

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

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

*Open Minds ... Open Hearts ... Open Hands*  
May 2025

## **PASTOR PAT'S PONDERINGS:**

The risen Christ keeps showing up, appearing in the gatherings of his disciples. He makes peace with them, he breathes the Holy Spirit upon them and commissions them as apostles, the "sent ones," his emissaries of peace, to go out and forgive sin. He comes while they are fishing and feeds them, asking Peter, who had denied three times that he even knew Jesus, "Do you love me?" Jesus keeps showing up!

In the month of May and into June, we continue to celebrate the wonderful gift of resurrection life. We have seven Sundays of Easter, the Queen of Feasts. And how perfect it is that we have so much more time for rejoicing than the 40 days of Lenten sorrow, for we have challenges here, but heaven is our lasting joy! We had a wonderful attendance on Easter Sunday and again on the Second Sunday of Easter, April 27<sup>th</sup>. We welcomed Lori Lashenick and her mother Theresa Keeler, Kim Wehrli's group home mates: Dana Catrone and Alexa Barbosa-King; Mara Cameron and her daughter Olivia; and Taylor Fitzgerald into our church family on that day. Alexa joined in absentia, as she was home sick. Charles Reyes joined us by Holy Baptism. The sponsor for Charles was his fiancé, Taylor Fitzgerald. We are eager to help others join this list. A delicious Easter brunch completed the celebration. Thanks to all who brought dishes to share.

When I wrote to you last month, we were on granddaughter watch! Little Margo Kennedy Medley was due on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, and finally was delivered to our younger son Jordan and his wife Natalia on April 7<sup>th</sup> by c-section. She weighed 6 lbs., 12 ozs., and was 20 1/2" long. We are head-over-heels in love with her and so thankful that she is finally safely here. Mother and baby are doing well.

We are still eagerly hoping for news about the Direct Install Program to assist us in replacing the heating and cooling in Frank Hall and the classrooms. Please put this on your prayer list.

I hope that you will join us for Sunday School on Sundays at 9:15 AM and Worship at 10 AM. If you are not able to attend, please invite me to bring you Holy Communion at home.

I'm always eager to serve you. You can reach me by calling or texting my cell phone: 732-822-0711 or by email at [PatMedley@aol.com](mailto:PatMedley@aol.com). I am available for counseling and pastoral care and also make home visits.

**Much Love in the Lord,**  
Pastor Pat Medley

**The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd welcomes and fully includes all people regardless of age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, or economic condition.**

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Parents or grandparents and young children meet with me each Sunday at 9:15 AM in the nursery classroom for a Bible story, craft, snack, and sometimes a song as well. Join us. Let Pastor know if you need more information.

## **Mother's Day Dedications**

You may make a donation in any amount to celebrate a special woman in your life to:

**The Samaritan Fund** to help members in need or to **The Memorial Fund**. Checks should be made to Good Shepherd with the fund indicated on the by-line. Donations may be made through Tithe.ly on-line for this purpose.

Your dedication message will appear in the bulletin on Mother's Day: In honor of, in memory of, in celebration of (for example). The following is the information I will need by May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Donor's Name / Dedication Message / Preferred Fund

**WORSHIP WITH US IN MAY:**

**Peccata Mundi**, whose name means "Sins of the World," our Lent caterpillar, has become Salvador Mundi, our Easter Butterfly, a name which means "Savior of the World" in celebration of Christ's gift of liberation from sin and death, revealed in his resurrection on Easter.

Please join us for Worship every Sunday at 10 AM. Please bring a relative, friend, co-worker, or neighbor. Be bold and invite a stranger! All are welcome!

**May 4<sup>th</sup>, The Third Sunday of Easter:**

The disciples make a big splash and eat breakfast with the risen Jesus. Wading in the water (remembering baptism) and eating with Jesus (celebrating holy communion) is our weekly encounter with the risen Christ. Jesus asks us again and again: Do you love me? And Jesus invites us, again and again, to follow him, bringing the Easter life to all people.

**May 11<sup>th</sup>, The Fourth Sunday of Easter (Mother's Day):**

We sometimes call this day Good Shepherd Sunday. The gift of new life is the gift of the risen Christ, whose sheep hear his voice and follow him into eternal life. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It was true for those "who have come out of the great ordeal" in the Revelation vision. It is true for us and for all the baptized: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

**May 18<sup>th</sup>, The Fifth Sunday of Easter:**

Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

**May 25<sup>th</sup>, The Sixth Sunday of Easter:**

Visions abound in the readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter. Paul has a vision about what to do. John has a vision of what will be. Jesus provides visions of a peace that surpasses human understanding and a power beyond human imagination.

