Sunday April 21, was "This Wonderful Place Called Earth".

Ole had a job bagging groceries at the local supermarket. One day, the store installed a machine for squeezing fresh orange juice. Interested, Ole asked the boss if he could be allowed to run the machine, but his request was denied. "Sorry Ole, said the boss, "but baggers cant be juicers."

19. *Trude and Charlie Miller* saw grandson C.J. Miller, play his guitar in an amateur contest at Jackson Memorial High School on Thursday April 25 and saw another grandson play baseball in Connecticut earlier in the month. (Oh by the way, he got a hit).

20. The congregation serenaded *Hannah Oberkehr* with "Happy Birthday" on Sunday April 21 to celebrate her tenth birthday.

Don't take guilt trips.
Take a trip to the mall, even to the next town,
state or even foreign country.
But, not where the guilt is. (Bill Theune)

21. *Diane and Andy Mathisen* celebrated their wedding anniversary by wearing matching tees that said, "HAPPILY MAUIED". They claim they bought the tees on their honeymoon 26 years ago.

22. Keep former Pastor *Ed Schmidt* in your prayers. You may send a card to:

Rev. Edward Schmidt
319 Juneberry Way
Deptford, NJ 08096

Sven asked Ole the secret of a long and happy marriage. Ole replied, "Well, we take time to go to a restaurant two times every week. A little candlelight, dinner, soft music and dancing. Lena goes on Tuesdays, I go on Fridays." (Bill Wehrli)

23. *Pastor Jack* will celebrate the anniversary of his ordination in May.

24. There was a sign in the narthex on "Earth Day" - "WATER IS LIFE : USE IT WISELY"

Check your Sunday bulletin to see what is being collected for the COG Evening Pantry Project and don't forget food for the Bayshore Lunch Program.

25. According to *Pastor Jack's* Sunday April 28 sermon, "People who go to church live longer."

26. The congregation was greeted with a display of floor tiles in the narthex on Sunday April 28. One example will be chosen for the new narthex floor.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH ON SUNDAY

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TRIO PLAYS FOR WELLS

by Gil Vatter

Mentored by Good Shepherd's Minister of Music, Miae Park, 15 year old Tommy Choi, violin, 16 year old Jonathan Kim, cello and 16 year old Euihyun Kim, piano, have developed into a trio worthy of our attention and admiration. The members of Good Shepherd Church have been enjoying the work of these three talented young musicians for several years and, as you would expect, each of the young men has matured in the years since they began playing together and that maturity is reflected in the quality of their playing.

The latest concert by the trio took place on Sunday afternoon April 14 at 3:00 PM in the sanctuary of the church. All of the performances by the trio have been offered specifically to benefit those in need, including the victims of the Haitian Tsunami, the Japanese Earthquake, local hungry families and, this year, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's project to provide wells for people who are living in parts of the world where clean, potable water is not available.

Those fortunate enough to attend the concert were treated to a nicely balanced program from 18th century classics to 20th century contemporary writing. The musicians began the afternoon with a melodious, beautiful rendition of "*Grave/Allegro molto con brio*" from "*Sonata No. 8 in C minor, Opus 13*" by Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1849). Pianist Tommy Choi followed with a solo performance of the familiar "*Fantasia-impromptu, Opus 66*" by Frederic Chopin (1810-1849). Tommy did a very competent job with the Chopin favorite, which many recall as the source of the popular big-band favorite, "I'm Always Chasing Rainbows", which topped the Billboard charts some years ago. A pretty melody nicely interpreted by the young pianist.

Jonathan Kim's impressive "*Allegro Appassionato, Opus 43*", accompanied by Miae Park, explored the depths of his instrument and challenged his mastery of the cello. His second number, "*Libertango*" by Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992), a modern echo of Latin syncopation, had feet tapping and heads nodding in appreciation of the beat and sound of the music.

Following a short intermission, Euihyun Kim offered another Saint-Saens number, "*Allegro non troppo*" from "*Concerto No. 3 in B minor, Opus 61*", accompanied by Miae Park, a most impressive display of his technical ability with harmonics on the high range of the violin as well as re-echoing, dulcet sounds from the low octaves. The lilt of a Gypsy air in a minor key was the "*Rumanian Folk Dances*" by Bela Bartok (1881-1945) an enjoyable middle-European melody featuring extensive and well done harmonics as well as a display of fingering that was most impressive.

