

# *The Voice of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd*

112 Middletown Road, PO Box 452, Holmdel, NJ 07733 732-842-4596 GoodShepherdHolmdel.org

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

July 2017

## **Message from the Pastor**

Summer is here and so things slow down and get quiet at most churches, including ours. Attendance gets a little lower but we've had some surprisingly good Sundays. And I understand that folks go away on vacation and have other things to do and there are things like holidays such as the 4th of July.

But thinking of that made me wonder why it has changed that people years ago used to more often call it 'Independence Day'.

Some say it's just easier to say '4th of July', and others suggest that many don't even know anymore that the day is celebrating our nation's independence. (That, if true, is sad). Still others say it has to do with accepted realities that, for many Americans in 1776 and beyond, there were not true 'freedoms'. Those all may be valid explanations but sometimes I just wish things stayed the way they were.

Some clergy get a little zealous around this date (or other patriotic days) when parishioners want to sing a patriotic song that has nothing to do with the bible lessons that day or where we are in the church year. I used to think a little more like that but age can mellow the zealot, if not all of us.

One of my favorite hymns is 'The Battle Hymn of the Republic'. I love the music but the words move me even more, especially the line that (speaking of Jesus) says 'As He died to make men holy, let us live to make men free,...our God is marching on'. Actually the original lyrics written by Julia Ward Howe said 'let us die to make men free'. That's because the song had direct links to the Civil War in which so many soldiers died. Even more so, the tune was taken from the song 'John Brown's body lies a-mouldering in the grave' which recalled that Brown led an armed attack against slavery that resulted in him being found guilty of treason and later sent to the gallows.

So should we mix religion with war or other armed political conflicts? Some say Jesus was a pacifist and pleaded for peace in the world so we should not ever glorify war. I think the 'pacifist' and 'peace' labels on Jesus are very debatable and inconclusive.

But, as I said, the verse that inspires me the most has less to do with war imagery and more about the part of dying for a greater purpose. Soldiers died in many wars in our nation's history and there has been much discussion about the reasons and validity of those wars. I don't really want to get into all that because I think it is besides the point here. In most cases, soldiers who fight in wars are willing to die for something other than and greater than themselves, which is exactly what Jesus did. His was not a political cause and he did not engage in trying to kill others.

But he nonetheless died for something beyond his own wants and needs;....even for those he didn't know or yet to be born. He died for us to have freedom. Freedom from guilt of sin, freedom from being separated from God in this life or beyond, freedom from anxiety over whether we're good enough to get God to love us. He gave us independence from the tyranny of religion that can belittle the weak and less self-righteous and cast doubt in the minds of people wanting and needing to know God. Jesus' death 'set us free to be people of God', as one of our more religious-oriented canticles says.

So, based on that, I say to you.....Happy Independence Day.....every day of the year!

+++++

HAROLD LENZ DIES AT AGE 93

by Gil Vatter

Harold G. Lenz, 93, a long time member of Good Shepherd Church died on Friday May 26, surrounded by his family. Both Harold and his wife Trudi, who preceded him in death, were Charter Members of Good Shepherd Church and were very active in the life of the church until they moved to Seabrook Village, a retirement residence in Tinton Falls, N.J. several years ago. He retired from Bell Labs, where he worked on guidance systems, satellites and tracking systems as well as the trans-Atlantic telephone cables.

Harold was born in Shanghai, China on February 4, 1924, the son of Harold R. Lenz and Anni Agnes Martha Lenz. He received his technical training from the Karlsruher Institut für Technologie and the Universität Fredericiana zu Karlsruhe.

He is survived by his son, Peter of West Orange, N.J. and two grandchildren, Christa, a social worker in Albuquerque, N.M. and Stefan, an engineering student in West Orange, N.J.

A memorial service was held on Sunday June 4 in the Atrium at Seabrook Village



MINUTES for Council Meeting, Monday June 5, 2017

ATTENDEES : Andy Mathisen (Pres) John Crump (Treas), Steve Miller (Sec), Stephanie Dall (Vice Pres), John Dall, Clem Hergenhan, Pastor Pete. Congregation Members are invited to participate, or simply observe.