**June 1<sup>st</sup>, The Seventh Sunday of Easter:**

It is possible to hear in Jesus' high priestly prayer, a prayer he offered shortly before his death, the petitions of the ascended Christ for his own throughout history—to our day—and beyond. Jesus prays for us. In holy baptism we become believers in God, have our robes washed in the flood of Christ's forgiveness, and receive the gift of life forever with all the saints.

**IF YOU CANNOT BE PRESENT AT WORSHIP:**

**Pastor Pat is glad to bring Holy Communion to you!** Our Services are live-streamed on our YouTube channel @patriciamedley4915 and a button to the recordings is on our website: GoodShepherdHolmdel.org. The viewing link is also emailed soon after each service. We only record the portion of the Service up until the Holy Communion, as it seems impolite to feast on Holy Communion when the viewers cannot join us. Thanks to all who share our emails with the links with family, friends, coworkers, neighbors, or post them on social media!

**COFFEE HOUR:** We have delicious snacks and wonderful fellowship after worship each Sunday. Donations are always enjoyed! Items you bring for Coffee Hour needing refrigeration can be placed in the refrigerator/freezer in the mini kitchen by the sacristy to avoid confusion with the preschool.

**FELLOWSHIP:** We have wonderful cooks and we love to eat together! Our May Fellowship event will be a Sunday Brunch on May 18<sup>th</sup> after worship. If you would like to bring food to share for that event, please let Pastor Pat know.

**BIBLE STUDY/LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:** We have been offering classes on Zoom, or in person, to assist people to prepare for baptism or membership. If you would like such a class, please let Pastor Pat know. We will schedule Bible study classes again soon. Is there a Bible book or topic you would like to study? Please let Pastor Pat know.

**CHURCH COUNCIL:** We have a wonderful, very engaged Church Council at Good Shepherd and I am continually thankful for the contributions of these talented leaders. Our Council includes Jessica Voto-Pellegrino, President; Michael Kohlhaas, Vice President; Pam Keyl, Secretary; Doreen Hoffmann, Financial Secretary; Michael DiPiazza; Rikki Gracia, (Social Ministry); and Rob Pellegrino, who shares a seat with Jessica. Clem Hergenhan has completed his Council term, but continues to serve as our Treasurer. We do have openings for those who might wish to serve. Our 2025 spending plan does not yet include a monthly payment toward the cost of the replacement of the heating and air conditioning in

Frank Hall and the classrooms, as well as making our building more energy efficient by replacing lighting with LED bulbs. We hope to know more about that very soon. We are caring both for our facilities and also for God's good creation! Next the meeting has been moved to accommodate your Pastor's attendance at her 50<sup>th</sup> Seminary Reunion to Tuesday, May 6th at 7:30 PM. Our meetings are open and we invite you to join us, share suggestions, offer help, get better informed, or just listen in. You are totally welcome. The NEW link to join our Council Meetings is here: Please save it! Join Zoom meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83950827925?pwd=CNKNEe0wpbp6aNUxJJpWiEd7PP6FEU.1> Meeting ID: 839 5082 7925 Passcode: 797818

**“BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN, FOR THEY WILL BE COMFORTED.”**

Grief is so painful and death brings unwanted, difficult separations into our lives. Our Bereavement Support Group will meet at church at 10:30 AM on Thursday, May 15th. No matter who it was and no matter how long ago your loss occurred, all are welcome to join us. If you have questions, call or text Pastor Pat at 732-822-0711.

**YOUR BLOOD DONATION CAN BE LIFE-GIVING TO THREE PEOPLE:**

Call 1-800-933-2566 or go to [nybc.org](http://nybc.org) to schedule your blood donation with the NY Blood Center. Join Pastor Pat in giving blood every 56 days, or as often as you can, if you are able.

**OLD MONMOUTH HISTORIC TOURS:** From 10 AM to 5 PM on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> and from 12 noon to 5 PM on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, many historic sites which normally charge an admission fee will be available to tour for free. Check it out and learn about a new favorite!

**MADE IN MONMOUTH:** On Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10 AM to 4 PM, the Monmouth County Division of Economic Development and Board of County Commissioners will host Made in Monmouth at the Brookdale Community College in the Robert J. Collins Arena and Recreation Events Center. Over 200 vendors will be displaying and selling items made right here—and Pastor Pat will be one of them, designing, making, repairing, and selling Medley Wearable Art Jewelry. (Please excuse the commercial, but it really is an amazing event, and free to both the public and the vendors.)

