

# *The Voice of the Good Shepherd*

**September 2013**

(our website ..... [good-shepherd.us](http://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,

Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> will mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ( ELCA ) which came into existence as the result of the merger in 1988 of the former Lutheran Church in America, the America Lutheran Church, and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in America. Presently the ELCA is the largest Lutheran denomination in the United States with 4.2 million members. The two other major Lutheran denominations are the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod having 2.28 million members and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod having 390,000 members. Among American protestant denominations it is the fifth largest.

Some perspective of what the ELCA has accomplished over the last quarter century was given by Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hansen when he wrote in a pastoral letter earlier this year the following:

*“As we observe our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we will look back at the people and the events that have shaped us as a church. We will mark the stories that have made us vibrant and distinctive and yet brought us together as nearly 10,000 congregations, 65 synods and numerous church-wide ministries, served neighbors in local communities, our country and around the world.*

*What God has done through us is indeed worth celebrating. In 25 years we have started 435 new congregations, ordained nearly 8,000 pastors, sent more than 2000 missionaries to serve around the world, and contributed more than \$350 million toward the alleviation of hunger and poverty.”*

Of course we must also recognize that the ELCA, as well as almost every other Christian communion, has in the same past twenty five years, experienced the demographic impact of a cultural change in terms of church membership and attendance. This will be a challenge. But the Church has faced numerous crises in its history and it has survived and thrived. In all likelihood it is with that in mind that the theme of our church’s anniversary year is **“Always Being Made New”**. Inherent in those four words is the recognition that what is most important is to focus on the future and by doing so honor those who served so well in the past. Bishop Hansen put it in these words: *“May our remembering, turn us from any nostalgic longing for the past toward God’s promised future. Let us imagine the Spirit writing another chapter in the Book of Acts today”*.

Thanks be to God for all the blessings of the past, and thanks be to God for all the opportunities to test our faith and commitment as we endeavor to serve him in the building of his kingdom in the world now and the days to come.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Jack

+++++

## **Welcome New Members!!!**

On August 4, Good Shepherd welcomed new members, John and Stephanie Dall. John was formerly Roman Catholic and Stephanie was a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Old Bridge. John is a tax

consultant and Stephanie is an accountant. The Dalls have three children: Donald, who is married; Christopher, who is a student at Holmdel High School; and Jennifer, who is attending Teachers College of New Jersey. August, 2013, marks the first anniversary of Stephanie's first visit to Good Shepherd. Please be sure to say hi to John and Stephanie!

+++++

## AROUND THE PARISH

by Gil Vatter

### GOOD SHEPHERD - THE FRIENDLY CHURCH

1. Here's a "Heads-Up" - *Miae Park* has scheduled the first choir practice of the new season for Thursday September 5 at 7:30 pm. See you there!!!!

2. Compassionate Friends begins another season at Good Shepherd. CF is a support group for parents who have lost children. They have been meeting at Good Shepherd since 1988.

A little girl told her Sunday School teacher, "The Lord lives at my house." The teacher replied, "How do you know that?" The little girl said, "Well, every morning my dad knocks on the bathroom door and says, 'Good Lord, are you still in there?'" (Grace Brinkman)

3. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd derby to all the kids who attended the Vacation Bible School in July and who brought more than 100 cans of food for the Bayshore Lunch Project. Thank you boys and girls and thanks to all the adults who made it possible for the church to have a VBS this summer.

4. Congratulations. You have now brought more than 1300 cans of food to church this year for the Bayshore Lunch Program. Keep up the good work. It is badly needed.

I've learned that if I really want that last piece of pie, I should take it and that while progress means change, change doesn't always mean progress. (Bill Wehrli)

5. There must be a Good Shepherd Magician because during the week of July 28, all the carpeting in the narthex disappeared and during the week of August 4, new tile appeared. Now how did he do that?

6. The Women's Luncheon Group dined at Windansea Restaurant in Highlands on Friday August 16. For information about the September lunch, see *Barbara Haher*.

