

The Voice of the Good Shepherd

August 2016

(our website good-shepherd.us)

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

Message from the Pastor

It sure sometimes feels like the world is spinning out of control. If you're like me, you have experienced the mixture of emotions in recent months as almost each day brings news of horrible events. Emotions of sympathy and great empathy with those who have been harmed. Emotions of anger, frustration and even outrage that such things are becoming common place.

Young black men shot by police when there appears to be little or no reason to provoke such a strong reaction. Police officers murdered in assassination type killings by blacks who feel that justice warranted such actions, even against innocents from a different city. Terrorists continue to kill in random ways, with guns, bombs, trucks and even knives. The other day a priest had his throat slit. ISIS continues to kill thousands of Arab Muslims whom they call infidels and women, children sometimes, who are captured by them are forced in marriage or used as sex slaves. If you've heard enough; the above is probably just one week's worth of news headlines.

Meanwhile, our leaders seem to prefer to speak about some events more than others and when they speak, they offer no specific ideas or vision to give any of us reason to hope. It's no wonder that both leaders of the parties have the highest disapproval ratings of any candidates in history.

In Proverbs 29:18 the King James translation says "When there is no vision, the people perish". What that actually means is that when the guidance from Word of God is absent, people will throw off any and all restraint and chaos breaks loose in society. Is that the problem with our nation? Some would say yes because God and religion has been pushed to the side and less and less people connect with a church. But I think that, frankly, that the world is as messed up as it ever was. If you lived through World War II and its atrocities you'd say today's news is nothing. Plus, today terrible acts are immediately broadcast and even videoed for all to see. This recent technological advancement makes it seem worse than ever but only proves to us what has been going on forever.

God's Word is as active as it ever was, albeit in different ways. Through the internet and via TV and radio and in places and ways that the newspapers and CNN never tells us, God's Word and work is busy in the world. That is why, no matter how things look, in the world or in our own lives, we place our trust in the God who saved Noah from the flood, rescued his people from slavery, and who raised Jesus from the dead. The God who is always on the job in the world, by way of the Word and through each of us. The scriptures in Psalm 146: 3 also teach us to "place not your trust in princes and in mortals in whom there is no help", but in God. As we watch the news and what looks like the world tumbling down around us, remember who is ultimately in charge. HINT - It's not now (and won't be) any of our major political candidates.

Peace be with you.

Pastor

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VOICE NEWS

Got any news for the Voice that you want to spread to the rest of the Good Shepherd community? Just send it along to clem@csfcorp.com

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AROUND THE PARISH

by Gil Vatter

GOOD SHEPHERD - THE FRIENDLY CHURCH

1. Happy birthday to *Matthew Oberkehr* who will be 10 years old in August.

2. Happy anniversary to *Ruth and Pastor Jack Elstad*.

I've learned that I wouldn't feel eighty-five years old if I didn't look in the mirror. (Bill Wehrli)

3. The first issue of "*Around the Parish*" appeared eight years ago in the August 2008 "Voice". That's 72 times you have read this run-down of activity about and by the congregation of Good Shepherd Church. I look forward to writing at least eight more years of what's going on in our "parish".

4. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd turban to *Pat Miller* for playing the piano for the July 3 service while Miae was in Korea.

Lena to Ole - "I like the way you dress. The jacket fits fine but the pants are a little tight across the chest."

5. *Diane and Andy Mathisen* sang in the Fourth of July "Extravaganza" at the Tower Hill Church in Red Bank again this year.

6. The congregation brought so many cans of food for the *Bayshore Lunch Program* in early July that Patty and I had to make an early trip to the food kitchen. It looks now as if we will give the kitchen more than 270 cans of food in all of July. What a wonderful response. Of course, there was also a lot of "extras" donated as well; coffee, pasta, sauce, rice, tea and other items. Thanks for your generosity.

Ole - "Sven, why don't you play golf vid Knute anymore?"

