

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

October 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,

As you may know there two were important elections that took place this summer. One was in the Synod Assembly of the New Jersey Synod, the other at the ELCA's Church-wide Assembly in Pittsburgh. In New Jersey the Rev. Stacy Bartholomew was elected to succeed Bishop Roy Riley as bishop for a six year term. Shortly thereafter the Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, bishop of the Northeastern Ohio Synod, was elected to succeed Bishop Mark S. Hanson as Presiding Bishop of ELCA.

The elections, of course, were not the only events that happened at these ecclesiastical assemblies. At both the synodical and national gatherings the delegates had the opportunity to discuss and vote on items referred to them as "memorials", each of which addressed a matter of significant social importance. At the ELCA assembly the following five memorials were singled out for separate consideration and were adopted.

Immigration: *Advocated (828-40) that the U.S. adopt comprehensive immigration reform legislation as set forth by the ELCA message, "Immigration", and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. In a separate but related action, declared (851-24) June 22, 2014, "Refugee Sunday."*

Communion Practices: *Asked (688-193) ELCA congregations, synods, and the church-wide office to study "The Use and the Means of Grace" regarding who may communion among ELCA worshipping communities (For example, whether communion should be given only to the baptized) and requested a report and possible recommendations for consideration be given to the ELCA Church Council in April 2014.*

Same-gender families: *Encouraged (825-68) congregations, lay and clergy leaders, and synod bishops to discuss and share resources on "changing family configurations and their impact on society and the ministry of this church."*

Community violence: *To help decrease community violence, asked (834-41) ELCA members "consistent with their bound consciences" to ask their elected officials to pass legislation that promotes universal background checks, prevents gun trafficking and requires reporting gun loss or theft to law enforcement."*

Israel-Palestine: *Reaffirmed (812-45) the church's commitment to "awareness building, accompaniment and advocacy on behalf of a peaceful resolution of the conflict between Israel and Palestine", as well as reading and discussing the Kairos Palestine document issued by Palestinian Christians as a word of hope and a challenge for churches to work for the end of Israeli occupation. It also referred to Portico Benefits Services and the ELCA church-wide office the evaluation of possible ways to invest in Palestinian economic endeavors and other projects that would promote peace and cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians."*

I have chosen to bring these few matters to your attention to demonstrate how the policies and practices of the ELCA are developed by presenting the vast array of social issues to a place of discussion and democratic process. It is clearly indicative that the voice of the people is being heard and acted upon and that policies are

not arbitrarily made by the bishops or some agencies of the church, but by duly elected delegates from every synod and thus representing people from all parts of America.

But most importantly it is the attempt on the part of the church to do all things in good order, and above all else to bear witness to the Gospel in what is taught, preached and lived.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Jack

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Council Minutes 09/09/13 from Gary Westerweller

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

Absent: Andy Mathisen, Steve Miller, and Jamie Antonacci

Pastor opened the meeting with prayer

Mike presented his social ministry report where he outlined the distribution of funds from the proceeds gathered from shop for a cause. \$100 went to the crop walk, and \$85 to project Paul. Mike also expressed concerns that the congregational giving, through the offering plate, was slower than in years past. Pastor suggested that we should perhaps; start placing designated envelopes for donations in with the bulletins periodically. Other council members suggested that the trend would swing upward as the holidays approach, and perhaps the giving was seasonal.

Pastor called attention to the fact that the synod was sponsoring a number of stewardship presentations and the one nearest to Holmdel was to be taking place on September 11th, in Red Bank, NJ.

As a matter of record, I have attached a copy of Pastor’s report to the blanket e mail I sent out to Pat Dunn, Clem, and the Council members.

Andy Lichter was asked to report on the Narthex Project. Andy told us that the 6” base molding should be installed within the next week. **He also is following up with quotes from Patock to construct the new walls with columns. John Dahl will be finishing up the painting.**

A review of last meetings minutes and their action items included the following results:

- Barbara Hahr has agreed to adopt the proposed library project in an effort to clean and brighten it up. **(Pastor suggested that the Nursery be done as well – no one was assigned this action item)**
- Karl feels that we would get more advertising value for our dollar if we use the Holmdel, or Middletown, Patch for our advertising needs as opposed to *99.1 Radio.

Some upcoming events that we should advertise:

- 10/19 Flea Market
- 10/20 Crop Walk
- 9/29 Church Picnic (Tom will be showing a 15-20 minute slide presentation on Israel)

We received a thank you letter for COG for our recent donation of \$500.00

Sharon presented her Christian Education report where she told us the following:

- Sunday School start date will be 9/15/13
- Sunday School Picnic will be 9/29/13
- She is in the process of forming the Youth Group and will attempt to have an activity every other month.
- **Working on the formation of a bell choir.**

There was no Worship and Music report presented
There was no property report presented
There was no Treasurer's report presented.

