

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

June 2014

(our website good-shepherd.us)

Open Minds ... Open Hearts ... Open Hands

From The Pastor

To all the saints at Good Shepherd,

Over the past several years we have become familiar with the four word mission statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America - "GOD'S WORK . . . OUR HANDS" - which succinctly serves as a constant reminder to what we as a congregation, and as individual members, are called to recognize as the primary responsibility for our purpose in being.

Most recently a decision was made to formulate a new mission statement for this congregation which would build on the ELCA's logo so as to further sharpen its intent. After extending an invitation to the congregation to have anyone interested to participate in this task an initial meeting was held on Sunday, March 23. As a result of the discussions at that meeting a simple but significant six word logo was developed and first presented to the congregation as part of the Easter service on April 20. Since then it has been referred to in one way or another on subsequent weeks and will eventually be seen more prominently in a variety of ways. And what are those six words?

Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Hands

If those words seem to have biblical "ring" to them, it is in all probability because of this verse from the sixth chapter of Deuteronomy: "*you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.*" In each instance the message is the same: to effectively be the people who bring the light of God's love to a hurting world demands our total being. That is why it is important to appreciate the sequence of wording in our new mission logo.

Open Minds. It is in our minds that we are made aware of all that is taking place around us, and it is in our minds we are able to learn new things and ways of doing things. It is in our minds we gain knowledge and understanding. And one piece of knowledge we must always keep in mind are these words of the prophet Isaiah: "*My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*"

Open Hearts. When we gain the insight following the opening of our minds to whatever it is God is showing us that must be ministered to, it is then that we can respond to whatever that need may be by following the example of Jesus as he began his ministry as recorded in Matthew's gospel: "*And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.*"

Open Hands. When our minds are opened and our hearts are warmed, there is only one thing left to do: offer in whatever way possible a personal touch through the generosity of our time and talents, through our generous and faithful offerings, and through our willingness to work together to do whatever is necessary in time of need whether it be personally, locally or in conjunction with ELCA's mission projects throughout the world.

When you stop and think about it these three directives they really do provide the inspiration for us to fulfill the mandate to be God's hands doing his work with renewed enthusiasm and joy.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Jack

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On June 8, the "Mission Committee" will ask the congregation to select one "logo" from several proposed by congregation Graphic Artist Germaine Scarborough. The logo is meant to remind us of the Good Shepherd mission, "Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Hands". The selected "logo" will appear in numerous prominent spots – masthead for the Voice, the weekly church bulletin, on church stationery, on the pastor's calling card, on the church web site, etc.

For further explanation, read Pastor Jack's letter "To all the saints at Good Shepherd", which discusses the Good Shepherd mission "Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Hands" .

Please plan to view and vote your "logo" preference on Sunday, June 8.

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MINUTES for May 12, 2014 Council meeting

Council members present: Steve Miller, Karl Torjussen; Marion Schloemer, Stephanie Dall, Lou Medici ; John Dall + Pastor Jack

Absent: Sharon Oberkehr, Jamie Antonacci, Tom Tehve

Devotions - Pastor Jack

Pastor Jack submitted a retirement letter; last day will be July 27. Reason: advancing age and infirmities; doctors advise additional rest. Council was surprised, and reluctantly accepted. The Bishops office assigned Pastor Erin Richter to communicate next steps. Council proposed a special meeting evening of May 19 or May 21 with backup of next council meeting June 9. Pastor Jack left a message with Pastor Erin Richter to settle on the date of this special meeting. **Steve action: establish dates of availability** for missing council members, Clem, and Dick. **Marion to scan letter and ask Clem** to email pdf file to congregation (Pat Dunn is currently on vacation but will come in Tues afternoon to help with distribution).

Approved this agenda
Approved minutes of Apr14, 2014 council meeting;
Approved April 30 Treasurer's Report, by Clem Hergenhan

As of Apr 30, 2014 general contributions, year to date, are ~\$10K below April 30, 2013. Marion Schloemer gave a temple talk on May 11, and asked that contributions be kept current. Following steps will be taken:

1. **Marion will write an article** for next Voice
2. **Tom Tehve (action item** from last council meeting): work with Doreen Hoffman to send a 1Q statement to each Good Shepherd member.