Sven - "Vould you play golf vid a guy who doesn't count all his strokes and kicks da ball out of da rough vid his foot?"

Ole - "No, I certainly vouldn't."

Sven - "Vell, needer vould Knute." (Bob Stetz)

7. The **BLP Sponsors** have provided more than \$1,600 to help feed our hungry neighbors.

8. *The Ladies Luncheon Group* dined at the **Off The Hook Restaurant** in the Highlands on Friday July 15. For information about their next activity, check the Sunday bulletin.

Enroute to Duluth, Ole spotted some mules by the side of the road.

"Relatives?" he asked Lena.

Not skipping a beat, she replied, "Ya, through marriage."

9. Here's an update on *Janice Kraus*. She arrived in church on Sunday July 10 without any "armor" or cart and actually "walked" to her seat in the sanctuary. Way to Go, Janice.

10. The congregation welcomed Miae Park back from her trip to visit friends and family in Korea on Sunday July 10 with a round of applause. Glad to have you "home", Miae.

There are enough restaurants in the City of New York for a person to eat out every night for 54 years and never visit the same place twice.

11. *Pastor Pete* (Just call me Walt Whitman) presented his sermon based on the "Good Samaritan" in rhyme on Sunday July 10. That was a first for me but a lot of work for Pete. Thanks.

12. The congregation said goodbye to *Ellen and Tom Tehve* on Sunday July 17. They expect to relocate to North Carolina in the near future.

Doctor - "Ole, you'll live to be 60."

Ole - "I am 60."

Doctor - "See, what did I tell you."

13. Not to be outdone, *Pastor Pete* (May the "FORCE" be with him) appeared as a Jedi warrior complete with light saber for his July 17 sermon. Funny thing....it fit right in with what he had to say.

14. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd beanie to *Summer Howard* for the great job she did as Lay Reader on Sunday July 17. She also did a good job as Communion Assistant on Sunday July 31 while the rest of the Howard family acted as greeters and ushers that day as well. I'm glad I belong to the same church as Summer.

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.

15. *Ellen Tehve* brought a big bag of cucumbers from her sister's garden to share with the congregation on Sunday July 17. Thank you. They were very tasty.

16. *Trudy Miller* recently fell at home and broke her right wrist. Get well soon, Trudy.

Remember back when we were kids and every time it was below zero outside they closed school?
Me neither.

17. The congregation welcomed *Pastor Rachel Semovoski* on Sunday July 24 while Pastor Pete was away.

18. *Bob Fulmer* is battling a "double vision" problem. He has improved enough so that he is allowed to drive but reading is still a chore.

A recent study has shown that women who carry a little extra weight live longer than men who mention it.

19. *Gramma Maureen Bartlett* flew to San Francisco again to see granddaughter Lilah. She reports that Lilah has changed in just a few weeks. By the way, I think I'd better buy some United Airlines stock.

20. *Herb Kuhl* reports that wife *Bunny* and their daughter rushed down to North Carolina soon after her granddaughter's apartment was hit by lightning and "exploded" during a bad storm.

My New Years resolution for 2016 was to lose just 10 pounds.....Only 15 to go.

21. *Diane and Andy Mathisen* journeyed to Baltimore on Sunday July 24 to help daughter *Kirsten* move to a new apartment.

22. LATE NEWS FLASH - *Dick Alberti* fell on the golf course and hit his head hard enough to require stitches. Get well Richard.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

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THOSE WERE THE DAYS

by Gil Vatter

August 1968 - Bids received to build a church on the four acre site purchased on October 2, 1967.

June 4, 1973 - Refinanced the loan covering the church building raising the congregation's indebtedness to \$100,000.

1977 - Steven Sharp resigned as organist/choir master and was replaced by Dennis Duda.

1981 - The church began a new women's group called M. O. M. (Morning Out for Mother) as well as a young singles group.

July 30, 2000 - The final Sunday of Pastor Michael C. Gebhart's ministry at Good Shepherd.

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August 2016

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