

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

February 2016

(our website good-shepherd.us)

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

Message from the Pastor

I love when the season of Lent arrives during the Church year!

Does that sound odd to you, since Lent is not such an uplifting and fun time? But that is just the point. Lent has (or should have) a very different feel than what the rest of the year does within the church. On Ash Wednesday we will begin a 40 day journey along with Jesus that will eventually lead him to the Cross in Jerusalem on Good Friday. As we move along with him, we sense the inevitable purpose of his ministry and the need for his death at the crucifixion. It is a time for us to ponder just why this all had to happen and to reflect on what exactly is our role and place in the story. It is a time and chance for us to move toward greater faith in and love of the God we know in Jesus Christ.

Lent is therefore more serious and somber than other seasons in church. As we consider these things, Christians are encouraged every year to engage in practices of self-discipline and maybe even some self-denial during Lent to remind us of our connection with the Savior who engaged in those things himself as he ventured into those fateful three days. And so, in church, we'll reflect this mood by dispensing with flowers and songs and shouts of Halleluiahs as well as make some other alterations in the worship service that will help us to get a better sense of being in the moment of Lent.

I hope that you'll join me in embracing this season and the changes it entails, not because I am fond of Lent, but because it helps enable us all to have better appreciation and deeper understanding of why Jesus did this thing on the Cross for us. My hope is that, even though you've been through Lent many times before, that each new time you find some greater appreciation for God's grace in your life.

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From the Pastor-----

BEGINNING the first Sunday of Lent (Feb. 14) Good Shepherd will start a new program for children on Sunday mornings. I like to call it *Children's Church* because the purpose is to more fully include our children in the most important thing we do as a congregation - worship together in church.

In short, what we'll do is invite Sunday school children (and hopefully their families) into worship with us at 10:00. The children will be present for the opening part of worship until we reach the point when we have the bible readings and the sermon. Then, the children and their teacher will be excused to go to the Sunday school room to have their own lesson on the same readings that we will have in worship. Their activities in 'Sunday School' will therefore be conducted during this time in worship time. After the sermon and at the time in worship when we sharing the peace and are about to begin the offering, the children will return to worship in the Sanctuary and join with everyone as we celebrate Holy Communion and then remain there until we are all dismissed at the end.

This, then, will replace the existing and traditional idea of Sunday school being held at a separate and different time before worship. Children and their parents will come to and be in church at the same time as everyone else.

Also, to help them be more fully involved in our worship, we plan to give the children the opportunity to share in some of the tasks that we do on Sunday's before and during worship, such as Greeters, Ushers, even Communion Assistants and Readers if they would like. Of course, those who now acolyte will continue that as well.

We hope that you all will look forward to this and welcome the children and their families in all that they do with us on Sunday mornings.

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COUNCIL MINUTES for 7PM, Jan11, 2016- DRAFT 1.1.1

ATTENDEES: John Crump, John Dall, Stephanie Dall, Nancy Fitch, Andy Mathisen, Pastor Pete, Steve Miller, Garry Westerweller

ABSENT: Lou Medici & Marion Schloemer

Steve Miller opened

Approved Agenda

Devotions - Pastor Peter discussed the book, "Before I Die", and read prayer #8, "One Minute Life Changing Prayer"

Approved Dec 14 minutes

Approved Dec 31 Treas report (Clem Hergenhan & Stephanie Dall)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Pastor's report - Pastor Pete highlighted his work for the last month

Creation Care Environmental Committee (Nancy Fitch). Nancy reported on the ideas/programs discussed at the Jan 10 committee meeting. Nancy solicited council's input on special half hour talks on special topics; for example, "water".

