

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

February 2014

(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,

Among all the words sung in the hymns of Christmas Eve, there are six which make clear what is truly referred to as the “reason for the season”. They are the final words of “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”: “*born to give us second birth.*”

I think it is especially timely to consider these six words of good news because we are now looking forward to what hopefully will be a happy new year. We have celebrated the joy and wonder of Christmas and now look forward to what will be unfolding over the next twelve months. Figuratively speaking/ the slate upon which last year had written has been wiped clean and we now have the opportunity to write a new chapter in our life story. Appreciating the possibility of newness can and should be exciting.

But what does “new” mean or imply? Consider what the dictionary associates with this tiny but powerful word: “having never existed before, different, distinguished from what was older, fresh, rejuvenated.” The Bible gives us even more reason to enthusiastically make our new year resolutions with real hope and determination: “*Behold, all things are become new*” II Corinthians 5:17; “*O sing unto the Lord a new song*” Psalm 96:1; “*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning.*” Lamentations 3:22. Considering all of the above, it is clear that the future is waiting to unfold in such a way as to renew a weary world. Does that mean there will be no more problems? Absolutely not! But how we choose to deal with those issues can be new. Albert Einstein enforces that statement when he wrote: “*We cannot solve problems by using the same level of thinking we used when we created them or were affected by others.*” What becomes the “new” does not necessarily come easily, but with courage, willingness and determination the old can gradually be replaced with the “new”. Such is at the heart of God’s grace and the comfort of divine forgiveness.

By all means it may prove beneficial to keep in mind the wisdom of the following four insights taken from the literature of the field of recovery where the most desperate of people are seeking the goal regaining wholeness and newness.

One day at a time.

God grant me the serenity to accept things I cannot change
and the courage to change the things I can.

Just for today, I will try to live through this day only,
and not to tackle my whole life problem at once.

Just for today, I will be unafraid. Especially I will not be
afraid to enjoy what is beautiful, and to believe that
as I give to the world, so the world will give to me.

God bless you all. Enjoy your adventure of finding that which will be new for you in 2014
Pastor Jack

AROUND THE PARISH

by Gil Vatter

GOOD SHEPHERD - THE FRIENDLY CHURCH

1. Despite low temperatures and freezing rain, attendance at Good Shepherd's first service of 2014 consisted of 55 to 60 hardy souls, including, of course, *Pastor Jack* and the choir.

2. Speaking of *Pastor Jack*, his children's sermon of Sunday January 5, "Something Special For Christmas", was another winner.

Ole was making his solo flight when his engine failed and he was forced to bail out. His parachute failed to open and, as he was plummeting to earth, he suddenly passed Lena shooting upward at a fantastic speed. As he passed her he yelled, "Do you know anything about parachutes?" She yelled back, "No. Do you know anything about gas stoves?" (Grace Brinkman)

3. *Bill Wehrli* got a new valve installed at *Cedar-Sinai Hospital* on January 7. He IS recovering very well. Rumor has it that he is thinking about having his spark plugs checked next. Bill was back to choir practice on Thursday January 16. Not bad for an old guy.

4. Must be his viking heritage.....*Andy Mathisen* took part in "Deep Freeze" again this January up in Minnesota, five miles south of the Canadian border, where the temperature was **45 below** (yes, I said below). The principal activity during Andy's stay was learning how to handle a sled pulled by dogs. I guess the Iditerod Race is next on his agenda.

I intend to live forever.....so far, so good!!!!

5. Happy birthday to *Pam (Everett) Baglieri, George Frank, Tom Tehve and Andy Mathisen*.

6. *Miae Park's* postludes add up to a concert in four or five acts each month, if you stay around after the service to enjoy them. Her rendition of "Little Toccata" by C. Curtis was beautiful on Sunday January 14.

Ole - "Why do hummingbirds hum?"
Sven - "Because they don't know the words."

7. *The Ladies Luncheon Group* met at the Crown Palace Restaurant in Middletown on Friday January 17 and will visit the Molly Pitcher in February. For details, see *Barbara Haher*.

8. Happy wedding anniversary to *Barbara and John Haher* who celebrated number 61 in January.

Conjunctivitis.com.....Now that's a site for sore eyes.

9. At the end of January, the Social Ministry Committee delivered more than 300 cans of food to the *Bayshore Lunch Project*. That may be a new record. Thanks to *Kim and Bill Wehrli* for helping to deliver the food to Keyport.

10. Thanks to *Pastor Jack, Karl Torjussen and Garry Westerweller* for their Stewardship Temple Talks in January.

I've learned that by the time you retire and get Social Security, everything you have either hurts or doesn't work.
(Bill Wehrli)

11. *Diane and Andy Mathisen* spent two weeks in Germany in January. I suspect they made a stop in Heidelberg to visit with son *Kurt*, who is studying there.

12. *The Oberkehr Family* spent Christmas in Fort Myers, Florida visiting mom and dad *Lois and George Frank*.

I went to the bank last week and asked a teller to check my balance.....So, she pushed me.

13. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd sombrero to everyone in the congregation who contributed to the work of the Social Ministry Committee during 2013. You will read elsewhere in this issue of the "Voice" that, once again, Good Shepherd gave away more than a "tithe" of its income.

14. On Sunday January 26, the congregation welcomed the Scott-Scarborough family, *Harold, Germaine and Mackenzie* as members. Welcome to Good Shepherd.

HELP SUPPORT THE COG EVENING FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

15. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd fedora to *Jon Kim* who accompanied the choir anthem on Sunday January 26. Jon also played the Prelude and the Postlude with his mother, *Miae Park*.