**Thy Will . . . My Will**

Careful advance planning avoids many future problems. Have you remembered The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Holmdel, NJ, in your will?

Sample bequest statement: “I give, devise, and bequeath \_\_\_\_% or \$\_\_\_\_ of my estate to The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 112 Middletown Road, Holmdel, NJ 07733”

and then choose one: to be used for its unrestricted general purposes or to be used for the following specific purpose: \_\_\_\_\_.”

**THE BISHOP'S CHALLENGE: CARE OF GOD'S GOOD CREATION:**

We hope that you are trying some Meatless Mondays—or any day you choose. We asked Diane Didden for the recipe for the delicious cake she brought to the March Fellowship Lunch in honor of Mike DiPiazza. She says the recipe is from 1969. Here it is:

**APPLE PECAN RING CAKE**

**INGREDIENTS:**

1 cup butter or margarine  
2 cups sugar  
3 eggs  
3 cups sifted flour  
2 tsps. vanilla

1 ½ tsp. baking soda  
½ tsp. salt  
1 tsp. cinnamon  
¼ tsp. mace  
3 cups chopped apples

2 cups chopped pecans  
or walnuts, optional

Cream butter and sugar until fluffy. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Mix and sift flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon and mace; add gradually. Stir in vanilla, apples and nuts. Batter will be stiff. Spoon into greased and floured 10” tube pan. Bake at 325 for 1 ½ hours (but check after one hour with cake tester, or it may be overdone.) Let cool in pan 10 minutes. Remove to rack. Enjoy.

**If you have a recipe you would like to share with us in a future edition of the Voice, send it to [PatMedley@aol.com](mailto:PatMedley@aol.com).**

**Having a special event? Let us know if you would like to hold it at Good Shepherd.**

**THE NEW JERSEY SYNOD ASSEMBLY** will be held at the Hilton East Brunswick Hotel & Executive Meeting Center, 3 Tower Center Blvd., E. Brunswick, NJ on Friday and Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. The theme will be “Behold! I Make All Things New. You do not need to be a member of the Church Council to serve as a voting member. Please let Pastor Pat know if you are able to serve. She will be commuting. We will be electing a new bishop. We will cover the cost of your registration. Late fees apply after April 21<sup>st</sup>.

**SAVE THE DATE!** SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 2025, 5 PM TO 10 PM, for a Dinner Dance Celebrating the Ministry of Bishop Tracie Bartholomew at the Hyatt Regency Princeton. Dinner and Cash Bar, Program and Lots of Dancing. Tickets will be \$50 each.

**WE LOVE TO PRAY WITH AND FOR YOU:** Please let Pastor Pat know if your prayers have been answered, need updating or to add to our list by emailing [PatMedley@aol.com](mailto:PatMedley@aol.com). We have been remembering many needs in our prayers:

We prayed for God’s blessing on creation. We prayed for peace, mercy, unity and justice here at home and in Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, Ethiopia, the Central African Republic, Sudan, Burma, Gaza, the Holy Land and Ukraine and areas affected by the Boko Haram insurgency. We prayed for refugees, immigrants and persons displaced because of persecution, war and disaster.

We prayed for all people experiencing poverty and food insecurity, and for all struggling with debt and economic uncertainty. We asked God to reassure all who experience hopelessness or need your tender care, especially political prisoners and any who are exploited, denied due process, unjustly accused, or wrongly convicted, to strengthen those whose lives have been disrupted by disasters, especially recent floods, plane crashes, wildfires, tornadoes, earthquakes and gun violence. We asked God to bring joy to those yearning for a child. We prayed for fellow human beings around the world dying from Ebola, malaria, TB and AIDS because of the end of US funding for PEPFAR and USAID. We asked God to care for those suffering with dementia, addiction, and all on our prayer list: Rachel Fink (daughter of the Mathisens)

Emmett Mackin, a newborn in the NICU (requested by Diane Mathisen)

Tianna Mickens

Kaitlin Kropa (daughter of Pastor Ed Kropa, Hope, Freehold)

Barbara Battipaglia (mourning her husband, Jack)

Harold Brown (husband of Susan Martens-Brown)

Francine Brogan (friend of Rikki Gracia)

Sung Ok Hahm & Jukyung Kim (Miae Park’s mother and father-in-law)

Nancy DiPiazza (Mike’s niece)

Terry McCord (John’s brother)

Cindy Coakley (Kathe DaGiau-McCord’s daughter)

Sue McCabe (Kathe DaGiau-McCord’s sister)

Ed Lustenberg (friend of Garry Westerweller)