Social Ministry - COG (Nancy Fitch); Bayshore Lunch Program (Gil Vatter); (both will report at the annual meeting

Property - John Dall reported that our current rain (instead of snow) is saving \$thousands in plowing costs

Christian Education - Andy Mathisen reported attendance by seven children, ages 6 to 11. Council approved plans to have children join part of the 10AM service. (also see "New business", below)

Fellowship - Debbie Blackburn will provide an oral report at the 1/24/2016 annual meeting

Evangelism - Marion Schloemer reported sending cards to sick and shut ins for December

Finance - Stephanie Dall; Dick Alberti, Treas; Clem Hergenhan, Asst Treas

Worship and Music - Garry Westerweller. Acolytes being trained. Also see discussion on planned Sunday School participation during 10 AM service.

RECENTLY RECEIVED COMMUNICATIONS: Steve Miller will circulate the annual ELCA Congregational Survey for completion

OLD BUSINESS

- Council Nomination Status (additional council nominations are still being sought)
- On Dec 14, council authorized submission of the "Revised Constitution" (doc),(pdf) ; (changes described here) to congregation for approval and ratification at the January 24, 2016 Congregation Meeting.
- Good Shepherd Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/goodshepherdus> : Council and Congregation are expected to visit, "like", and continually update with relevant text, photos and video

NEW BUSINESS

- Andy and Pastor presented a plan for 'Sunday School' to coincide and share with the 10AM service. Council approved the plan, to be rolled out, starting with the Feb 14 service.
- Worship during Lent -Ash Wed vespers (Feb 10) & other mid-week services. The altar will be austere (ie, no flowers). Pastor will have a sign-up sheet for Ash Wed and beyond. He will hold Bible classes, if interest. We will revisit the earlier practice of communion around the altar (perhaps 1X/month). Also, we will consider use of the old communion rails
- Council agreed that pastor can officiate over weddings and funerals of non-members of the congregation
- After discussion, Council approved the Executive Committee recommendations on raises, bonuses, year-end 2015 (Jan 2016) donations, and a continuation of \$6000 annual contribution to ELCA. Council action: circulate the ELCA "Green Sheets" showing the ELCA contributions of each church in the North Shore area of NJ Synod.
- Pastor Pete will inform recipients of the approved raises and bonuses. Also, Pastor will ensure that he and staff support conduct more formal performance evaluations at the end of 2016. Garry Westerweller offered to help create a more formal evaluation process.
- Council approved and forwarded the 2016 budget for congregational approval on 1/24/2016.
- Council reviewed the draft agenda for the Jan 24 Congregation Meeting (Jan 31 Snow Date).
- Annual reports (for each church function) were subsequently requested by Jan 13 by Pat Dunn. Pat then compiled and printed a handout for attendees at the Jan 17 service. A supplement is expected for additional reports expected the week of Jan 18.
- Report writers can get ideas for their own reports from previous annual reports as documented in Congregational Meeting Minutes: 2013; 2014 ; 2015 ; Also, Pat Dunn can provide previous years' paper copies.
- Immediately after the Jan 24 annual meeting, the Council will convene and elect 2016 officers.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING will be 7PM, Feb 15, 2016

MEETING WAS ADJOURNED with Lords Prayer

Respectfully Submitted by Steve Miller, Council Secretary

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REMEMBERING LARRY JACKSON by Gil Vatter

Lawrence J. (Larry) Jackson, a member of Good Shepherd Church for more than 42 years, died on Tuesday January 12. He was 92 years old and had been a resident of Chapin Hill Nursing Home for more than a year.

Larry was born in West Keansburg on August 13, 1923. He attended the local public schools and enlisted in the United States Navy during World War II, where he served as a Machinist's Mate Third Class in the Pacific Theater of Operations. Following his Navy service he married Shirley Gibson Jackson and took a job with Bendix Aerospace in Eatontown, where he was employed for 45 years.

Larry and Shirley enjoyed traveling the world together and visited many countries during their travels. He was an avid fisherman and knew every good fishing spot on the Jersey shore. He enjoyed bowling and was a Past Master of Monmouth Lodge \$172 F&AM in Atlantic Highlands, where he was an active member for 65 years.