Andy Mathisen opened

Devotions - Pastor Pete

Approved this agenda

Approved May 8 Minutes (Steve)

Approved June 5, 2017 Treasurer's Report Stephanie Dall reported a small positive YTD cash flow; the German School owes a payment.

Pastor's report: very sad news that long time church secretary Pat Dunn died (Pastor emailed congregation). [The council authorized a \$100 donation to St Jude Childrens Hospital, in memory of Pat Dunn]. May 7 was the last joint confirmation class with King of Kings; conducted 1 baptism; last Sunday service at Willows was May 14 (typically 12 to 15 participants), next Willows service will be Sept after end of summer; Pat and Andy attended Synod Assembly (as reported in June Voice), average church attendance (Across the Synod) is ~40, see handouts; Synod is reducing staff in response to reduction in contributions; please welcome former Good Shepherd member Ken Dixon, who plans to regularly attend services.

Creation Care report Nancy Fitch reported Styrofoam collections will resume once storage space is available. Nancy asked for feedback on "Food For Thought" articles in the bulletin. The majority of council reported reading the food articles, and the entire council encourages further such articles. Steve reported that he and Pat are achieving success in a Middletown carbon emission reduction plan, and are partnering with Monmouth Community Climate Coalition and Sierra Club to encourage emission reduction plans in other cities in Monmouth County, and NJ-wide.

Outreach reports

- Evangelism -cards Sue Alberti reported sending "thank you" notes for the May 21 concert to Miae and the 4 talented musicians; mailed Get Well notes to those on the prayer list.

Social Ministry

- COG Nancy reported purchasing the remainder of the COG personal care items; Rikki & children will pack up this coming weekend, and John Dall will deliver to COG the following week. At Nancy's request, the Council approved a \$500 contribution to COG from the Social Ministry fund, for certificates to parents to purchase school supplies and clothes for their children. When the check is needed, at the end of summer, Nancy must remind John Crump to write a check
- BLP Gil Vatter reported over 1000 cans will be delivered June 5 to Bayshore Lunch Program; BLP Sponsors have contributed \$1150 through June; Miae's spring concert raised \$1463 for Colombia flood victims; YTD Social Ministry is \$7363.

Property - John Dall reported he joined Clem in cleaning the gutters; a roof inspection identified and repaired a small leak but no major problems with any roofs. Aluminized roof coating should be re-applied to flat roofs; drip edges should be re-taped and tarred. Good Shepherd pays ~\$7200/year insurance. A visit by an insurance specialist suggested \$500 savings is possible in personal property coverage; Bids from 3 insurance companies will shortly be available. Andy placed a call for organ repair (a continuous G# tone plays when any of the organ stops are operated). John Dall will arrange quotes for parking lot asphalt, and will get estimates for long term maintenance.

Christian Education - Andy Mathisen reported June 4 concluded a great year. Christian Ed is suspended until September; a bell choir is still a possibility.

Worship and Music – Andy Mathisen reported everything is running smoothly.

## OLD BUSINESS

- Report on May 21 concert: Gil Vatter published a summary in June "Voice". Miae Park and 4 talented musicians are congratulated on the eighth annual spring benefit concert May 21, in which \$1463 was sent to Colombia flood victims.
- It was decided to leave old material on display in the narthex for a little more time, then to file in a dedicated drawer of the fire-proof file cabinet in the Counselling room.. No congregation members responded to pastor's request for volunteers to help with archiving. Steve was requested to select the best photos from his collection. Steve decided Google Photos was not acceptable, since his photos are organized in folders by date or event, and Google Photos does not appear to allow folders. Steve will try the other photos archival spots recommended by Joan Doyle.

## NEW BUSINESS

- John Dall set Sat, June 10 to be the next Property Work Day.
- John Dall plans to get parking lot paving quotes, and then seek congregational approval in a special after-service meeting.
- Congregation is invited to attend Mosque open house on Sunday, June 11, 7-9PM (poster)
- June 29th sleep over on Frank Hall floor was approved for Kristen's pastor friend and her small group. The group asked for a nearby beach. We recommended Jenkenson's Boardwalk, Pt Pleasant Beach for activities, and Sandy Hook for quiet.

