

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

August 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,

It is often said that the Bible is a challenging book to read and understand and I can appreciate that often being the case. Because I am always interested in using the best tools of exegesis* I was happy to have come across a short article by Rabbi Harold Kushner (*the author of "When Bad Things Happen to Good People"*) which is profoundly simple and extremely helpful. It is short enough for me to include his two paragraphs for you to consider.

"It will be interesting to see how the leaders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints deal with the apparent coming to light of facts to cast doubt on the validity of its founding narrative.

"Might I suggest that they use the tactic used by many modern Jews dealing with biblical narratives that defy credulity, from a six-day story of creation to Jonah living inside a large fish. We distinguish between left-brain narratives (meant to convey factual truth) and right-brain narratives (meant to make a point through a story; the message will be true even if it isn't factually defensible).

In short the Bible is true when we take the time to read, reflect and realize what side of the brain we are to be using.

*Exegesis: *Critical explanation of the meaning of words and passages in literary work, especially Biblical exposition or interpretation.*

During the week of July 22 we hosted a very exciting Vacation Bible School program having as its theme "Christmas in July". It was amazing to see how creatively the church was decorated and how each day's program made the Christmas story come alive. Seventeen students were enrolled and from my observation they all had a wonderful time. (We had a smaller number of children due in part to the fact that we generally have VBS in August, and because other nearby congregations we offering their programs.) Many thanks to the staff who did such a fine job: Sharon Oberkehr, Karen Rajala, Lillian Nemcik, Kelsey Kazmac, Elaine Sedan, and Ella Neumann and Dani Gordon. It was especially great that these young people brought in a very sizeable daily offering of food items for the Food Pantry.

On Sunday, August 4, we will welcome into the membership of Good Shepherd church John and Stephanie Dall who have been worshipping very regularly for a number of months. John was raised in the Catholic Church and Stephanie was formerly a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Old Bridge. John is a self-employed tax consultant and Stephanie is an accountant. They have three children: Donald, who is married; Jennifer, who is a student Teacher's College of New Jersey; and Christopher, who is attending Holmdel High School. We are blessed to have them worship and serve with us.

Enjoy the remainder of the summer.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Jack

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VBS was held the week of Aug. 22-26, and a fantastic time was had by all. The theme this year was "Christmas in July". We had 17 children attend, and we kept them very busy with stories, games, music and art projects all focused on the story of Jesus' birth. Our service project for the week was to collect food for St. Mark's Kitchen. Hopefully you have seen the food we gathered under the "tree" in the narthex. Thank you to all who volunteered their time and talent to make this years VBS such a success- Karen, Elaine, Lillian, Ella, Kelsey and Dani-Well Done! Sharon Oberkehr

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AROUND THE PARISH

by Gil Vatter

GOOD SHEPHERD - THE FRIENDLY CHURCH

This feature will be shorter than usual this month because Patty fell and broke her arm on July 19, so I have other fish to fry. Things should be back to normal next month.

1. Happy birthday to my old pal, *Larry Jackson*, who turned 90. Happy birthday also to *Rich Barlett*, *Barbara Haher* and *Matt Oberkehr*.

2. Happy Wedding Anniversary to *Ruth and Jack Elstad*.

A tragic accident occurred to Ole in a sawmill last week, when he lost his entire left side. He was rushed to the hospital and doctors report that he's all right now. (Grace Brinkman)

3. You contributed almost 1,100 cans of food for the Bayshore Lunch Program of Keyport through July (over 160 in July). Thanks for remembering your hungry neighbors.

4. *Pastor David Mangiante* filled in for Pastor Jack on June 30. His sermon topic was "Do it Now".

Bunny Kuhl reports that you should never lend money to a leprechaun because they are always a little short.

5. This year Vacation Bible School was held from Monday July 22 through Friday July 26. The theme for the week was "Christmas in July".

6. *Kurt Mathisen* is working in South Florida this summer. What a deal.

I must admit, I dropped out of Communism class because of my lousy Marx.

7. My sister, Sue Dombach, from Lititz, Pennsylvania visited Good Shepherd on Sunday July 7.

8. The congregation happily welcomed *Pastor Jack* back to church on Sunday July 7, after a siege in the hospital. Great to have the Elstads back.

What do you get if you cross a chicken with an octopus? A bird with enough drumsticks for the entire family.
(Grace Brinkman)

9. *Julia Shapiro*, soprano, sang the Offeratory on Sunday July 7. Her solo was, "On Eagles Wings" by M. Joneas. On July 14, she sang, "I Offer My Life" by Don Moen. Thanks Julia.

10. Please add Sonja Ongsiako to your prayer list.

Lena - "Der is trouble vit da car. It has vater in da carburator."

Ole - "Vater in da carburator? Dat is rediculous."
 Lena - "Ole, I tell you da car has vater in da carburator."
 Ole - "You don't even know vat a carburator is. I'll check it out. Ver is da car?"
 Lena - "In da lake"

- 11. *Andy Mathisen* is a "platelet doner". He donated platelets on Sunday July 14 before he came to church.
- 12. *Nancy Fitch* and her family spent the end of July "down the shore".

Man - Doctor, I can't stop singing, 'The Green, Green Grass of Home.'
 Doctor - "That sounds like you may have 'Tom Jones Syndrome'."
 Man - "Is it very common?"
 Doctor - "It's not unusual".

13. *Cynthia Kazmac* is reading about the "Founding Fathers" and *Walt Keyl* is reading about the German battleship "Tirpitz".

14. Sunday July 14 was a special day for the congregation. We celebrated the baptism of 3 month old John Borone Merley, son of Michael and Lindsey Borone of Manhattan. His sister, Summer Anne, was baptised at Good Shepherd on October 10, 2010.

A duck walked into a drugstore and asked for a tube of Chapstick. The cashier said to the duck, "That'll be \$2." The duck replied, "Put it on my bill."

- 15. *Lil and Bill Nemcik* are "Old automobile buffs".
- 16. *Elaine and Lou Medici* spent 11 days of July in the Charlotte, North Carolina area.

There's a method of transferring funds that is even faster than electronic banking. It's called marriage. (Bill Wherli)

- 17. Did you notice - A basket has been moved to the narthex to receive donated food for the Bayshore Lunch Program.
- 18. Special thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd bonnet to *Kim and Bill Wherli* for bringing 8 cases of canned food to church in July. Thanks!!

SEE YOU IN CHUCH ON SUNDAY

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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.

	June 2013	YTD 2013	YTD Budget	YTD 2012
General Contributions	13,622	67,631	67,500	67,620

Note that June giving was strong; it included 5 Sundays.

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August 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
						1-4pm NJ State Youth Orch
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10 – Service						1-4pm NJ State Youth Orch
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10 – Service					12:30 – Ladies Luncheon Group	1-4pm NJ State Youth Orch
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10 – Service		7:30 – 9:00 Compassionate Friends				1-4pm NJ State Youth Orch
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
10 – Service						1-4pm NJ State Youth Orch