

# *The Voice of the Good Shepherd*

**March 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,

The Lenten season is upon us. March 5, Ash Wednesday, marks the beginning of the six week period preceding the celebration of Easter on Sunday, April 20.

Please keep in mind, however, that there will **not be a service on Ash Wednesday.**

**The Imposition of Ashes will be included in the service on Sunday, March 9, the First Sunday Lent.** The rationale for this practice, which we employed for the first time last year, is that if services were provided for either during the day or in the evening, half the congregation would find the times impractical due to their schedules and would not likely be able to attend, whereas on Sunday morning, we can more fully share this important liturgical action as congregation together.

In thinking about Lent it is important to understand that the first five weeks of this season are not meant to emphasize the sufferings and crucifixion of Jesus; such is theme of Holy Week which begins with Palm Sunday and includes Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Earlier in church history the Lenten season was the time people were instructed in preparation for their being baptized on Easter, but in more recent times the season has become the opportunity for those who are baptized to reflect upon the implications their being members of the faith community which God created and over which Jesus is Lord. The spirit of that purpose is perfectly summed up in this rather familiar prayer from the Anglican Book of Common Prayer: *“Gracious Father, we pray for thy holy Catholic Church. Fill it with all truth, in all truth with peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ thy Son our Savior.”*

One aspect of Lent that is encouraged and that can be extremely beneficial in terms of our spirituality is that of abstinence or self-denial on behalf of others' needs. Mike Carp and I spoke about this in terms of the ELCA's World Hunger Program and decided to place in each Sunday bulletin during Lent an envelope and to have each person place in it an offering representing the cost of one item being sacrificed that week, i.e. Starbucks coffee, Big Mac, pack of cigarettes, etc. to assist in helping others through the Hunger Program. Keep this in mind: it doesn't require any more money on the part of the giver to do something like this. It's just a redistribution of what you have for another purpose, and the likelihood is you will feel better if you catch the spirit.

On the sixth Sunday of Lent, April 2, Dr. David Grafton, Professor of Islamic Studies at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, will be the preacher at the service. Following the service he will join us in for fellowship and share in discussing more information regarding Islamic faith and traditions and answer questions. This program is a follow up of discussions Steve Miller and I have had with representatives of our Islamic neighbors and sharing mutual community concerns. I encourage you to avail yourself of this opportunity of local ecumenicity.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Jack

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**MINUTES, Feb 10, 2014 Council meeting**

Steve Miller welcomed newly elected council members: Lou Medici; Marion Schloemer, John Dall, & Stephanie Dall. Also attending were existing council members: Steve Miller, Jamie Antonacci; Tom Tehve; and Karl Torjussen. Sharon Oberkehr had excused absence. Additional attendees included Michael Carp (Social Ministries), Clem Hergenhan (Finances), and Pastor Jack.

Clem Hergenhan led a "By Law" discussion of 3 year term limits for Treasurer and Financial Secretary. Steve Miller, John Dall, and Jamie Antonacci will draft a council resolution for succession planning of these two positions. Adoption will be considered at the March 10, 2014 council meeting.

Devotions were led by Pastor Jack. The Council unanimously approved the Feb 10 agenda, and the minutes of Jan 13, 2014 council meeting. The Jan 31 Treasurer's Report and Explanation were approved after presentation by Clem Hergenhan.

**ELECTION OF COUNCIL POSITIONS:**

Lou Medici was nominated and unanimously elected President (1 year term)

Lou Medici, as President, then took control of the meeting.

The following were nominated and unanimously elected:

- Vice President: Marion Schloemer
- Secretary: Steve Miller
- Treasurer: Dick Alberti)
- Financial: Secretary Doreen Hoffman

Clem Hergenhan will circulate a bank signature card to each new church officer.

Each council member was asked to head or participate in one or more church committee:

- Christian Ed (Lou volunteered as substitute teacher, if required)
- Property: John Dall volunteered to lead (Jamie Antonacci and Steve Miller to assist)
- Spiritual Renewal & OutReach (Evangelism): Karl Torjussen will continue to lead; Lil Nemcik will continue mailing cards to sick and has begun matching drivers to transport guests to Sunday service
- Fellowship: Debbie Blackburn requests relief; Kathe DaGiau (presently assists) and Germaine Scott (likes to bake) will be asked to help lead Fellowship. Steve will talk to Kathe; Pastor will discuss details with Debbie Blackburn
- Counters: Lou asked for help; Tom Tehve will volunteer to be added to Clem's counter list (Mack Scott previously volunteered as counter)
- Ushers: Harold Scott and Mack have been added to the ushers list
- Finance: Tom Tehve is continuing lead, and needs no additional assistance
- Social Ministry: Mike Carp requests additional active people (presently Mike, Nancy Fitch and Gil Vatter are active members)
- Mission Support (Stewardship): Marion Schloemer volunteered. As a component of Mission Support, we will deploy a new time and talent congregational survey (results from Jan, 2013 Time & Talent survey is now dated). It is important that volunteers be quickly followed-up. We would achieve the best response by asking for assistance with one event that has a finite beginning and end.
- Worship and Music: Andy Mathisen volunteered to continue to lead. Lou requested that Sharon's valuable youth Bell Choir be guided by Worship & Music
- Altar Guild: Nancy Hergenhan and Marian Williamson requested help; Stephanie Dall volunteered.