I've often wondered, why doesn't Tarzan have a beard and why is it that no plastic bag will ever open from the first end you try?

7. I'm happy to report that *Bob Horlacher* is recovering at home.

8. The congregation sang Happy Birthday to *Larry Jackson* on Sunday August 11 to help celebrate Larry's 90th birthday. Congratulations!!!!

Quit griping about your church. If it was perfect, you couldn't belong.

9. Things have been frantic at the "Kuhl Best Western" in Holmdel. *Bunny and Herb* have hosted a ton of members of their family, some from as far away as Austria.

10. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd beret to *Julia Shapiro* (and , of course, *Miae Park*) for supplying music during the past summer.



Pastor Jack discussed Sunday attendance comparisons, 2008 through 2013

CONCLUSION: attendance rose after 2008-2009. However, attendance has been roughly constant the last 3 years (2010, 2011, 2012), and may be slightly down the first half 2013. There are 107 members (including 5 in senior facilities). 37 members are retired/older. Some may not be able to drive and attend church in the coming months.

Steve Miller discussed income from General giving (unrestricted contributions that are applied to the church budget).

CONCLUSION: income is generally flat. Year To Date 2013 income, Jan through end of July, is \$1200 higher in 2013 than comparable YTD in 2012. Backup data

Pastor Jack's priorities:

- strengthen congregation (fellowship opportunities and activities important to the congregation); avoid an edifice complex (avoid over-emphasis of the physical building).
- Develop a mission; make gospel relevant; use passage “God sent Son not to condemn the world, but to save the world” – apply to healing & transforming lives.
- Possibilities:
  - bring in guest speakers (Wheatbridge Ministries?)
  - DVD series “Stress & the body” from “Great Courses”
  - Create workshops
  - Hold health fare
  - Tie into Christian Ed, Environmental committee, church service, congregation survey, and every potluck dinner

In May, 2013, Garry Westerweller conducted a SWOT exercise– Strengths/Weaknesses/Opportunities/Threats. The council discussed continuing to follow-through the following “Opportunities”:

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Improvement of overall appearance
- Lots of traffic (building used for many things)
- Invite these people to our Social events
- Holmdel Community Day: Make our presence known in the Community
- Social Media awareness through internet, Facebook and Twitter, Update our Website; place on-line ads (Holmdel and Middletown "Patch", Radio Web site...)
- Start thinking “out of the box”
- Possibly sponsor a Girl or Boy Scout Troop
- Host some type of Community Event

### COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Develop synergies with German School . For example, invite them to sing during Christmas, just as they sang in a previous year;
- Ask German School and Little Chief give to Good Shepherd all announcements and schedules of celebrations.
- Ask liaisons to help with closer ties: Gil Vatter (German School) and Pattie Vatter (Little Chief)

GOOD SHEPHERD MISSION. Steve displayed Andy Mathisen's survey results (Andy was absent). ELCA guidance on creating a “Mission” includes interviews/surveys of congregation and community leaders. Pastor Jack also recommended interviews/surveys of the surrounding community. Further progress will require Andy's leadership. References: background ; ELCA guidance,...

Karl distributed (a 3rd time!) and briefly discussed "Achieving Congregational Growth Through Marketing" (written by Karl Torjessen and Michael DiPiazza)

The document states that Good Shepherd needs to be positioned in public's eye, so that when a person has an

“exceptional opportunity”, that person will want to attend Good Shepherd. The things that Good Shepherd could do to raise "consciousness" of the value of the church are through advertising, promotion, and active church involvement in community events and community quality of life.

GOOD SHEPHERD ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE ADVERTISED, following the guidance of the marketing program

(The 2013 church budget includes \$1500 for advertising, and \$300 for promotional materials.)