He was a faithful member of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd since 1973 and took part in many of the church's activities during those years. He was a long time volunteer for Lunch Break in Red Bank, picking up and delivering food from local supermarkets for the food kitchen on a weekly basis.

In addition to his wife of 67 years, Shirley, he is survived by three daughters, Marcia Coccozza of Somerville, Audrey Groh of Toms River and Constance Scheidt of Eatontown and three grandchildren

A memorial service was held for Larry at Good Shepherd Church on Sunday January 24.

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WE NEED YOUR HELP AT SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES-----

Please consider volunteering to help at our services; following is a description of the functions we need staffed. These duties are an important part of what we do when we gather to worship. Enhanced member participation is vital to a church that is intent on being, and showing, that we are alive in Christ. Lutheran worship has always emphasized that worship is what all the people do together, and not just the pastor or a select few. We encourage anyone of all ages to help in this. Speak to Pastor or someone doing the job you're interested in. Thanks!

Description of Tasks on Sunday mornings at Good Shepherd

GREETERS – Arrive by 9:45 and station yourselves as close to the front door as possible (taking cold weather conditions into consideration). This job requires that you simply smile and say ‘*Good morning*’ and “*Welcome*” to everyone. Have that Sunday’s bulletins in hand to distribute to people as soon as they enter the church. When it’s time for worship, go and take your seat.

USHERS – Arrive by 9:45 and station yourselves by the doors leading into the Sanctuary. Ushers are supposed to help visitors find their way and even a seat if necessary. Otherwise, they come forward to receive the offering plates from the Acolyte when we do that and pass the plates down each row from front to back. When Offering is completed and we sing the Offertory Song, one Usher comes forward with the plates and after the Offertory Prayer, then returns to put the plates in the church office. While that is happening, the other Usher goes to the Sunday school room to remind the teacher it is time to bring the children back into worship. The last thing Ushers do is, when Communion distribution begins, you come to the front and invite worshippers to come forward, row by row.

ACOLYTES – Arrive by 9:45 and robe up (various robe sizes are in Pastor’s office). The Acolyte is responsible for lighting the candles on the Altar (and other candles during Advent or Easter). Then, take their seat in the chair across from where the Pastor sits to the right of the Altar as you face it. When comes time for the Offering, the Acolyte takes two Communion plates from the table next to where they sit and brings them out to the Ushers, who have come forward to receive them. At the end of service, the Acolyte extinguishes all the candles

READERS/LECTORS – Arrive at your normal time for worship and sit wherever you wish during the service. It is preferred that the bible readings be done from the pulpit, but exceptions can be made. When the Prayer of the Day has been said, the Reader comes forward and reads the first and second lessons and the Psalm, which the congregation does responsively. Once the readings are done, you return to your seat. If it would be helpful for you to have the readings in advance, we can arrange to have them sent to you the week before.

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Arrive at your normal time for worship and sit wherever you wish during the service. When it comes time for distribution of Communion (as congregation sings ‘Lamb of God’) you come forward and the Pastor will give you the Chalice with the wine. Then station yourself in front of the Altar, near the pastor on the pulpit side of the Altar. After people receive the bread/wafer from the pastor, they come to you to instinct the host into the wine, at which time you say to each person “*The blood of Christ, shed for you*”. When all in the seats have communed, you and the pastor move towards the Choir and do the same for the Choir members and organist. If there is ever any disabled person who cannot come forward, you and the pastor go to their seats and commune them the same as everyone else. When all have communed, return to behind the Altar and the pastor will commune you and then you commune the pastor with same words spoken to the rest of the congregation. Once that has been done, you return to your seat.

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AROUND THE PARISH

by Gil Vatter

GOOD SHEPHERD - THE FRIENDLY CHURCH

1. A memorial service for *Larry Jackson*, postponed because of the "Blizzard of '16" was held on Sunday January 31 at 1:00 pm with *Pastor Pete Hutchinson* officiating and *Pastor Jack Elstad* preaching. A group from Monmouth Lodge #172, F&AM in Atlantic Highlands performed a Masonic ritual at the beginning of the service.