We discussed the lack of a Youth Committee (previously headed by Garry Westerweller, and his daughters). At the minimum, we request that bulletin board and poster boards prominently show youth activities as they occur (Crop Walk was offered as a successful example).

Mike Carp noted diminishing congregational response to Social Ministry appeals. The Thrivent Matching program requires evidence of both activity and corresponding Thrivent advertising. Lou believes that congregation responsiveness can be achieved by specific requests. Details for specific projects must be included in bulletins, the Voice, and Sunday announcements. For the Souper Bowl of Caring, \$262 has been received. The congregation must be made aware of the need to donate \$338 more in order to receive an additional \$200 Thrivent matching funds. The Children's Bell Choir concert on February 16 will help achieve this goal.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS** are linked to the Feb 10 agenda. Additional reports are included in Jan 26 annual reports

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- The council requested the responsible people complete their action items; Oct 14 ; Aug 12 ; June 24 ; Nov 11; Dec 9
- Andy Mathisen will convene people interested in identifying the Good Shepherd Mission
- Steve described property committee plans to replace the 2nd wall with columns during summer, 2014 (work to be done by congregation volunteers)
- ELCA requested changes to the Good Shepherd Constitution. Clem provided initial input, and passed the ELCA recommendations to Gil Vatter. Gil will draft final changes to the Good Shepherd Constitution, and help gain Good Shepherd congregation approval. (Gil has prior experience implementing similar constitution changes).

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Pastor and Steve discussed meetings and schedule for Interfaith activities with the Islamic Society of Monmouth County (also see Pastor's Report). Islamic principals will visit Good Shepherd on March 2. (Pastor will request Karen Blackburn's help to remove pork from the March 2 brunch). During the Islamic evening service on March 14, Pastor Jack will talk at the Mosque. Lou Medici volunteered to join Pastor Jack on March 14.
- The Annual Financial Audit report will be rescheduled because of snow and ice (Gil Vatter + Walter Keyl)
- Steve Miller filed the year-end 2013 ELCA annual congregation report (form A ; form C)
- Karl arranged a Feb 1 renewal in Middletown Patch advertising; some data shows little effect of Patch blog. The Patch links to the Good Shepherd web site, which should be updated to be more attractive to prospective members (see Jan 13 Minutes).
- Steve Miller will work with Pat Dunn to develop alternative plans if Pat Dunn is not available: Sunday bulletin, etc.
- Steve Miller is requesting exhibits which highlight community impact of the charitable works/social ministry activities of Good Shepherd. Material would include posters and/or short talks (educational tools), used to:
  1. Present to Good Shepherd congregation!
  2. Greet and discuss with Little Chief parents; upon arrival at 9AM for several days.
- Coat Rack: Lou believes that visitors, entering the front door, see an "ugly" coat rack. The Council discussed the following solutions:
  1. add a decorative panel to hide the end of the coat rack
  2. make the panel part of a wrap-around bulletin board

3. move the coat rack to the wall of the common hallway leading to the old kitchen and the two old bathrooms
4. purchase a coat rack on wheels (heavy duty, partially collapsible, large wheels). During the week, store the coat rack in Frank Hall in front of existing table closet. When needed for Sunday services or other events, move temporarily to the narthex
5. eliminate the women's bathroom; make into a walk-in coat closet off the Narthex. Make the existing men's room into a family bathroom
6. Note: the existing coat rack also requires an extension. A lower coat rack is required for shorter □ visitors (per Gayle McKnight)

Steve volunteered to update (with new photos and titles) Committees and Positions/photos

**Lou Medici adjourned the meeting** with the Lord's Prayer. Respectfully submitted, Steve Miller, Council Secretary

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**AROUND THE PARISH**  
by Gil Vatter