- Postcard/letter/visits inviting all new households within 1+ mi radius . The council recommended proceeding – assuming the cost comparable to 2012 (\$100+). Kathi DaGiau will provide the mailing labels. Steve will help with ad copy/photos/layout (however, Steve's time is limited through 1st week of October). The following information will be considered for publication on postcard/letter and other vehicles::
- Sunday School/children bell choir starts September 15 – Sharon to provide advertising details
- Sunday School picnic Sept 29 - Sharon to provide detail
- Adult choir – no tryouts required; also invite adults/parents to tryout adult bell choir– Tom Tehve to discuss with Miae and write details for ads and "The Voice"
- 
- At appropriate times, the following will be advertised:
- Christmas services
- spring concert series -
- Social ministry present & historic giving of member's time and money: identify events, and create appropriate photo/video/writeups for publicity
- soup kitchen- Gil Vatter
- Lunch break – Larry Jackson
- COG – Nancy - near term “back to school” drive; -also examine overall COG support for publicity opportunities for Good Shepherd
- “Dig a Well" (part of “World Hunger”)
- Summary of Julia Shapiro's summer 2012 and summer 2013 (& proposed 2014) Offering Music (Tom/Miae action)
- Habitat for Humanities Oct 6-12; invited speaker; Breakfast?; Eagle Scout project?
- flea market: Kathe DaGiau
- judged/juried craft show: Kathe DaGiau

## OTHER

- Ask Barbara Hahe's Women's Group to consider “adopting” and remodeling the library.: Possibilities: new blinds, paint,. Also, sort thru and discard unneeded things (presently behind the bedsheets hanging in the library) (Steve action to discuss with Barbara)
- Consider advertising on \*99.1 (NJ/NY area) @\$99/year for “Church Search” (Good Shepherd listeners include Mike Carp, and Mathisens) (Karl action: determine if cost-effective, and commission if appropriate)
- Exhibit table and materials at the Holmdel “Community Day” (Sharon action)

MEETING CLOSED with Lord's Prayer

++++  
THANKS to those who contributed to the property work day, Aug 24. We accomplished a lot, but there is more to do.

Aug 24 participants were Andy Mathisen, Karl Torjussen, John Dall, Stephanie Dall, Steve Miller, Jamie Antonacci, and special thanks to Fred Oberkehr for installing and almost finishing the lower wall of the hallway to Frank Hall.

(My apologies, if I overlooked anyone). We had a great after-work party, and some of us elected to go swimming.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED for the following work still remaining before Little Chief returns Sept 5:

You are welcome to tackle ANY JOB, at ANY TIME, ANY DAY before Sept 5!! Contact me to get you setup and started with all you need.

Steve Miller [stevemiller@comcast.net](mailto:stevemiller@comcast.net); 732-671-5917 (home); 732-977-4370 (cell)

**WORK ITEMS:** 8/26/2013

**1. PLUMBING:**

- Mens bath stall nearest bath door: install new wax toilet gasket; install new toilet hold-down bolts (1 hour)

**2. WALL : finish spackle bottom portion of hallway to Frank Hall:**

wet sand with sponge or cloth, and then apply 2nd final skim spackle coat (Fred Oberkehr ?)

NOTE: Gayle McKnight is arranging to get us a quote for special painting of the lower portion of the hallway wall, beneath the chair rail.

**3. WALL: finish spackle between pastor and secretary offices (& parallel wall 10 feet west)**

damp sand with sponge or cloth, and then apply final spackle coat) (1 hour)

**4. PAINT NARTHEX; PAINT TOP PORTION OF HALLWAY TO FRANK HALL** (a lot of hours)

**6. REPLACE BURNED OUT CEILING LIGHT:**

- Frank Hall ceiling (1 bulb- 30 minutes)

**7. HVAC FILTER REPLACEMENT:** replace fiberglass air filters in all 3 air handlers above Frank Hall classrooms. (1 hour)

**8. NARTHEX FLOOR**seal grout – 2 coats (8 hours)

**12. INSULATION:** Install insulation around cold water pipe in the SE ceiling above Pastor's office replace damaged tile with new tile (tiles to be supplied by John Dall) – 1 hour

**15. INSTALL COAT RACK?** – on same wall as front double doors – 1 hour

**16. PARKING LOT**

- replace and re-align parking barriers 1 hour
- Fill gravel potholes and ensure gravel coverage near church entrance & near dumpsters 1 hour

+++++

**TOUR OF BRSA** by Nancy Fitch

Citizens for Informed Land Use (CILU) of Holmdel is planning a tour of the Bayshore Regional Sewerage Authority's (BRSA) facility at Union Beach on Wednesday September 25th at 1pm. If you would like to attend please let Nancy Fitch know – interested Good Shpherd members are planning to meet at Good Shepherd about 12:00. Details regarding the tour, the facility, and directions may be found on the Bulletin Board in the narthex.