The concert was concluded with the musicians united in Joseph Haydn's (1732-1809) "*Piano Trio No. 39 in G major Hob. XV/25*". In the expected style of Haydn, the three young men spun out a business-like approach to the piano trio, which pleased the audience, who reacted with rousing applause, demanding an encore. The trio complied with a contemporary work by David Evans, "*Be Still*", a pretty melody, begun by the cello and enhanced by the violin and the piano playing variations on a simple tune.

Singly, the musicians were entertaining. Together, their sound and style was well suited to offer the music of Beethoven, Haydn and the modernists. An afternoon of enjoyable music. Good Shepherd thanks the trio and Miae Park for the concert as well as the contribution of more than \$1,000 to the ELCA "Wells Project".

A reception followed in the narthex of the church.

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Thrivent Benefit Concert by Clem Hergenhan

You've heard about projects Good Shepherd takes on and receives financial support from *Thrivent Financial for Lutherans* through our local North Shore NJ Chapter. This year Hope Lutheran church in Freehold is doing a number of events to raise money to purchase a wheelchair accessible van for one of their members, Andrew McGeady. A free concert will be performed on May 5, 2013, 4pm at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Ocean Grove, NJ with freewill offering at the door to which Thrivent will provide matching funds. When Dr Gordon Turk was considering performing for the concert, his one question was "Will there be a Thrivent match?". Even though Gordon plays for the Methodist and Episcopalians, he is the son of a pastor, and he knows about the wonders of Thrivent for Lutherans! You can check out Gordon on his website www.gordonturk.com. Come enjoy the music!!

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A critically acclaimed concert organist, Gordon Turk has performed throughout the United States, Europe, Russia, the Ukraine, and Japan. His international tours have included solo recitals in concert halls, cathedrals, and universities, organ festivals, and concerts with orchestras.

He has been awarded competition prizes for performances of the music of J.S. Bach and also in the national improvisation competition of the American Guild of Organists.

Dr. Turk is Organist of Ocean Grove, NJ Auditorium, which houses one of the largest pipe organs in the United States, and Organist-Choirmaster of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Wayne, PA.

His interest and experience in organ building places him in demand as a consultant for the building of new pipe organs and restorations of older and historic organs.

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Contributions Update by Clem Hergenhan

Here's some info from the monthly Treasurer's Report given to Council at their meetings. The General Contributions are used for our yearly budgeted items.

	Mar 2013	YTD 2013	YTD 2012 (%)	YTD Budget (%)
General Contributions	15,197	38,010	33,810	33,750

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A FEW NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

by Gil Vatter

"Lord, use our voices, Lord use our hands, Lord use our lives, they are an offering."

April 7 - "Sound the Full Chorus" - George F. Handel

April 14 - "A Jubilant Song" - Mary L. Lightfoot

April 21 - "For the Beauty of the Earth" - John Rutter

April 28 - "Instrument of Grace" - J. M. Martin

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Thrivent Night at the Blue Claws by Clem Hergenhan

Once again the North Shore NJ Chapter will feature a night at the Blue Claws, on May 31. Thrivent members may obtain free tickets by contacting Jeff Hunt, jeffhuntfive@aol.com.

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May 2013

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1	2	3	4
			1pm – Discussion group Gospel of Mark	7:30pm – choir practice		1-4pm NJ State Youth Orch
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service			1pm – Discussion group Gospel of Mark	7:30pm – choir practice		1-4pm NJ State Youth Orch
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service	7pm Council Meeting	1:30 Courage in Aging	1pm – Discussion group Gospel of Mark	7:30pm – choir practice	12:30 – Ladies Luncheon Group	1-4pm NJ State Youth Orch
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service		7:30 – 9:00 Compassionate Friends	1pm – Discussion group Gospel of Mark	7:30pm – choir practice		1-4pm NJ State Youth Orch
26	27	28	29	30	31	
9 – Sunday School 10 – Service			1pm – Discussion group Gospel of Mark			