

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

November 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

On Thursday, November 28, we Americans will have the opportunity to continue a tradition initiated by our first president, George Washington, to observe a day of thanksgiving. This is an occasion for every American regardless of whether they belong to a religious community or not to take time to reflect on whatever it may be that can be appreciated and recognized as a blessing. Even if it is as simple as seeing the dawning of a new day and realizing that you are alive and can make choices as to how the rest of your life will unfold. From that moment on, your sense of gratitude can make all the difference in the world. And if you have trouble focusing on the giving of gratitude consider the following short poem authored by Charles Reznikoff:

Te Deum

Not because of victories I sing, having none,
but for the common sunshine, the breeze,
the largess of the spring.

Not for victory, but for the day's work done,
as well as I was able;
not for a seat upon the dais,
but at the common table.

In terms of our faith the recognition of giving thanks is underscored in every celebration of our liturgy, or as it is sometimes referred to as the eucharist, a Latin word meaning "thanksgiving". At the point in the liturgy when we prepare to bless the bread and wine and then receive these gifts of grace, we join in what is known as The Great Thanksgiving which includes these words: "It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise . . ." Those words capture the spirit of St. Paul whose life was filled with challenges and difficulties often under extreme conditions, but who has inspired a countless number of people through twenty centuries with his personal testimony of gratefulness. There are two passages from his letters that are especially timely for us to consider: "Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances" (I Thes.5.18) and "Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." (Phil. 4:16) From these few directives it is evident that our "thanks-giving" is meant to translate into "thanks-living". How does this happen? Perhaps it is best summed up in these words from one of the prayers in our Lutheran Book of Worship:

"Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience."

With such thoughts Ruth and I wish you all a very happy Thanksgiving Day.

Pastor Jack

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Council Minutes 10/14/13 from Gary Westerweller

In attendance were the following: Garry Westerweller, Steve Miller, Andy Mathisen, Mike Carp, Pastor Jack, Karl Torjussen, and Andy Lichter

Absent: Sharon Oberkehr, Tom Tehve, and Jamie Antonacci
Steve declared a quorum to be present.

Pastor opened the meeting with Devotions. He then handed out an article titled, "A Church With A Plan", which discussed mission planning.

Steve then played a short video from the First English Church in Columbus, Ohio.

Pastor suggested that we might get an evangelism representative from the ELCA to visit us.

As we proceed to find ways to grow our Church, several suggestions were put forth as to how to reach out to the community and get them to join us. The following action items were suggested:

Garry will reach out to the local HS chorus director to see if there would be any interest in having them put on a performance at Good Shepherd, or possible join us for a Sunday service.

Gil and Steve will reach out to Little Chiefs in an effort to come up with some joint activities

While discussing our relationship with Little Chiefs it was noted that a large amount of traffic comes in and out of our facility each day, dropping off the children that attend the pre-school. Steve suggested that we could potentially set up a coffee and donut area (once a week) to engage these people in conversation and fellowship.

The meeting's agenda was approved

Steve noted that unless there was something that needed to be added, the committee reports were available on-line for review.

Mike moved that the minutes from September be approved
Andy Lichter seconded it and the minutes were approved

The treasurer's report that was submitted by Clem was discussed.

Pastor noted that our income was lower than last year at this time.

Steve was wondering where the money spent on the flooring project showed up

Mike noted designated giving was lower than last year

Mike also did not know where the \$120 donations for Social ministry came from

Steve will reach out to Clem regarding these items

Pastor brought up the fact that we have 75 unused bibles in our possession and that Grace Lutheran Church in Freehold could use them. He moved that we donate these bibles to Grace Lutheran, Karl seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

While discussing fellowship opportunities, a quarterly breakfast for the Men of the congregation was brought up. Pastor will coordinate the first outing.

Pastor also noted that the visibility of our building is poor and could be improved by some removal of the shrubbery between St. Catherine's and Good Shepherd. Pastor will reach out to Jamie and coordinate the removal with St. Catherine's people. Karl volunteered to assist.