+++++

**Publicizing an Event**

If you are running any event for Good Shepherd worthy of publicity, Karl Torjussen is ready to help you get the word out. Send an email as far in advance as possible to [ktorjussen@comcast.net](mailto:ktorjussen@comcast.net) . Include a description of the event or activity, date and any other important details. Also include your phone number and e-mail address so Karl can get back to you.

+++++

**Ordination reported by Steve Miller**

Ten years ago, Carmine Pernini and Shelby Bachelor attended Good Shepherd. They came to Good Shepherd after they were attracted by the Good Shepherd web site; I believe they lived in Fair Haven. Pat and I

attended their engagement party; later we attended their wedding at Yale. They gave an August, 2003 benefit concert for Good Shepherd (P8080030.jpg attached: Shelby played flute, cello, and sang; Carmine played bass) Carmine attended Yale School of Music, focused on his bass playing

On August, 2003, Good Shepherd gave a gift to Shelby to help pay for Yale seminary (photo shows Shelby receiving gift from Ernie Brinkman; Pastor David Louder in background) We have not heard subsequent news about Shelby's ordination. HOWEVER, we are pleasantly surprised that Carmine Andrew Pernini was ordained Aug. 25, 2013 at Faith Lutheran Church in New Providence, NJ.





+++++

**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.

	July 2013	YTD 2013	YTD Budget	YTD 2012
General Contributions	12,493	80,124	78,750	78,889

The Property Capital Improvement Fund had \$15,000 added to it, which is the amount in the 2013 budget. It then had expenses of \$15,200 for work in the Narthex, leaving the fund with a balance of \$14,250. The Social Ministry Committee send \$500 to COG.

+++++

**Good Shepherd Environmental Survey** by Nancy Fitch

The environmental survey distributed on 2 Sundays in June had 15 respondents who wanted to learn more about and/or encourage others awareness in regards to the following issues -

- 9 - Water Pollution & Conservation
- 8 - Plastic Impacts, e.g. Styrofoam, Bags, Bottles, Ocean Pollution
- 7 - Global Warming and Reducing Our Carbon Foot Print
- 6 - Hazards of Herbicide & Pesticide Usage
- 6 - Energy Conservation
- 4 - Concerns in Regards to Fracking and Sand Oil
- 1 - Other – Modified Foods

They felt that some ways to learn and take intelligent action on those environmental issues concerning us would be -

- 13 -Sunday Inserts in Bulletin
- 8 -Environmental Bulletin Board
- 5 -Posters

- 3 -Sun. 1/2 Hour Program After Coffee (Occasional)
- 3 -Sun. 9:00 Discussion Group (1 to 4 Sundays on a particular topic – short video)

This September, as a starting point in response to this survey, we will provide an insert describing Styrofoam and its impacts on our environment. The church council is supporting our concerns by banning the use of Styrofoam cups at the Sunday Coffee hour and other church events.

In the future months we will begin to address some of the other issues in a variety of ways. Again, thanks for your participation.

++++  
**Courage in Aging** will meet on, Tuesday, September 10, 2013 at 1:30 in the church library. Our topic this month will be LIVING WELL--GROWING OLDER --THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES.

Elizabeth and Ruth are looking forward to seeing you all. Hoping to see you there and please feel free to bring a friend. Should you have any questions, call Ruth Elstad at 732-864-0616.