**GOOD SHEPHERD - THE FRIENDLY CHURCH**

1. Happy Birthday to *Garry Westerweller*, former member *Dick Havill and Lionel Burton* (Pat and Steve Miller's grandson).
  2. Some of *Miae Park's* students will present a spring concert of Sunday April 27 at 3:00 PM for the benefit of the Bayshore Lunch Program. Don't miss it.
- Officer Svenson stopped a speeder one day who told him, "My name is Olson and I'm a personal friend of the Mayor of this city." "Wonderful", replied Officer Svenson, "Now he'll know I'm doing my job." (Grace Brinkman)
3. *Andy Mathisen* helped to direct traffic to the NJ Transit trains after Super Bowl XLVII.
  4. *Julia Blackburn* started classes at the Fashion Institute in Manhattan at the beginning of January. Good luck Julie!!!!

What starts with a P, ends with an E and has a million letters in it? The Post Office. (Bunny Kuhl)

5. The church has been notified of the death of *Douglas Hayes*, brother of *Barbara Haher*, in North Carolina. And God will wipe away all tears.
6. The old Snow Bird, *Bill Wehrli*, headed south to Boynton Beach, Florida on February 8.

Those who are too big for their pants will be exposed in the end. (Bill Theune)

7. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd stetson to guitarist, *C. J. Miller* who played both the prelude and the postlude on Sunday February 9. You can be sure that Grandma and Grandpa Miller were beaming from the choirloft during the fine performances.
8. Just a reminder - Come to BRUNCH after the service on Sunday March 2 in Frank Hall.

A man walked into a postoffice and saw another man placing "Love" stamps on bright pink envelopes with hearts all over them. He then sprayed perfume all over them and dropped them into the mail slot. Curious, the first man walked over to the busy guy and asked what he was doing. He said, "I'm sending out 1,000 Valentine cards signed, "Guess Who". "But, why" ask the first man. "I'm a divorce lawyer", he replied.(Bill Wehrli)

9. Congrats to *Isabella Antonacci*, who did a great job on her first Sunday as an acolyte, February 9.

10. Despite the terrible weather, the Social Ministry Committee made several trips to the Bayshore Lunch Program to deliver over 350 cans of food and lots and lots of pasta and other food. Thanks to *Kim and Bill Wehrli* who volunteered to help deliver the food but were snowed out and thanks to them also for bringing a lot of the food taken to BLP in February.

My mechanic told me, "I couldn't repair your brakes, so I made your horn louder."

11. The church has been notified of the death of former member, *Gina Blackburn*, mother of John Blackburn in Frederick, Maryland. And God will wipe away all tears.

12. Thanks to *Pastor Neil Jagge*, who substituted for Pastor Jack on Sunday February 16, just after another big snow storm in the area, while Pastor was in Florida visiting his son.

Tip for a positive New Year 2014 - SMILE AND LAUGH MORE - Smiles are natural anti-depressants. (Bill Theune)

13. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd beanie to everyone who has signed up for the 2014 BLP Sponsors Program.

14. Have you heard - *Bob Sislian* got himself a brand new knee in February. Get well soon Bob.

Ole asked Lena what she would like for their fifth anniversary. She said she wanted something impractical and romantic, so Ole presented her with a beautiful gold necklace. "A little four letter word made me get this for you", he said softly. "Oh, how sweet" she replied. "Was it L-O-V-E?" He looked at her and said, "No, it was S-A-L-E." (Grace Brinkman)

15. Please remember to bring home goods listed in the Sunday bulletin for the COG Calico Cat Evening Food Pantry. Good Shepherd is responsible for the month of June.

16. *Pastor Jack* will offer a Lenten study, "The Jesus I Never Knew" - six sessions on the life of Christ, during Lent on either Tuesday evenings at 7 or Wednesday afternoons at 1.

Ole - "Sven, why aren't there any ice cubes in your refrigerator?"

Sven - "Sorry Ole, I'm afraid I lost the recipe."

17. *Nancy Fitch* reminds us that non-rechargeable batteries are no longer being recycled but you should check batteries before you throw them away to see if they are marked "Rechargeable".

18. Hope you didn't miss *Miae Park's* Prelude, "Woodland Piece" by Edvard Grieg, on Sunday February 23.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

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**FOOD AID CUTS SET FOR THIS YEAR**

by Gil Vatter

In the Monday February 2 edition of the "Asbury Park Press", the newspaper announced that "nearly 160,000 New Jersey families will lose an average \$90 in federal food assistance each month under the new farm law." Fortunately, the families should continue to receive some help through SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) formerly known as "Food Stamps". The cuts will be phased in over the coming year. In addition, new enrollees will not be eligible for a program that automatically increases SNAP benefits for anyone receiving help with their heating bills.