Michelle VanDerwalker (Kathe DaGiau-McCord’s daughter)

Megan More (young daughter of Holly Wilgus’ friend)

Matthew Fisher (son of Kathe DaGiau-McCord’s friend)

Kevin McCord (John McCord’s brother),

Kathy Curran (Mike Carp’s cousin)

Lucy Bakalian (Anne Bakalian’s mother)

Mike Paul (friend of Pastor Pat)

Dolores O’Brien (widow of Pastor Tom O’Brien)

Pastor Jack Elstad

Brian Stauffer (Pastor Pat’s brother)

Lauren Hyde (Pastor Pat’s relative)

Mandy (requested by the Divjack family)

Barbara (requested by Taylor Fitzgerald)

Pastor Dennis Ritter (college classmate of Pastor Pat)

Amparo Mir (friend of Karen and Dave Rajala)

Dolores Rajala (Dave’s Mother)

Dr. Karlfried Froehlich (Pastor Pat’s Seminary Professor),

Dawn Petr (Clem and Nancy Hergenhan's daughter)  
 Charlotte Brodfuhrer (Kim Wehrli's friend Karen's Mom)  
 Chuck Johnson (Clem and Nancy Hergenhan's friend)  
 Michael Voto (Jessica Voto-Pellegrino's uncle and godfather)  
 Cortney Brown (niece of Doreen & Glenn Hoffmann)  
 Stephanie Liuzzo (Doreen & Glenn Hoffmann's daughter)  
 Eleanor Hoffmann (Glenn's mother)  
 Joey Livingston (Pastor Pat's seriously ill former parishioner)  
 Bruce Solomon (cousin of Karen Rajala)  
 Pastor Randall Steinman  
 Nila and Ashok (In-laws of Michael Kohlhaas)  
 Karola (Michael Kohlhaas' grandmother)  
 Courtney (Pareen Kohlhaas' friend)  
 Wayne (the Elstads' cousin)  
 Mena Gendy & Frida de la Parra & their daughter Mia,  
 Toni Tschampion (Michael DiPiazza's sister-in-law)  
 Joshua and Loren Corsello (requested by Bob Sislian)  
 Bob & Jennifer Sislian (requested by his father Bob Sislian)  
 Barbara Hemeleski (mother of Amy Palazzolo, NJ WELCA President),  
 \*Sonja Ongsiako, \*Pam Baglieri, Bob & Vivian Sislian, \*Bob Fulmer, \*Ines Csulak, \*Gil Vatter, \*Jackson Pellegrino,  
 \*Lynne & \*Garry Westerweller, \*Phyllis Castello, \*Jennifer Bull, the McKnight family\*, \*Holly Wilgus, Ellen Muench\*  
 and those we name in our hearts.

We prayed for all those we love, for our enemies and those we need to forgive, and finally for ourselves. We thanked God you the blessings showered upon us each week. We praised God for the witness of the saints of all times and places, especially Pope Francis, Wendell Smith, Frank Csulak, Bunny Kuhl, Lillian Di Piazza, Janice Kraus, Patty Vatter, Chris Dall, Jack Battipaglia, Sebastian Dall, Sonia Gracia, George Quintyne, Richard Aguirre and our own beloved dead.

#### **YOUR OFFERINGS MAKE MISSION HAPPEN:**

Would you like to receive offering envelopes??? These assist us in preparing a giving statement for your taxes. Join us in the joyful, grateful adventure of planning your charitable giving and setting a goal to strive for! It is possible to securely set up giving on our website: [www.goodshepherdholmdel.org](http://www.goodshepherdholmdel.org) by clicking on the yellow "GIVE" button on the page. You can make a one time gift, or set up recurring gifts weekly, every two weeks, or every month from your credit card, bank or Apple Pay. Thanks a million to all who do this, or mail your offering, bring it to church, or place it in our locked mailbox in the parking lot. Good Shepherd always manages to offer ministry excellence, to care generously for others, to support our New Jersey Synod and the ELCA and many community agencies that care for those who are most in need. Did you know that Good Shepherd has an endowment fund? Did you know that our church can accept donations of stock? Did you know that if you are 73 years of age or older and must withdraw a Required Minimum Distribution, you may be able to have the fund send a check for all or a portion of your RMD to Good Shepherd (or any charity) directly and it will not be taxable to you. Speak to Clem Hergenhan at [clemhergenhan@gmail.com](mailto:clemhergenhan@gmail.com) or 732-895-7555.