Andy noted that we are proceeding with trying to get a bell choir formed.

Old Business

The date of this years Christmas Party will be either December 8th or 15th. As there is a possibility of Kurt Mathisen's group singing, Andy will get back to Garry with the date Kurt is available. In addition, Andy will look into the purchase of (3) more tables for the party.

Steve reviewed all the old action items from June and August that were still not completed.

Andy Lichter reported on the cost of columns for installation in the Narthex. Council voted to continue with the previously approved work (by the congregation)

New Business

Holmdel is preparing to possibly tax Good Shepherd for the % of "for profit" use that it receives from Little Chiefs.

Garry will review the policies and procedures for our Youth Ministry and report back to where we are in regard to those policies.

Karl's marketing plan was reviewed and Karl discussed the costs of advertising in the Holmdel/Hazlet Patch. Cost per month was \$280.00 with a minimum three month commitment. Council approved the cost of this project for three months.

Steve will check to see if we can measure the amount of "hits" we get to our website, as a result of this add.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

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PROPERTY WORK DAY
Saturday, November 2, 9AM- 3PM

Both inside and outside jobs. A partial list:

TRIM BRUSH & TREES. Bring tools: chainsaws, long/heavy extension cords

HANG COAT RACK: cut to size; attach brackets, attach to wall

MOVE BULLETIN BOARD; REPLACE Furnace Filters; EXIT SIGNS: test & replace batteries; replace bulbs; clean and lubricate opener hardware on Frank Hall Windows; ROOF: replace missing shingles

Further information: Steve Miller 732-977-4370 (cell)

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AROUND THE PARISH

by Gil Vatter

1. *The Social Ministry committee* delivered over 100 cans of food and other items to the *Bayshore Lunch Program* in September - This year, to date, Good Shepherd has given over 1,430 cans of food to BLP.

2. Happy Birthday to *Pat Schmidt*.

My son has his academic future well planned. He wants to go to the U of D for his BA, UCLA for his MBA and MIT for his PHD. Anyway, by the time he's finished, I'll be B-R-O-K-E. (Grace Brinkman)

3. Happy anniversary to *Lil and Bill Nemcik* (married 42 years).

4. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR** - The 2013 annual Christmas party is scheduled for **Sunday December 8** in Frank Hall. BE THERE!!!!

When Ernie and I were first married, I said to him, "Don't expect great meals right away. It takes a while to find good restaurants." (Grace Brinkman)

5. *Arnold J. Burns*, father of *Linda Burns*, died in October at age 83. He served as Deputy Attorney General under Edwin Meese during the Reagan administration. And God will wipe away all tears.

6. *The Women's Luncheon Group* met at The Pour House on Shrewsbury Avenue on Friday October 18 at 12:30. For information about future activities, see Barbara Haher.

I've learned that - The day you go on a diet, someone wants to take you to dinner at your favorite restaurant. (Bill Wehrli)

7. I certainly hope you didn't miss *Pastor Jack's* Childrens Sermon, "Sharing at the Altar" on Sunday October 6. It was a winner. (Those kids are so cute).

8. Folks from Good Shepherd participated in the 33rd annual **CROP WALK** on Sunday October 20. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd Beanie to our kids who walked in Holmdel Park: *Matthew Oberkehr, Tim and Logan Wilgus, Michael and Isabella Antonacci and Katy, Kolby and Summer Howard*. Thanks also to the adults who walked to Red Bank, *Pastor Jack, Kim Wehrli and Mike Carp*. Proceeds from contributions to the Crop Walk will be divided between national and local food banks.

I've learned that - God doesn't ask you to be the best....just to do your best. (Bill Wehrli).

9. The congregation welcomed *Bob Stetz*, who worshiped with us on Sunday October 13.

10. Now I'm sure that autumn is here - *Bill Wehrli* is closing up the beach house.

What do you call a witch's garage.....A broom closet and what do they call a monster that poisons corn flakes.....A cereal killer. (Bill Wehrli)

11. The congregation welcomed *Becky Bartlett*, home from San Francisco, who worshiped with us on Sunday October 20.

12. Sunday October 20 was anniversary #62 for *Randi Stetz*, who left Oslo, Norway 62 years ago to live in the United States. The day she left home was also the date of her father's birthday. October 20, 1951 was a teary day, but the start of a new life for Randi.