Tom stated that we are continuing to wean ourselves off of Church Windows.

Pastor suggested that in these troubled times in the Mideast, he was going to try to reach out to the Inman, from up the block, for the purpose of opening a dialogue or presentation on the Muslim Beliefs. (As there are many misunderstandings and misrepresentations of what the true beliefs are)

Pastor also pointed out how Good Shepherd's visibility from the street has diminished, over the years. He suggested that we try to continue to clear additional brush and branches to increase visibility. **Karl will meet Pastor on Tuesday, 9/10/13, to get a view of the scope of this project.**

Tentative date for the Christmas Party will be December 8th, 2013. **(We may need to purchase more tables for this event – will discuss at next meeting)**

September 29th the new Bishop for the ECLA, will be installed.

Adjourn with the Lord's Prayer.

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AROUND THE PARISH

by Gil Vatter

GOOD SHEPHERD - THE FRIENDLY CHURCH

1. As you saw in another part of the Voice, Choir practice began on Thursday September 5 and the Choir has already led the liturgy four times and provided four anthems to enhance the service. New singers are invited to attend rehearsal each Thursday evening at 7:30 pm. Speak with Miae Park. Give it a try.

2. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd derby to *Jon Kim* for playing his cello at the Sunday September 1 service. We always enjoy it.

Ole - "Lena, you look the same today as you did when I married you fifteen years ago."

Lena - "No wonder, you cheapskate, I'm still wearing the same clothes." (Grace Brinkman)

3. *Bob Fulmer* was back in church on Sunday September 1, walking very slowly and carefully, after a siege of problems with his right hip.

4. The chnges in the narthes continue to evolve, with new paint on the walls to match the colors of the floor tiles.

5. The Social Ministry Committee delivered 150 cans of food plus coffee, baby food and condiments to the *Bayshore Lunch Program* in Keyport on Wednesday September 4, all contributed by members of the congregation. Keep up the good work. In total, we have contributed more than 1,350 cans of food in 2013 compared to 1,150 through August last year.

Ole - "Sven, I see that you are wearing one red sock and one white sock."

Sven - "Yes. And can you imagine, I have another pair at home just like it." (Grace Brinkman)

6. It was great to see all the youngsters on Sunday September 18, when Sunday School classes began for the fall.

7. *The Ladies Luncheon Group* dined at Bahr's Restaurant in the Highlands on Friday September 20. For information about the October get-together, see *Barbara Haher*.

I've learned that whenever a friend calls me on the phone to say "Hi", it always makes me smile. (Bill Wehrli)

I've learned that a kindness done is never lost. It may take a while, but, like a suitcase on a luggage carousel, it will return again. (Bill Wehrli)

8. *Pat and Steve Miller* spent two weeks in England and Scotland during September.

9. *Karen and Andy Lichter* have decided to move to Trouville, North Carolina, in the central part of the state, as soon as they sell their house in New Jersey.

A woman asked her husband, "Could you please go to the store for me and buy one carton of milk and, if they have avocados, get 6."

A short time later, her husband returned home with 6 cartons of milk.

With some exasperation, his wife asked him, "Why did you buy 6 cartons of milk?"

He replied, "They had avocados."

10. *Pat and Brian Dunn* spent the week of September 15 in Kentucky .

11. Happy birthday to the twins, *Kirsten and Kurt Mathisen* who reach a milestone 21 years old in October. *John Haher* will be 93, *Dick Alberti* turns 71, *Bunny Kuhl* celebrates in October and yours truly will be 39 (for the 37th time).

If a church wants a better minister, it only needs to pray for the one it has.

Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on the front door forever.

12. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd panama to *Stephanie and John Dall* who spent hours on Saturdays painting the narthex walls. They did a super job.

13. Who knew? *Ellen Tehve* had a vegetable garden this past summer and grew, among other things, tomatos, cucumbers and even some potatos. The tomatos were delicious (I now, because she was kind enough to give us some.)

Why is it that whenever you try to catch something that's falling off the table, you always seem to knock something else over?

14. Just heard that *Ernie Brinkman* is recuperating at WedgeWood Garden Care, 3419 Route 9, Freehold, NJ 07728. Get well, Ernie.