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#### **AROUND THE PARISH**

by Gil Vatter

I was again reminded of the importance of friendship last month when I noticed on my calendar that Dale Wolfe, a former shipmate living in Florida, was celebrating his 97th birthday. We usually exchange phone calls every few months to make sure that everything is going well. Can't be too careful at our age. I called him to congratulate him on his special day and ended up talking with him for over an hour and a half. He and I are the last remaining members of the "Quartermaster Gang" that served on USS Princeton, an Essex class aircraft carrier, in the middle 40's. Princeton was my home from late 1945 until late 1948 and it fulfilled all the advertised promises - *JOIN THE NAVY AND SEE THE WORLD*.

When I talk with Dale it's as though we had been on the phone the day before and we slip right into where we left off yesterday. We never seem to run out of things to discuss. I suppose it's because we shared the NAVY experience and all that goes with it. I feel the same about the friends I made during my working years and my old pals from Good Shepherd who have spread out all over the map. Believe me, I don't claim to be a

sociologist, but I feel sure there must be some kind of connection with having good friends and enjoying a long, happy life. I try to keep up to date with Pam Everett Baglieri, Dick Havell, Lois and George Frank, Randi Stetts and several other former members of Good Shepherd. They keep me current with what's happening in their lives and I tell them what is going on in mine and, of course, any news from their former congregation. Having a column in the "Voice" helps me a lot to perform that job.

Actually, I feel sure that membership in a congregation is one of the better ways to make new friends. When I was still working, our family lived in four states and among the first things we did when we moved into a new area is look for a nearby Lutheran church. We knew we would be welcomed and quickly find new friends among the folks in the congregation we chose to join. I always worked. We became active in our new church and our list of friends began to grow. Good Shepherd was no exception. Our family joined Good Shepherd Church in 1976, we all became active in one or more parts of the life of the church and the rest, as they say, is history. More than one person met their soulmate, fell in love and married at Good Shepherd. Is it any wonder Good Shepherd is known as *the friendly church*?

There was an old woman from Ghent  
Who purchased a used circus tent.  
It had a steam train,  
A windmill from Spain  
And other strange accoutrements.

1. Welcome sweet springtime and welcome as new members of Good Shepherd - Charles Reyes, Tayler Fitzgerald, Mara Cameron, Olivia Cameron, Lori Lashenick, Theresa Keeler, Dana Catrone and Alexa Barbossa-King.

2. Welcome also to our world - Margo Medley, born on April.7 - Congratulations to the Grandparents, Pastor Pat and Roy.

There once was a comic named Gold  
Whose jokes were terribly old.  
And try as he might  
He just couldn't quite  
Get laughs from any he told.

3. Our prayers include Frank Csulak and Wendell Smith who have entered the church triumphant.

4. Pam Baglieri sends her love to all her old friends at Good Shepherd.

A gentleman farmer from Leeds  
Planted 55 acres of seeds.  
But to his surprise,  
When they started to rise,  
He reaped 200 bushels of weeds.

5. Had a phone call from Randi Stetts. She is doing very well and sends greetings to all her friends at Good Shepherd.

6. The Bayshore Lunch Program Sponsors have sent over \$600 to the Keyport food kitchen to help feed our hungry neighbors. Are you a Sponsor?

7. Happy birthday to Anthony and Cole Alberti, Mia Park, Lilah Nichols and Jason Medley.

8. Happy wedding anniversary to Lou and Elaine Medici, Dora and Keith Howard, Kirsten and Greg Noplos and the Nichols of San Francisco.

9. Congratulations to former Pastor Jack Elstad who celebrates the anniversary of his ordination this month.



**HOPE YOU ENJOY THESE WARMER TEMPERATURES**

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## Community Outreach Group News

from Rikki Gracia

Our next commitment is the June COG family HH goods help bag initiative, which is providing 22 vetted families with monthly HH Goods & Care Help Bags for the Calico Cat Pantry families in need program. Our church's month to provide these essentials for families will be here before we know it so let's get started. We are asking our wonderful congregation to please contribute the following items, when you are able to add a few extra items to your shopping cart.

### **COG HH GOODS HELP BAG      Items Needed to help our community in need.**

- liquid dishwashing detergent
- liquid laundry detergent
- shampoo
- conditioner
- toilet paper rolls (singles or any size package)
- deodorant
- female personal hygiene items

You can drop your donations in our red donations bucket by the COG table on the left side of our Narthex.

Thank you, everyone, for your help supporting vetted local families relying on the Calico Cat Pantry for basic household needs and nourishment.

If you have any questions or would like for me to pick up your items, please call/text me, Rikki Gracia, 917.309.3071