

# *The Voice of the Good Shepherd*

**December 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**

Have you ever thought why December, at least in the Northern Hemisphere, is the perfect time to celebrate Christmas? I suggest this is due to the fact that December 21 will have the fewest number of sunlight hours; darkness will have reached its zenith. Because of this observable natural phenomenon, it is understandable that it can be used to illustrate profound Biblical themes which are associated with the Advent and Christmas celebrations.

Basically the themes of darkness and light represent the struggle between evil and goodness. Darkness is threatening and forbidding. Light is encouraging and welcoming. Darkness is fear and destruction. Light is joy and peace. Darkness is death. Light is Life.

Of all the scriptural and liturgical components of the Advent-Christmas season there is one that well summarizes what I have suggested above and that is the portion from the book of the prophet Isaiah where he writes of the end of darkness, death and destruction.

*“The people who walk in darkness will see a great light;  
those who dwell in lands of great darkness, on them  
light will shine.*

*For to us a child will be born, to us a son  
will be given,  
and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his  
name will be called  
Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace,  
Of the increase of his government and peace  
There will be no end.” Isaiah 9*

Many years later, when Phillips Brooks penned the words of the Christmas hymn “O Little Town of Bethlehem”, he may well have had that imagery in mind when he wrote the following:

*“Oh little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee to night.*

To appreciate the spiritual truth of these sublime phrases is to grasp the truest meaning of what is meant to be celebrated on December 25: the birth of Jesus whom the Church proclaims to be “The Light of the World”.

Ruth and I extend to all of you who make up our church family our wishes for a truly blessed Christmas and a very happy New Year. We have enjoyed so much being a part of the wonderful fellowship of this community of faith as it endeavors to faithfully make the love of God a blessing for all.

*Grace and peace,            Pastor Jack*

*Christmas Eve Worship  
Tuesday, December 24  
4:00 pm & 10pm  
Candlelight Services  
of  
Holy Communion*

*"Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord"*

*ALL ARE WELCOME—INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO JOIN US ON  
THIS BEAUTIFUL EVENING*

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**Council Minutes 11/12/13** from Gary Westerweller

In attendance were the following: Garry Westerweller, Steve Miller, Andy Mathisen, Mike Carp, Tom Tehve, Clem Hergenhan, and Jamie Antonacci.

Absent: Sharon Oberkehr, Pastor Jack, Karl Torjussen, and Andy Lichter

Steve declared a quorum to be present.

The agenda for the evening was reviewed and approved

Steve then led us in devotions regarding leadership in the Church and how leaders plan and take advantage of opportunities.

Mike motioned and Tom seconded that the meetings from the October meeting be approved. Council members approved unanimously.

Clem presented the Treasurer's report with a detailed explanation of how the numbers are reviewed and presented each month.

Steve mentioned that the committee reports could be viewed on line and asked if there were any additions to the reports that needed discussion. There were none.

**Old Business and follow up on Action Items (ongoing action items are underlined)**

- Garry will reach out again to the HS Choir director to see if there is any interest in their group performing at an upcoming Service
- An e mail was sent out regarding potential synergies with the German School and Little Chiefs. This is an ongoing action item with Gil and Steve
- Clem answered all questions regarding the treasurer's report, thus completing a prior action item
- Pastor is in the process of setting up a Men's Breakfast
- Shrubs were removed and carted away by Tom, thus completing a prior action item
- Garry completed the report on our compliancy with our youth group policies thus completing a prior action item.
- Sharon has copies of youth policies and application paperwork to distribute to members working with our youth. (In her Mailbox)
- Steve was working to see how many "hits" we will have from our advertisement in the Patch. He should have some Data in about a month. Clem is going to see if we can check to see how many of these hits translate to hits on the Good Shepherd site.
- E mail was sent out by Andy looking for volunteers to serve on a mission statement committee. This is an ongoing process.

- Blogging available on Patch website for all Good Shepherd bloggers. Steve will ask Gil to assist and edit any submitted blogs.
- Discussion on getting ready for next year’s budget briefly ensued. Talk of adding a line item for next big project, which might be paving the front parking lot.
- Jamie to follow up on estimate from alarm company to update our fire alarm
- Council members should continue to reach out for recruits for various committees and projects
- Steve is waiting for answer from Holmdel Tax assessor regarding his recent review.