15. Thanks to Pastor Neil Jagge, who substituted for Pastor Jack while he and Ruth were on vacation in Vermont, the week of September 16

A long Sunday drive can be pleasant, but only if the ball stays on the fairway. (Bill Wehrli)

16. *Walter Keyl* is reading a biography of Woodrow Wilson.

17. Led by Miae Park and the Choir, the congregation began the service on Sunday September 29 by singing "Happy Birthday" to Pastor Jack. Loads of smiles and big applause.

I tried to catch some fog. I mist.

Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.

18. Sunday September 29 was a beautiful fall day with temperatures in the 60's and a perfect day for the ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC. Thanks to *Debbie Blackburn* and all those who contributed to the success of the event. It began with a beautiful rendition of the "Doxology" by the Children's Bell Choir, who also played "Happy Birthday" in honor of Pastor Jack's birthday. *Tom Tehve and Steve Miller* presented a slide and movie tour of Israel. The food was delicious, the fellowship was great - all-in-all a wonderful afternoon.

19. Rumor has it that the church will be adding new drapes to the nursery and library windows this fall.

20 *Randi Stetz and Patty Vatter* are relieved to see the 2013 New York Yankees season end. Wait'l next year.

Lena and Ole were discussing a "living will".

Ole said, "Yust so you know, I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine.and fluids from a bottle. If dat ever happens, pull the plug."

So, Lena stood up, unplugged the TV set and threw out all the beer.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

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COURAGE ON AGING will meet on October 15 at 1:30 in the church library. We will be looking at the topic LIVING WELL--GROWING OLDER. Please plan on coming and bring a friend. Feel free to call Ruth Elstad at 732 864-0616 with any questions. Mark your calendars also with our November date of Tuesday November 12 at 1:30. Our topic will be on the subject of JUDGMENT. We will discuss positive and negative judgments, changing judgments and the state of being nonjudgmental. Elizabeth and I are looking forward to seeing you
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CROP WALK

The Red Bank Crop Walk (a 5-mile walk) will be held on Oct 20. By signing up sponsors and walking that day you will be collecting money for local food pantries. In addition, this year, a special collection of peanut butter, rice, and dry beans is being made to send to the local food banks. These items may be purchased and placed in the church narthex before Oct 20. Look for more announcements in the weekly church bulletins of other activities on that day and see Mike Carp if you wish to participate. You can also contact Mike if you wish to be a sponsor and he can put you in touch with the participants.

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BLP SPONSORS PREPARING FOR 2014

by Gil Vatter

Good Shepherd Church has been a long time supporter of the **BAYSHORE LUNCH PROGRAM**, formerly called Saint Mark's Kitchen. BLP, now located in Keyport, is an independent , non-profit organization which provides a hot meal for those in need of food and fellowship. Located in the "Fellowship Hall" of the Community Church of Keyport on Warren Street, BLP serves a meal every Monday, Wednesday and Friday and expects to expand their food service as the need arises. The Ministerium of Keyport has broken ground next to BLP to build a Food Pantry, where bags of food and household supplies will be distributed to area families.

To assist BLP in their work, Good Shepherd has served hot meals in the past and continues to deliver food to the kitchen on a monthly basis. This effort alone has amounted to more than 6,300 cans of food since 2009 plus a great deal of other food, such as peanut butter, jelly, baby food, pasta, cereal, etc. all provided by members of

the church and delivered by the Social Ministry Committee. Also a part of the church's ministry is the "BLP Sponsors Program".

The BLP "Sponsors Program", active since 2008, is made up of members of the congregation who send a check for at least \$75 to BLP once a year. Twenty six families and Two organizations from the parish, the Sunday School and the Ladies Luncheon Group, have also participated in this effort and have sent more than \$6,600 to help feed their hungry neighbors.

Planning for the 2014 Sponsors Program is now underway. We need a family for each month of the year or, as happened this year, several families for each month. Two families have already volunteered to be a part of the 2014 program. To participate in next year's BLP Sponsors Program:

1. Mention your interest to Pastor Jack, Patty or Gil Vatter or any member of the Church Council. If you prefer a special month, please say so. You are signing up for ONE MONTH ONLY. If you want to volunteer for more than one month, please say so. Participation in past years will not automatically make you a participant in 2014.

2. Participants will be notified in writing several weeks before they are required to write a check for at least \$75 with full instructions how to proceed.

3. You are asked to note "Good Shepherd Church" on your check. All donations are tax deductible but will not appear on your 2014 Giving Report from the church.

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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

Choir rehearsal began on Thursday September 5 at 7:30 pm and will continue each Thursday evening in the church. Everyone is invited to attend.