Pastor submitted the church attendance record, 2008-2014. Additional data shows Palm Sunday and Easter attendance during 2014 was down 24% and 18%, respectively, from 2013

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Pastor's report - Pastor Jack
- "Creation Care" Environmental Committee - Nancy Fitch
- Social Ministry - Mike Carp
- Property - John Dall
- Christian Education - Sharon Oberkehr

Spiritual Renewal and OutReach (Evangelism)- Patch Advertising results -Karl Torjussen
Evangelism - Marion Schloemer (cards for the sick)
Mission Support (Stewardship) - Karl Torjussen
Fellowship - Debbie Blackburn/Kathe DaGau/Germaine Scott
Finance - Clem Hergenhan/Dick Alberti/Tom Tehve
Worship and Music -Andy Mathisen

OLD BUSINESS

- Action Items; SUMMARY of previous action items
- Committees and Positions/photos (posted on bulletin board) - "church positions" placed on web site; Posted photo of new members Germaine Scarborough; Mack and Harold Scott
- **Stephanie Dall will initiate training**, by year-end, to replace Doreen Hoffman (Financial Secretary)
- **Good Shepherd Mission (Andy Mathisen is leading)** committee met March 17 - Steve Miller reported to congregation. Next Mission meeting is May 18 to:
 - update the "mission" statement in each Sunday bulletin
 - settle on a logo
- Review of Dr. Grafton's adult forum on Islam; feedback is positive; next steps might be:
 - Create widespread advertising and get council + GS members (and maybe Universal Church members) to attend the next subsequent Mosque "Open House"
 - Additional GS meeting with the previous two Islamic leaders
 - combine GS and Islamic Society on local mission (COG or Red Bank Lunch Break)
 - combine environmental activities
 - VBS field trip (with parents) to Islamic Society of Monmouth County

NEW BUSINESS

- Council approved German School to hold book sale. June 14-15 or June 21-22. Steve Miller will suggest the German School put up their temporary banner, to improve visibility (compared to the small sign presently next to driveway).
- Alternative plans if Pat Dunn is not available: Sunday bulletin, etc. **Lou Medici to followup** with Pat Dunn (at one point, Lou was creating & printing Sunday bulletins)
- Need to review Pat Dunn's email list: who is missing; who should be dropped?
- Phil Petrone is checking/replacing lights, and should ALSO check weekly for burn-out bulbs in exit signs, and also check, monthly, the emergency backup lights.
- Pastor Jack will contact United Way on assignment of individuals for property work days.
- Look for replacements for Larry Jackson, for Red Bank Lunch Break:
 - Steve will ask Lunch Break speaker for Good Shepherd Sunday Service
 - Pastor Jack to ask Larry for suggestion of best recruitment/motivational speaker at Lunch Break.
 - Steve to ask Nancy to get COG to provide a recruitment/motivational speaker.

ADJOURNED with Lords Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Steve Miller, Council Secretary

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COURAGE IN AGING - please join us on Tuesday, June 10 at 1:30 in the church library. Our topic will be "Open minds, open hearts and open hands" and.....as this will be our last courage in aging session before Pastor's retirement we will also discuss "Endings create new beginnings." Elizabeth and Ruth hope to have as many as possible there to join us in celebrating the three years of our group that has enabled us to explore the issues we face as we age and in the process get to know each other in a more personal way. All are welcome. Feel free to call Ruth Elstad at 732-864-0616 with any questions.

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AROUND THE PARISH

by Gil Vatter

GOOD SHEPHERD - THE FRIENDLY CHURCH

1. *C. J. Miller* will attend Berklee College in Boston come September, where he will major in music. Congrats C.J.

2. Happy wedding anniversary to *Shirley and Larry Jackson* (number 66), *Pat and Ed Schmidt*, *Sue and Dick Alberti* and *Patty* and me (number 61).

Ole and Lena have an all electric house - everything's charged. (Grace Brinkman)

3. Happy birthday to *Rachel and Diane Mathisen* and *Maggie Harris* (Debbie and John Blackburn's granddaughter).

4. Reports are that *Andy Mathisen* is battling Lymes disease. We hear that he's winning the battle.

I've learned that after being on a diet for two weeks, all I lose is fourteen days. (Bill Wehrli)

5. Congratulations to Mike Carp who was chosen as an "Outstanding Employee" by Macy's.

6. Congratulations to *Kelsey Kazmac* who graduated from James Madison University in Virginia this month with a major in Middle School English and Social Studies Education. She is enrolled in the masters program for teaching at James Madison.

Two cannibals walked into a bar in Prague and asked for separate Czechs.