++++

**Trivent Choice Dollars** by Clem Hergenhan

Are you a Thrivent member? If so, you may have “Thrivent Choice Dollars” allocated to you which you can donate to a large selection of charitable organizations, including Good Shepherd. This past month, Good Shepherd received \$92 donated by several members. If you want to know more on how to do this, contact your Thrivent agent or get in touch with me, [clem@csfcorp.com](mailto:clem@csfcorp.com), 732-224-8808.

++++

**BAYSHORE LUNCH PROGRAM SUPPORTED BY GOOD SHEPHERD**

by Gil Vatter

For the past fifteen years, Good Shepherd Church has helped support the work of a local food kitchen which feeds anyone who comes to its daily offerings of food, fellowship and even more. None are turned away and all are welcome. The Soup Kitchen began its ministry during the early 1990's as Saint Mark's Kitchen at Saint Mark's Episcopal Church at Myrtle Avenue and Kennedy Way in Keansburg, New Jersey, as an independent, non-profit organization with a board of directors made up of committed people from the community. From the beginning, two local women were put in charge of administering the day-to-day operations of the Kitchen, Co-Directors, Nancy Mester and Doreen Minutella. Not long after establishing the Kitchen, a Pantry was added to offer bags of groceries to needy families in the Keansburg neighborhood.

Saint Mark's Kitchen and Pantry prospered in the Keansburg location until late 2012, when the Episcopal Church called a new pastor who decided that the Kitchen and Pantry should be a part of the church's ministry and not an activity of an independent board of directors. At that point, "Saint Mark's Kitchen" began seeking a new location where they could continue the work they had begun in Keansburg. Finally, in mid February, after searching the Bayshore area, a new site for the Kitchen was found at the Community Church on Warren Street in Keyport, New Jersey. The Kitchen was re-named the Bayshore Lunch Program (BLP) to reflect its new location and its move from Keansburg. BLP continues to serve all those in need of food and fellowship, three days a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 11:30 am. It expects to expand its hours in the future.

Representatives from New Jersey Hope and Healing, an agency that helps people manage the emotional consequences of Hurricane Sandy, are present almost every day at lunchtime. A nurse from the VNA (Visiting Nurses Association of New Jersey) is present every Friday to do blood pressure screening and answer health related questions. Volunteers from area organizations and churches provide food and prepare and serve a hot dish for many of the meals. The remaining meals are prepared and served by the Co-Directors. Recently, the Keyport Ministerium, formerly located at Saint Mary's Episcopal church in Keyport, broke ground for a new building adjacent to BLP. The new addition will house a pantry from which bags of food will be distributed weekly to many of the same clients eating at BLP.

Good Shepherd Church became involved with the ministry at Saint mark's during the late 1990's during Pastor Mike Gebhart's pastorate. for over ten years, the church provided a hot meal on the first Tuesday of each month and fed an average of 55 to 65 people at each meal. In 2009, the church began a project to provide food for the Kitchen and Pantry and has delivered approximately 6,500 cans of food to date plus pasta and sauce, baby food, cereal, rice and much more. In addition, a "Sponsors" program was established in January 2008, which enrolls members of the parish who wish to send a check for \$75.00 to help provide food for the Kitchen. Through 2013, this program will have sent more than \$6,600 to help feed our hungry neighbors. Over the six year period the "Sponsors Program" has been active, 26 families and two organizations (Sunday School and Women's Luncheon Group) have participated.

For more information about the Bayshore Lunch Program, go to [BLP125@optimum.net](mailto:BLP125@optimum.net) or telephone 732-217-1148. Food may be brought to the church and placed in the kitchen or in the basket in the narthex. To become a "Sponsor", please see Pastor Elstad or Patty or Gil Vatter.

# September 2013

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
10 – Service			1 – Table Talk			
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
10 – Service	7- Council Meeting	1:30 – Courage in Aging	1 – Table Talk			
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
9- Sunday School 10 – Service		7:30 – 9:00 Compassionate Friends	1 – Table Talk		12:30 – Ladies Luncheon Group @ Bahrs	
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
9- Sunday School 10 – Service			1 – Table Talk			
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				
9- Sunday School 10 – Service						