I don't know why some people change churches. What difference does it make which one you stay home from.

13. *Freddie Oberkehr* is smiling, the New York Giants have won two games in a row. (Go Giants)

14. It was like Old Home Week at Good Shepherd on Sunday October 27. Our friend *Ernie Brinkman* worshiped with us after many weeks of rehab at a Freehold care facility. Ernie is home now and, with the help of his caregiver, he was able to join us for the morning. Lots of hugs and hand shakes and a few tears, but a happy day for all. Now, if we can only figure out how to get Grace in church.

Macy's employees staged the first Thanksgiving Day parade in 1924 and it was so successful, they decided to make it an annual event. The first character balloon to appear in the parade was Felix the Cat in 1927. The parade was first televised in 1945. (Barbara Maher)

15. In case it slipped your mind-----Tuesday October 29 is the first anniversary of Hurricane Sandy, the worst storm to hit this area in many years. Some of our members, and lots of local businesses and home owners, are still recovering from the destruction of the storm.

16. Have you signed up to be a "Sponsor" for the Bayshore Lunch Program?

SEE YOU IN CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

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COURAGE IN AGING--Please note the date for Courage In Aging for November has been changed to November 13, Wednesday at 1:30. Our topic will be on Judgment. We will discuss positive and negative forms of judgment and the state of being non-judgmental. Please plan on joining us for this interesting topic that we all deal with from time to time.

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BLP SPONSORS STILL NEEDED

by Gil Vatter

Only six families or organizations have become "Sponsors" for the Bayshore Lunch Program for next year. 2013 has been a very successful year for the program, which helps provide hot meals for needy families in the Bayshore area. Seventeen families and two organizations from the congregation (the Sunday School and the Ladies Luncheon Group) were assigned one month in 2013 during which they sent a check to BLP for at least \$75. BLP has come to depend on Good shepherd "Sponsors" as one of their reliable sources of funds.

As indicated in the October issue of the "Voice", BLP is serving a meal every Monday, Wednesday and Friday to everyone who comes to the Community Church on Warren Street in Keyport and expects to expand the schedule as they find additional sources for food and volunteers to serve it.

To help BLP with their vital program, just indicate that you want to help feed our hungry neighbors by notifying Pat Dunn in the church office (732-842-4596) or speak with Pastor Elstad, Patty or Gil Vatter or any member of the Council. We need at least one family or organization for each month.

To review the program:

1. You need to sign up each year. Participation in past years will NOT automatically make you a participant in 2014.
2. If you want to send a check for more than one month, please say so.
3. Once you sign up, you will be notified in writing when it is your turn to send a check.

Thanks for your interest in the Bayshore Lunch Program.

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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. We are an offering.

October 6 - "Glory to Thy Name, Most High" - Mary McDonald

October 13 - "Lord of Hosts, We Praise You Forever" - J. Haydn

October 20 - "I Will Lift Up My Eyes" - S. Pethel

October 27 - "One Faith, One Hope, One Lord" - C. Courtney

The Choir meets for rehearsal each Thursday evening at 7:30 in the sanctuary. All are welcome.

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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.

	Sep 2013	YTD 2013	YTD Budget	YTD 2012
General Contributions	9,862	97,957	101,250	101,429

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Some pictures from the Good Shepherd Crop Walk





November 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	6	7	8	9
9 - Service 10-Sunday School			1 - Table Talk	7:30 – Choir Practice		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9 - Service 10-Sunday School	7 - Council	1-Table Talk	1:30 Courage in Aging	7:30 – Choir Practice	12:30 Ladies Luncheon Group @ Lincroft Inn	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9 - Service 10-Sunday School		7:30-9pm Compassionate Friends		7:30 – Choir Practice		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9 - Service 10-Sunday School						