**New Business**

- Christmas Party costs were discussed. Tom moved and Mike seconded to approve the \$1200.00 catering costs for the Party. Council unanimously approved.
- Andy to purchase (3) new tables for the party
- Steve submitted a request from various organizations looking for end of the year donations and contributions. (most decisions will be deferred to review yearend financial status)
- Steve requested we consider donating \$410.00 to the COG Christmas Certificate Program. The congregation will be asked to match these funds. Nancy Fitch will present to congregation. Council approved this motion.
- Steve suggested we highlight some of the Good work Good Shepherd does in the Community and to that end he is requesting that the following people tell their stories:
  - Andy and Mike – Discuss the Boy Scout program
  - Larry Jackson – Discuss our relationship with Lunch Break
  - Nancy Fitch – Discuss our relationship with COG
  - Gil Vatter – Discuss our relationship with St. Marks
  - Lou and Steve – Discuss the follow up of Sandy Relief assistance
- Steve presented a proposal to have Phil Petrone provide a cleaning service on the opposing weeks of our existing service for \$75.00 per month. If works out, we may elect to contract Phil for the entire service
- Steve also presented a list of fall clean up items that need to be done. Tom will review this list on Sunday prior to giving authorization to proceed.
- Steve advised Council that Karl is reaching out for some new recruits for Council as some members will have expiring terms.
- Council will need to get back to the mutual ministry committee regarding salaries for next year.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.

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**VOLUNTEER YOUR SKILLS AND ENTHUSIASM!**

The Good Shepherd 2014 nomination committee (Karl Torjussen, head; Debbie Blackburn; Diane Mathisen) is seeking Council candidates who wish to share in the excitement of leading the church.

Numerous church committees are looking for YOU.

32 leadership positions and committees are identified in the Good Shepherd web site  
<http://www.good-shepherd.us/congregation.html>

There IS a position or committee which matches your enthusiasm and skills.

Contact any leader for further information.  
 (Names and photos are posted on a narthex bulletin board).

**Good Shepherd welcomes YOU!**

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**AROUND THE PARISH**

by Gil Vatter

## GOOD SHEPHERD - THE FRIENDLY CHURCH

1. Happy birthday to our shepherd - this year *Pastor Jack* celebrates the "Spirit of '76". May he have many, many more.

2. *Ellen and Tom Tehve* just returned from a two week tour of Turkey.

Ole bought a very small hearing aid and was so pleased with it he returned to the sales office to thank them. "I imagine your family is very happy too" said the sales manager. "Oh, they don't even know that I have it", said Ole. "And am I having fun. In the past two weeks, I've changed my will three times." (Grace Brinkman)

### **SEE YOU AT THE CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY - SUNDAY DECEMBER 8TH AT 5 PM**

3. *Bill Theune* sends regards to all his friends at Good Shepherd. He is doing well and looking forward to Christmas.

4. Parts of Good Shepherd looked like a haunted house when both the German School of Monmouth County and the Little Chief Learning Center celebrated Hallowe'en.

### **BEAT THE CHRISTMAS RUSH -- COME TO CHURCH THIS SUNDAY -- A SEAT IS GUARANTEED**

5. *Pastor Jack* commemorated All Saints Day at Good Shepherd on Sunday November 3 by reading a list of former members who have gone to the Church Triumphant.

6. Sunday November 3 was also the occasion of a children's sermon, when Pastor talked with the kids about the annual "Crop Walk". If you missed it you missed a very good "sermon"

I've learned that there is nothing better on a cold, rainy day than hot soup, television and a nap on the couch  
(Bill Wehrli)

7. *Randi Stetz* spent a week in the hospital after a fall at home. She seems none the worse for wear and was back in the choir by the middle of the month.

8. Happy birthday to *Clem Hergenhan* (December 25), *Pastor Ed Schmidt*, *Julia Blackburn*, *Marion Williamson* and *Charlotte Buerkle* (2 years old). Many happy returns of the day.

I didn't like my beard at first.....then it grew on me.

9. We had a pretty fair showing when Pastor Jack asked all veterans to rise to celebrate "Veteran's Day" on Sunday November 10.