The long delayed farm bill, signed into law in early February, toughens the standards for receiving SNAP benefits. Supporters of tough controls on assistance maintain that New Jersey and the other states providing extra food for low income families must oversee the program more closely to prevent abuse. However, Adele LaTourette, Director of the New Jersey Anti-Hunger Coalition, calls for easier access to the program, "We need to expand the program. The lines at the food pantries are doing nothing but getting longer and the food supplies that are coming in are decreasing."

These cuts come on top of a November 2013 SNAP cut that lowered monthly benefits by \$36 to \$632 for a four person family and by \$11 to \$189 for individuals. At the Manasquan Food Pantry, the manager, Candace Talleur, said that more cuts, no matter their timing, are going to be "really hard" on people. In the past month, she said, the pantry has signed up about 25 new families, about 15 more than usual. "People are clearly struggling to stay afloat", she said. Similar situations are occurring at kitchens and food pantries throughout New Jersey, where they are struggling to feed larger and larger groups in the kitchens and distribute food to more and more families hit hard by the economy and victims of Hurricane Sandy. "We're going to see even more people coming to us for help and we don't have enough food for the people we already serve", said Clark Paradise, President of "Your Grandmother's Cupboard" in Toms River.

All of this underscores the importance of food collections such as the one here at Good Shepherd that sends 1,200 to 1,800 cans of food each year to Bayshore Lunch Program in Keyport. Supplemental food contributions from civic and church organizations may be all that is keeping some kitchens and food pantries afloat to continue their work of providing a wholesome meal to our less fortunate neighbors.

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**Donating Stock to Good Shepherd**

by Clem Hergenhan

Did you know that you can donate share of stock to Good Shepherd and get an additional tax saving when doing so.? If you have stock that has appreciated in value then you will need to pay tax on the increase in value when you sell it. However, if you donate the stock you receive a charitable contribution deduction for the current value and you don't have to pay on the gain. See me if you'd like more info.

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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.*

- February 2 - "Be Thou My Vision" - C. Young
- February 9 - "Soul Adorn Thyself With Gladness"
- February 16 - "If Ye Love Me" - Thomas Tallis
- February 23 - "You Shall Love Your God" - J. Horman

- Soprano, Pat Miller sang with the Monmouth Civic Chorus in their "American Songbook" concert at the Count Basie Theater.
- Alto, Kirstin Mathisen and bass, Andy Lichter sang with the choir on Sunday February 2.
- Bass Bill Wehrli left for Boynton Beach, Florida on Saturday February 8.
- Former alto, Gina Blackburn died in Frederick, Maryland on Sunday February 9 - And God will wipe away all tears.
- Minister of Music, Miae Park will present a concert by some of her students on Sunday April 27 at 3 PM for the benefit of the Bayshore Lunch Program.

- Guitarist C. J. Miller Provided the prelude and the postlude on Sunday February 9.

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

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**GINA BLACKBURN DIES AT AGE 86**

by Gil Vatter

The church has been notified that former member Regina F. ("Gina") Blackburn, nee Stapel, has died in Frederick, Maryland after a long illness. She was 86 years old and was a member of Saint Paul's Lutheran Church, Walkersville, Maryland. She was born in Berlin, Germany in 1927 and survived the rigors of World War II before living in a variety of "duty stations" with her army husband after their marriage in 1948.

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**Thrivent Dollars available to Thrivent Members**

by Clem Hergenhan

If you are a member of Thrivent (perhaps through your owning insurance or having investments with Thrivent) you may have "Thrivent Dollars" available to you which you can donate to Good Shepherd. The easiest way to find out and have them sent to Good Shepherd is to call 1-800-THRIVENT and speak to a representative. See me if you want more into.

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THANK YOU TO GOOD SHEPHERD by Nancy Fitch

The following was received from Joan Hamilton, Corresponding Secretary of the Community Outreach Group (COG)-

Thanks so much for your church's donation of \$1,000 for the Community Outreach Program. With the combined effort of all our churches we were able to serve 226 families with financial assistance during a critical time in their lives. Making this kind of impact is awesome! I have never been involved in an organization that is so hands on. It literally comes from the kindness of churches such as yours and goes directly to the apartments and homes that are in disarray. We could never serve like this alone. It is a result of combined actions. We at COG cannot thank you enough for your part in contributing to this effort. You continue to show an outpouring of love and concern for our fellow man. We honor that intention. May you be blessed as you have blessed others.

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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.

	Feb 2014	YTD 2014	YTD Budget	YTD 2014
General Contributions	7,516	14,869	22,500	22,464

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# March 2014

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