On Sunday September 1, Jonathan Kim, accompanied by Miae Park, provided the Prelude ("Psalm 121" by S. S. Jung), Offering music ("Someone is Praying for You" by Don Marsh) and the Postlude ("Allegro" by A. Vivaldi)

Members of the Choir for the 2013-2014 season include the following:

- Organist and Minister of Music - Miae Park
- Sopranos - Pat Miller, Randi Stetz, Patty Vatter and Kim Wehrli
- Altos - Diane Mathisen, Trude Miller and Ellen Tehve
- Tenors - Andy Mathisen and Tom Tehve
- Basses - Andy Lichter, Charlie Miller, Gil Vatter and Bill Wehrli

- September 8 - "I Will Sing Praise" - J. M. Martin
- September 15 - "I Love Thee, I LoveThee" - J. Brahms
- September 22 - "Here I Am, Lord"
- September 29 - "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" - R. W. Thygerson

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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.

	Aug 2013	YTD 2013	YTD Budget	YTD 2012
General Contributions	7,971	88,095	90,000	90.159

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WHO DOES WHAT AT GOOD SHEPHERD
by Gil Vatter

LAY READERS AND ASSISTANTS

Sue Alberti - Dick Alberti - Jamie Antonacci
Debbie Blackburn - Andy Lichter - Andy Mathisen
Gayle McKinight - Pat Miller - Fred Oberkehr
Tom Tehve - Karl Torjussen - Gil Vatter - Garry Westerweller

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Member News ---- Junior goalkeeper Amanda Westerweller of Holmdel was named the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Defensive Player of the Week, league officials announced Tuesday, Sept 3. Westerweller, who earns her first career weekly award, made a career-high seven saves in the season opener at No. 15 Northeastern.

"Amanda's play since the first scrimmage to the first game has helped us make a huge leap forward," said head coach Carl Figlio. "From the backfield, she has an amazing presence. She is making some fantastic saves and she has been able to gain a ton of confidence. Her improvement from day one of preseason to this point has been tenfold and we are really excited and proud of her."

In just her second career start in cage, Westerweller kept the Hawks in the game against the Huskies. The local product, who made four saves in the first half, did not allow a goal until the 37th minute when Northeastern knotted the score at 1-1. Despite getting tagged with the loss, Westerweller recorded a .778 save percentage against NU.

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2.7 MILLION IN NEW JERSEY LIVE IN POVERTY
by Gil Vatter

In an article in the September 8 issue of the Asbury Park Press, correspondent Bob Jordan reported that nearly a third of New Jerseyans, 2,700,000 of us, are living in poverty, the highest figure in the last fifty years. The end of the recession in 2009 did little to end the expansion of poverty in our state and, while the growth in population continues, the number of families without an income large enough to support themselves also grows larger each year..

The cost of living in New Jersey has long been right at the top among the fifty states of the Union and meeting these costs has not been reflected in the wages being paid in the Garden State. The economy has continued to have a crunching effect for many, even those with a full time job. Median incomes are actually lower than they were in 2006. The number of people living in poverty has increased each year since 2007 and there are between 630,000 and 780,000 children living in poverty plagued households in New Jersey. The state's unemployment level also remains higher than the national average.

Researchers define poverty as 2 1/2 times the federal government's poverty level, a threshold that places 2.7 million of our citizens in poverty, or nearly one out of three. The Legal Services of New Jersey estimates that an average family of four needs from \$64,238 to \$73,371 to meet living expenses. Cities such as Camden, Passaic,

Lakewood, Paterson, Trenton and Newark lead the list with more than 50% of their citizens falling below the poverty level.

Charitable organizations, such as churches, lodges and government agencies continue to be one source of hope for families without enough food and clothing. Food kitchens and food banks, such as the Food Bank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties, stand between despair and the chance for a family to live a decent life.

Good Shepherd's support of various charities, including the Crop Walk, the COG Household Goods program the World Hunger Campaign, the monthly collection of food for the Bayshore Lunch Program and the BLP Sponsors project are all part of our personal response to the war on poverty.

October 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	5
9- Sunday School 10 – Service						
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9- Sunday School 10 – Service			1 – Table Talk			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9- Sunday School 10 – Service	7- Council Meeting	1;30 Courage in Aging 7:30 – 9:00 Compassionate Friends	1 – Table Talk		12:30 – Ladies Luncheon Group @ Pour House	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9- Sunday School 10 - Service 1pm – Crop Walk			1 – Table Talk			
27	28	29	30	31		
9- Sunday School 10 – Service			1 – Table Talk			