NEXT MEETING will be Mon, Sept 11, 6:30PM. During the summer, business will be conducted as needed by short meetings, email, and/or phone calls.

ADJOURNED MEETING (with Lord's Prayer)

Respectfully submitted, Steve Miller, Council Secretary

+++++

### AROUND THE PARISH

by Gil Vatter

#### **GOOD SHEPHERD - THE FRIENDLY CHURCH**

1. Congratulations to *Anne (Rajala) and Scott Medling* as they welcome *Jason Zachary Medling* into the family. Congrats to new grandparents *Karen and Dave Rajala* and Uncle Eric too. Jason was born on May 26 in California.

2. *Pastor Pete* is providing a daily, week-day devotional each morning during the summer months based on Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians. If you are not receiving the daily e-mail, please call the office.

I've learned that a man who says he can do as much at 80 as he could do at 50  
wasn't doing very much at 50. (Bill Wehrli)

3. During two services in June, Minister of Music, *Miae Park*. experienced real problems with the organ. On Sunday June 18, she was forced to use only the piano. Fortunately, the problem has been solved, the organ was in good shape for the service of Sunday June 25.

4. Happy birthday to *Jon Kim*.

A B flat, a G flat and a D flat walked into a bar. The bartender said,  
"Sorry we don't serve minors."

5. Happy anniversary to *Anne and Scott Medling and Germaine Scarborough and Harold Scott*.

6. *Herb Kuhl* spent time in the hospital followed by time in rehab and is now at home recovering from treatment on his back. Come back soon, Herb.

Sven - "How's da pain in da neck?"

Lena - "Oh, he's out playing golf."

7. Our former church secretary, *Pat Dunne*, died in early June following a heart valve operation in late May. We will miss her. And God will wipe away all tears.

8. Despite a summer slump, the congregation has sent over 1,000 cans of food to the **BAYSHORE LUNCH PROGRAM** as well as more than \$1,150 in cash from the BLP Sponsor's project. In June you also provided eight cans of coffee, pasta, rice, baby food and other non-canned food items. Thanks from the Social Ministry Committee. Please don't forget your hungry neighbors when you shop for groceries each week.

A garden center customer picked up a can of insecticide and asked the sales clerk,  
"Is this good for red ants?"  
"No", responded the clerk, "It'll kill 'em."

9. *Pastor Pete* illustrated his Sunday June 11 sermon, "Everything Seems to Come in Threes", with "Three Musketeers" candy bars for everyone in the congregation. Sweet !

10. *Bob Fulmer* cut his hand on a broken ceramic cup in his kitchen in mid-May. They say that the kitchen is one of the more dangerous rooms in the house, Bob.

Definition of a "choir" :  
A group of people whose singing allows the rest of the parish to lip-sync.

11. *Rachael (Mathisen) Fink* has started a new job as Nurse Practitioner in a clinic in a small town of about 800 in Eastern Georgia while husband, Captain Mike, attends Cyber-school courtesy of the U.S. Army. Rachael is the chief medical practitioner in the clinic.

12. Poor *Randi Stetz*. She was hit by an over zealous truck driver on her way home from church on Sunday June 11. The car was dented but she wasn't.

A giraffe walked into a bar.  
The bartender said, "What's with the long face?"

13. The congregation gave *Shirley Jackson* a standing O at the worship service of June 18 in recognition of her 90th birthday, celebrated on June 22. Congratulations, Shirley.

14. *Diane and Andy Mathisen* will again sing in the annual, patriotic "Extravaganza" at Tower Hill Church.

I had a Greek yogurt for breakfast this morning,  
then a salad for lunch,  
and then I came home and ate the entire kitchen.

15. I don't know who began the tradition of staying in the sanctuary after the benediction to listen to *Mia Park* play the Postlude, but it's a wonderful way to quietly sit for a few minutes after the service and hear some great music. Thank you Miae.

16. Don't forget your offerings during the summer months. Church expenses don't take a vacation.

**SEE YOU IN CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY**

+++++

A kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around observing each child's work. As she got to one little girl, who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, "I'm drawing God." The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like." Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute." From garry westerweller

+++++

# July 2017

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