7. The German School of Monmouth County is having a book sale at Good Shepherd on Saturday June 14 (10am - 5pm) and Sunday June 15 (11am - 3pm).

8. The congregation welcomed *Pastor David Mangiante* at the May 4 service. He used a "singing fish" to illustrate his children's sermon, "Fish For People".

Lena - "I hope you like these homemade cinnamon rolls I made. If I baked them commercially, how much do you think I could get for one of them?"

Ole - "Oh, I'd guess about ten years at hard labor." (Grace Brinkman)

9. *Diane and Andy Mathisen* recently attended the spring concert of the University of Delaware Concert Choir on Saturday May 3. Daughter, *Kirsten*, a junior at UD is a member of the choir.

10. *Barbara Haher* is reading Stephen King's new book about the 11/22/64 Kennedy assassination.

A robber ran into a bank, whipped out his gun and yelled, "Everyone get on the floor or you're all Geography."

A teller said, "Don't you mean History?"

The robber replied, "Don't change the subject."

11. *Cynthia Kaszmac* received the Nursing Leadership Excellence award from New York Presbyterian Weill Cornell Medical Center. Congratulations.

12. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd fez to *Pastor Jack* who recognized the mothers of the congregation attending the Sunday May 11 Mothers Day service with beautiful carnations.

An agnostic and an athiest had a problem - They couldn't decide which religion not to raise their children in.

13. *Diane and Andy Mathisen* flew to Germany on Wednesday May 14 to visit son, *Kurt* who is spending his junior year from Gettysburg College at Heidelberg University.

14. Congratulations to *John Crump* who retired the week of May 12. No more long drives to and from Baltimore.

Why is it that people say they "slept like a baby" when babies wake up every two hours? (Bunny Kuhl)

15. The Ladies Lunch Group met at McLoone's Restaurant on Shrewsbury Avenue on Friday May 16. For information about the June get-together, see *Barbara Haher*.

16. *Walter Keyl* is reading "Flash Boys; a Wall Street Revolt" by Michael Lewis - *Cynthia Kazmac* is reading "Fenway Park: The Centennial" by Saul Wisner and Carlton Fisk.

A young man from Mississippi came running into a store and said to his friend, "Bubba, somebody just stole your pickup truck from the parking lot."

Bubba replied, "Did y'all see who it was?"

His friend answered, "I couldn't tell, but I got his license number." (Bill Wehrli)

17, A memorial service was held at Good Shepherd Church for *Marcia Coccozza*, daughter of Shirley and Larry Jackson. And God will wipe away all tears.

18. *Pat and Brian Dunn* spent a week at Baltimore's Inner Harbor in May.

Two hydrogen atoms walked into a bar. One says, "I think I've lost an electron."

"Are you sure?", says the other.

"Yes, I'm positive", the first replies.

19. Congratulations to *David Kim*, Miae Park's number two son, who was awarded a "Silver Award" at the International Virtuoso Competition in Englewood, N.J. on Sunday May 4. The eleven year old cello player was chosen for recognition from a large group of area musicians.

20. Before a recent sermon, *pastor Jack* reminded us, "The larger the congregation, the shorter the sermon." I think he's trying to tell us something.

Doctor (on the phone) : "Ole, I have to tell you.....youre check came back."

Ole - "Well, let me tell you something. So did my arthritis."

21. *Lois and George Frank* are packing up for their annual trek from Fort Myers to Cape Cod. Bon Voyage.

22. Don't forget to shop for canned food for BLP and household items for COG.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

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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.

Sunday May 4 - "Rejoice in the Lord Always" - Henry Purcell
 Sunday May 11 - "With a Voice of Singing" - Martin Shaw
 Sunday May 18 - "Peace Be With You" - Mary McDonald
 Sunday May 25 - "Love Unmeasured, Love of God" - L. Larson

Choir rehearsal is every Thursday evening at 7:30 PM in the sanctuary - Everyone is 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. Note that we are considerably behind our 2014 budget expectation and our contributions from last year!!

	Apr 2014	YTD 2014	YTD Budget	YTD 2013
General Contributions	12,057	35,969	45,000	44,929

June 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9- Sunday School 10 - Service				7:30 - Choir Practice		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9- Sunday School 10 - Service	7pm Council Mtg	1:30 Courage in Aging				
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9- Sunday School 10 - Service with First Communion		7:30- Compassionate Friends			12:30 Ladies Luncheon Oyster Point	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
10 - Service						
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
10 - Service						