I've learned that in old age you spend half your time looking for a bathroom and the other half trying to remember people's names. (Bill Wehrli)

16. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd panama to *Steve Miller* outgoing Congregation Council President for the great job he did over the past two years. Thanks Steve.

When everything is coming your way, you are obviously in the wrong lane.

17. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd turban to outgoing Council members *Mike Carp, Andy Lichter, Andy Mathisen and Garry Westerweller*. Thanks for all your work.

We also welcome four new Council members - *Stephanie Dall, John Dall, Lou Medici and Marion Schloemer*.

18. And while we're thanking and tipping our bonnets, we also recognize the work done by the committee chairs from the Council who make things happen around the church.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

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GOOD SHEPHERD GIVES \$4000 AS YEAR END OFFERING

by Gil Vatter

The Congregation Council has authorized the church's Social Ministry Committee to present our congregation's gift of \$4,000 to a list of local charities and several Holmdel emergency organizations that service the Township.

A \$100 check was sent by the Council to Holmdel Fire Company #1 and \$100 to the Holmdel First Aid Squad, a gift which the church has sent to each of these community organizations for many years. Good Shepherd also followed a long time tradition of giving away special gifts to local charities at the end of each year. This year, the list of local charities included the following:

\$1,000 - Community Outreach Group

\$1,000 - Bayshore Lunch Program

\$300 - Lunch Break - Red Bank
\$500 - Lutheran Social Ministry of NJ
\$500 - Love INC - Eatontown
\$500 - Family Promise - Middletown

At the annual meeting of the church, it was reported by Michael Carp, chairman of the Social Ministry Committee, that the congregation of Good Shepherd had provided over \$23,000 in 2013 to support local and national social support organizations, almost 13% of the church's income last year. Checks were presented to the groups listed above during the month of January.

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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.

January 5 - "Go Tell it on the Mountain" - arr. J. Rouse
January 12 - "What Star is This?" - arr. J. Koerts
January 19 - "You are My Light" - David and Jean Perry
January 26 - "How Bright These Glorious Spirits" - R. Slater
accompanied by Jon Kim cello/Miae Park piano

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

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From Nancy Fitch

I recently attended a meeting sponsored by All Saints' Memorial Church, the State Public Affairs Committee-Junior League of NJ, and the NJ Coalition to Prevent Human Trafficking, The focus was to educate the public on the fact that NJ is a frequent venue for human trafficking because we are on the I-95 corridor. In addition the Feb. 2nd Super Bowl creates a major market place for sex trafficking.

To learn about the Red Flags of Human Trafficking see the article with that title on the church bulletin board or on the following website:

http://www.nj.gov/oag/dcj/humantrafficking/downloads/NJHTTF_FS_Potential-Indicators.pdf

We were encouraged to place the following two numbers on our cell phones and use them to report any suspicions to the NJ National Human Trafficking Resource Center toll-free hotline 888-3737-888 available 24/7 or if in NJ there is a similar hotline:855-363-6548.

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GOOD SHEPHERD DONATION TO COMMUNITY OUTREACH GROUP (COG)



On Wed. Jan. 29th a representative for the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Holmdel, provided a check for \$1000 to the Community Outreach Group (COG) located at 96 Kings Highway, Middletown, NJ. The funds earmarked for COG’s Calico Cat Cupboard and Pantry and also for COG’s Emergency Assistance Fund (EAF) were presented to Janice Liebenow, COG’s vice-president. Janice thanked Good Shepherd stating “NJ is the most expensive area to live in the country. The unemployment rate is still very high and what jobs are available are low paying. People are usually one paycheck away from not being able to pay their rent, food or utility bills. The Community Outreach Group tries to assist our neighbors through these difficult times.”

COG’s mission is to provide a support system for the local community and individuals in need. Its Cupboard/Pantry offers food, clothing and household items free of charge to individuals and families referred by agencies and shelter programs. The areas served by the pantry are: Belford, Hazlet, Holmdel, Leonardo, Lincroft, Matawan, Middletown, Port Monmouth and Union Beach. COG’s EAF provides one-time assistance to help low-income households with utilities and rent/mortgage assistance.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Holmdel is one of the 10 local faith-based organizations that provide a trustee to represent their church on COG’s Board.

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COG (Community Outreach Group)
Feb Collection for June Contribution

Good Shepherd has again assumed responsibility for providing cleaning and personal care items to the Calico Cat Evening Food Pantry this June. The Pantry supports working low income families and every month gives these items (NOT covered by food stamps) to each family.

This year in order to avoid asking for all 9 items in May and June we will be collecting 2 or 3 items each month. This February we are requesting the congregation to provide –

- 27 boxes of plastic wrap
- 54 tubes of tooth paste
- 54 boxes of tissues

Please leave your donations in the box marked COG in the narthex or on the table in the kitchen. Many thanks!!

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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.

	Jan 2014	YTD 2014	YTD Budget	YTD 2014
General Contributions	7,353	7,353	11,250	11,232

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February 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9- Sunday School 10 - Service			1- Table Talk	7:30 - Choir Practice		CHURCH WORK DAY
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9- Sunday School 10 - Service	7-Council Mtg		1- Table Talk	7:30 - Choir Practice	12:30-Ladies Luncheon Grp	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9- Sunday School 10 - Service		7:30- Compassionate Friends		7:30 - Choir Practice		
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
9- Sunday School 10 - Service			1 - Table Talk	7:30 - Choir Practice		
2	3	NOTES				