2. Shades of Sunday February 7, 2010 - "The Blizzard of '16" was responsible for all the churches in the Holmdel/Middletown area cancelling Sunday morning services on Sunday January 24. All activities at Good Shepherd were cancelled, including the annual meeting, to allow the snow (in the neighborhood of 2') to be removed from the parking lot and the sidewalks in order to prepare the building for use on Monday January 25.

3. Most of the congregation of Good Shepherd Church stayed home during and after the blizzard. A few, like *Diane Mathisen*, were away from home and were stranded because of the snow. She was in Texas visiting daughter *Rachel* and finally got back home on Tuesday.

Sven - "Hey, Ole, How's your brother doing at dat salesman job?"
Ole - "Real good. Yesterday he got two orders..... get out and stay out." (Bob Stetz)

4. The last worship service of 2015 was a "Lessons and Carols" service. Thanks to *Sue Alberti*, *Dick Alberti*, *Jamie Antonacci* and *Kim Wherli* for reading the lessons and to *Jon Kim* for furnishing cello music throughout the service, accompanied by his mother, *Miae Park*.

5. Happy birthday to former pastor *George Frank* (81), *Tom Tehve*, *Pam (Everett) Baglieri*, *Andy Mathisen*, *Pastor Pete Hutchinson* (62 years old on January 6) and *Mack Scott* (18).

6. Former Pastor *George Frank* celebrated his 81st birthday in Cape Coral, Florida with thirty people, including all four of his daughters in attendance.

I've learned that change is a challenge for the courageous, an opportunity for the alert and a threat to the insecure. (Bill Wehrli)

7. A sign that spring can't be far away - "Red" Wehrli is in Boynton Beach, Florida for the deep winter. By the way, a tornado struck Boynton Beach the last week of January, but Bill escaped any harm and no damage to his house.

8. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd fez to the Church Council for their distribution of funds to charity at the end of 2015:

COG - \$1,395
Family Promise - \$400
Bayshore Lunch Program - \$1,395
Lutheran Social Ministry - \$400

9. *The Ladies Luncheon Group* dined at **Melody's Restaurant** in Lincroft on Friday January 22. The women of the church meet each month to dine together. For February's meeting place, check the bulletin.

Old lawyers never die, they just lose their appeal.

10. *Ellen and Tom Tehve* spent the holidays with their relatives in North Carolina.

11. *Randi Stetz* cooked her usual Skandinavian style dinner for her family on Christmas Eve.

12. *Fred Oberkehr* is Vice-Principal of the Ponte Vedra, Florida High School.

Ole's Philosophy of Life - Vifes are like baseball umpires, dey never believe a man is safe ven he's out. (Bob Stetz)

13. In December the congregation brought 180 cans of food to church for the **BAYSHORE LUNCH PROGRAM**. The total for 2015 was 1,980 cans, the most since we began keeping records.

In January 2016, you brought 180 cans of food plus baby food, coffee, dessert, pasta, pasta sauce and even a frozen turkey (Thanks to the Westeweller family). We're off to a great start.

14. The **BLP SPONSORS PROGRAM** sent more than \$2,700 to the soup kitchen last year. In 2016 14 families have become Sponsors to date.

15. Please don't forget to save and bring your Expanded Poly Styrene (EPS) to the church for recycling.

Loan manager - "Do you have any money in the bank?"
Sven - "Certainly"
Loan manager - "How much?"
Sven - "I don't know. I haven't shaken it lately."

16. *Bob Horlacher* was very disappointed with Penn State's performance in the post-season. Wait'll next year, Bob.

17. Did you miss *Pastor Pete's* Children's Sermon on Sunday January 10 - "It's Called Baptism."

18. Sorry to see the Christmas decorations disappear. The flowers, the wreathes and the tree added so much color to the sanctuary.