10. *Marion and Ed Schloemer* were in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on Sunday November 17 for the baptism of their first grandchild. Congratulations!!!

When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, U.C.L.A.

11. The congregation welcomed *Mia Brielle Olivo*, infant daughter of Patrick and Nicole Olivo through the rite of baptism on Sunday November 10. She was born on March 15, 2013 and is the youngest member of the Nemicik clan.

12. *The Ladies Luncheon Group* dined at the Lincroft Inn on Friday November 15. For information about future meetings, see *Barbara Haher*.

Ole - "Lena, will you marry me?"  
Lena - "Ya sure, you betcha. Who is this speaking?" (Grace Brinkman)

13. Hooray!!!! Eight families and two organizations are now signed up in the Bayshore Lunch Program Sponsors list. Thanks to all who are helping BLP feed the hungry.

14. *Ernie Brinkman* is now in church on most Sundays. You will find him sitting in the last row on the left side. Great to have you back, Ernie.

I thought I wanted a career. Turns out I just wanted a paycheck. (Bill Theune)

15. *Abbie Miller* is a red hot Philadelphia Eagles fan. Just ask her anything about the team.

16. If you haven't done so already, please add the people of the Philippine Islands to your prayers.

Guy Lombardo made "Old Lang Syne" a New Year's Eve tradition. He first played the song on New Year's Eve in 1929 at the Roosevelt Hotel in New York City

If God wanted me to touch my toes, he would have put them on my knees. (Bill Wehrli)

17. On Sunday November 17, the congregation was treated to a rendition of "We Gather Together to Ask the Lord's Blessing" by the Children's Bell Choir. Great job guys.

18. Despite a delay on the Garden State Parkway, when four lanes had to merge into two because of an accident at mile 96, *Pastor Neil Jaggie* filled in for Pastor Jack on Sunday November 24.

*AT INTERSECTIONS  
LOOK EACH WAY  
A HARP SOUNDS NICE  
BUT ITS HARD TO PLAY*

### **BURMA SHAVE**

19. Have you noticed how many folks stay after the service is over to hear Minister of Music *Miae Park* play the Postlude. Her offering last Sunday was "All Creatures of Our God and King" arranged by D. Hustad. It's a very nice way to end worship. Thnks Miae.

20. The temperature was in the low 20's with bright sunshine on Sunday November 24, but a lot of people braved the cold to worship at Good Shepherd

England has no kidney bank -- but, it does have a Liverpool

21. *Kelsey Kazmac*, home from James Madison University for Thanksgiving, worshipped with us on Sunday November 24. Good to have you home Kelsey.

22. *Amanda Westerweller* has been named to the Scholastic All-American team at Monmouth University. Congrats, Amanda.

You know that Christmas is coming when "It's A Wonderful Life" has been show for the 57th time on TV. (Bill Wehrli)

23. Nancy Fitch reminds us that recycling just one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours.

24. Pam (Everett) Baglieri sends best wishes to all her friends at Good Shepherd.

**HAVE A MERRY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS SEASON AND A HEALTHY AND HAPPY NEW YEAR**

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**HOLIDAYS PROMPT US TO HELP FEED THE HUNGRY**

by Gil Vatter

A recent article in the Asbury Park Press announced that more than 47,000,000 Americans have recently seen a reduction in their monthly supply of food because of cuts in the federal food stamp program. Beginning with the middle of November, food stamp benefits were cut to millions of Americans because no new funding was provided by a deadlocked Congress. Under the program, known as the **SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, (SNAP)**, a family of four received \$668 a month in benefits, which will now be cut by \$36. A family of three received \$550 and will now get \$497, a reduction of \$53 a month. This means that many families now must decide between paying utility bills and adding fresh meat and vegetables to their food list.

The benefits, which go to **one in seven Americans**, fluctuate based on factors that include food prices, inflation and income. The list of those receiving aid has grown as the economy has struggled in recent years, with many people signing up for the first time. As a result, the program has more than doubled since the early 2000's and is now costing almost \$80 billion per year. That increase has turned the program into a target for members of Congress looking to reduce spending. SNAP has become a political football.