The ratio of an igloo's circumference to its diameter = Eskimo Pi

19. Many thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd panama to everyone who contributed to the Social Ministry Committee's giving total of more than \$12,000, not including our gift to Synod, the Holmdel First Aid Squad and the Holmdel Fire Department. With those included, the total is over \$19,000 or roughly 12.9% of our gross income..

20. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd beanie to *Diane Mathisen* who continues to faithfully deliver our collected Expanded Poly Styrene to the Tinton Falls Recycling Center.

21. Did you notice the liturgy change as we entered the Epiphany Season? My favorite is the "Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring", which we sing after the offering, to the old English tune, "Barbara Allen".

The weight an evangelist carries with God - 1 billigram

22. Thanks to the retiring members of the Church Council - ***Nancy Fitch, Lou Medici, Steve Miller, Marion Schloemer and Garry Westerweller.***

Thanks also to the new members of the Council - ***Bob Horlacher and Germaine Scarborough***

23. If you did not get Pastor Pete's Sunday January 24 sermon, please call the church office for a copy.

24. Sorry to say that *Kathy Dagiau* had to have quintuple heart by-pass surgery in late January. The good news - she is home and doing very well - Send her a card.

2000 pounds of Chinese soup = Won Ton

25. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd stetson to *Dick Alberti* for serving as Treasurer for the past several years. Thanks also to *John Crump* for taking over the job.

26. The church adopted a new constitution at the annual meeting. Copies are available in the narthex.

27. Congratulations to *Natalia Gracia* who made her debut as an acolyte on Sunday January 31. Great job Natalia.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

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COG (Community Outreach Group) from Nancy Fitch

February Collection for June 2016 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 a variety of items (NOT covered by food stamps) to each family. The list includes toilet paper, dish detergent, laundry detergent, tissues, plastic wrap, liquid kitchen/bathroom cleaner, shampoo, toothpaste and bath soap. 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 –

- **56 tubes of toothpaste**
- **56 boxes of tissues**
- **28 boxes of plastic wrap**

Please leave your donations in the box marked COG in the narthex. Many thanks!!

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THOSE WERE THE DAYS

by Gil Vatter

February 11, 1967 - A design for the new church building was approved by the Church Council and a capital funds drive began, which provided \$21,000 in pledges over a two year period.

November 1971 - The 1972 stewardship program, "Serving Others", resulted in a 57% increase in benevolence pledges, 23% in current pledges and 4% in building pledges.

April 20, 1992 - The congregation celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the church with a service of Holy Communion and a sermon by Rev. Roy E. Riley, Bishop of the New Jersey Synod.

January 1996 - Congregation member Don Deming was appointed as senior choir director and member Warren Gifford became leader of the Hand Bell Choir.

January 15, 2000 - A Sunday evening contemporary service of Holy Communion was added to the worship schedule

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Donating Stock to Good Shepherd

by Clem Hergenhan

Did you know that you can donate shares 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 taxes on the gain. See me if you'd like more info.

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From Steve Miller.....Many thanks to Clem Hergenhan and grandsons Zachary & Thomas. They have annually cleaned and repaired the church gutters, repaired sanctuary siding & roofing and even patched the pink house roof.

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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.

Choir Anthems

- January 3 - "Eternal Rose" - D. Lantz
- January 10 - "O Praise the Mighty Lord" - George F. Handel
- January 17 - "Soul, Adorn Thyself With Gladness" - S. D. Wolff
- January 24 - No service
- January 31 - "We Will All Sing Hallelujah" - Benjamin Harlan

Organ Postludes

- January 3 - "Good Christian Friends Rejoice" - R. Thygerson
- January 10 - "A Day For Rejoicing" - L. Smith
- January 17 - "Toccata" - G. Muffat
- January 31 - "Psalm Nineteen" - B. Marcello

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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.

	Dec 2015	YTD 2015	YTD Budget	YTD 2014
General Contributions	13,459	106,469	115,000	114,590

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February 2016

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