What this means to us is that the nations food banks may have to as much as double thier current levels of distribution, if the House of Representatives proposed cuts are enacted and as many as 3,800,000 people will lose their benefits if the House bill becomes law. There are now 656 agencies that run food pantries and soup kitchens in this country and all may start to see more people in the coming months. The problem with this is that food banks will not have sufficient food to meet the growing demand. This means that pantries and kitchens will have to either serve until supplies run out and then turn people away or make the bags of food or the size of plates smaller in order to try to serve as many people as possible.

With Thanksgiving and Christmas approaching, we all have an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of local families who are struggling to meet expenses and pay for food and housing. When you shop for groceries, buy extra cans of food and bring them to church. Write a check, mark it for BLP (or any other local pantry or kitchen in Monmouth County) and drop it in the offering plate. In the spirit of the holidays, do something today to help your hungry neighbor.

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*"Stress and Your Body"*

*This is title of a six week program Pastor Elstad will be offering on the Wednesday afternoons and evenings listed below. Each session will utilize a video resource provided by The Great Courses educational program. Discussion based on the lecture will follow and will include Bible and other source materials.*

*The presenter is Dr. Robert Sapolski, Ph. D. who holds the Gunn Professorship of Biological Sciences at Stanford University. He is also Professor of Neurology and*

*Neurosurgery. In 2009 he received the Walter J. Gores Award for Excellence in Teaching, Stanford's highest teaching honor.*

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*January 8 - "Why Don't Zebras Get Ulcers? Why Do We?"*

*January 15 - "Stress and Aging"*

*January 22 - "Understanding Psychological Stress"*

*January 29 - "Psychological Modulators of Stress"*

*February 5 - "Stress Management - Clues to Success"*

*February 12 - "Stress Management- Approaches and Cautions"*

*Session Times: Afternoons 1:00 pm Evenings 7:00 pm*

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COURAGE IN AGING--will have its next session on December 11, Wednesday at 1:30 in the church library.

Please take a break from holiday preparations and join Elizabeth and Ruth for the next session. Call Ruth Elstad at 732-864-0616 for any questions. All are welcome!

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### **CALICO CAT CHRISTMAS CERTIFICATE PROGRAM**

The Calico Cat Food Pantry and Cupboard will once again provide Christmas gift certificates and food certificates for their Pantry clients. This approach gives the parents the dignity to purchase some items for their families at Christmas and puts some additional food on their tables. Good Shepherd as one of the 10 churches in the Community Outreach Group (COG) has agreed to participate in this Calico Cat Christmas Certificate program.

If you would like to support this Christmas program your contributions can be made in the form of gift certificates to Sears, Target, Old Navy, Kmart, etc. or as cash donations. Any checks should be made payable to the Community Outreach Group. (Identify Good Shepherd in the memo line.) Please select an ornament from the tree in the narthex to indicate your choice. (The ornaments were provided by our Good Shepherd Sunday School children. Many thanks!!)

Ornaments with the contribution attached should be returned by Sunday Dec. 15 as the Calico Cat Food Pantry and Cupboard will start giving out the certificates on Tuesday 12/17. COG's goal is to have at least a \$25

certificate for each child and adult and to provide families with \$50 gift certificates for food.



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### **A FEW NOTES FROM THE CHOIR**

by Gil Vatter

November 3 - "Be Still and Know" - V. C. Johnson

November 10 - "I Worship You, Almighty God" - M. McDonald

November 17 - "To God Be Joyful" - W. A. Mozart

November 24 - "O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" - M. McDonald

The choir meets 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.

	Oct 2013	YTD 2013	YTD Budget	YTD 2012
General Contributions	7,871	105,828	112,500	112,699

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# December 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>
9 - Service 10-Sunday School		1PM Table Talk		7:30 Choir Practice		Church Work Day
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
9 - Service 10-Sunday School 5pm Christmas Party	7 - Council Meeting	1PM Table Talk	1:30 Courage in Aging	7:30 Choir Practice	12:30 Ladies Luncheon Group @ Nauvoo	
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
9 - Service 10-Sunday School		7:30-9 Compassionate Friends		7:30 Choir Practice		
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
9 - Service 10-Sunday School		Christmas Eve Services 4pm & 10pm	<b>Christmas Day</b>	7:30 Choir Practice		
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				
9 - Service 10-Sunday School						