

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
November 2025

PASTOR PAT'S PONDERINGS

"How shall I repay the LORD for all the good things God has done for me?... I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the name of the LORD. I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God's people, in the courts of the LORD's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!"

These excerpts from Psalm 116 are a worshipful reflection by the psalmist, reflecting not only on God's constant providence, but also apparently after some significant affliction in which his life was at risk. The writer recognizes himself to be in God's debt, both because of God's generosity, but also because he recognizes God's hand and plan upon his life in his rescue. Henceforth he will be a witness to God, fulfilling the vows he made—perhaps something like "Dear God, if you get me out of this pickle, I will serve you faithfully and help others know and love you too!" As Thanksgiving approaches, I had hopes to help the Bayshore Ministerium hold another interfaith Thanksgiving Service so that we might thank God together for all the blessings of life as people of faith, but that will not be possible again this year. On November 16th, we will gather with the Korean Church of NJ which worships now at Good Shepherd on Sunday afternoons. We will have a covered dish luncheon together. On that Sunday I will make Stewardship Plans for giving available to all our members and friends. We invite you to make a plan for giving for 2026, taking the example of gratitude with "a vow to the LORD" from Psalm 116. Good Shepherd's people know how to live generously, which is why the gift t-shirts I will also give out that day, will look so good on all of you!

I am always eager to serve you. I can be reached by calling or texting my cell phone: 732-822-0711 or emailing me at PatMedley@aol.com. I will be away in France November 5th through 12th. Pastor Matt Thiringer will be available to cover any pastoral emergencies: 732-491-1912. His email is revmat@verizon.net. There will be no Sunday School on November 9th.

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 is thriving! I meet with children from preschool through junior high, and their parents and grandparents or baptismal sponsors at 9:15 AM. Join us for a Bible story, craft, snack and maybe even a song! I count on the older students to be great helpers with the younger ones. It is always a fun time!

YOU MAY DEDICATE ALTAR FLOWERS for upcoming Sundays to the glory of God, or in honor, in memory or in celebration of someone special or an occasion. For a gift of \$30, we receive two lovely, long-lasting bouquets. You may take them with you after worship or leave them for us to deliver to someone who is shut-in, ill or hospitalized, or in need of encouragement. November 30th is available.

WORSHIP WITH US IN NOVEMBER:

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! WE LOVE GUESTS!

NOVEMBER 2: ALL SAINTS SUNDAY:

In holy baptism God makes saints out of sinners. In holy communion God forgives the sins of all the saints. In worship today we give thanks for all the saints “who from their labors rest.” In the same breath we petition our God for the strength to hear and to heed the admonitions of Jesus in today’s gospel. Sealed by the Spirit and sustained by the Savior’s body and blood, we live with joy as God gives us breath, to the praise of God’s glory. On this day we remember our beloved dead and claim the blessing of living among the saints.

NOVEMBER 9, THE 22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

We worship on the first day of the week because Jesus was raised on that day. Every Sunday is a little Easter. This Sunday feels more like Easter than many as the appointed texts celebrate the reality of the resurrection. Live it up this Lord’s day. Our God is the God of the living. (Pastor Pat, her husband and sister will be living it up in France this week and Pastor Bob Fritch will be warmly welcomed as he returns to be our guest pastor.)

NOVEMBER 16, THE 23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

The end is near. There is no doubt about it. The warnings are dire. The tone of today’s texts is ominous. But the baptized know how to live in the meantime. The baptized are strengthened for the living of these days in word and sacrament. The baptized rally around the invitation of the apostle: “Do not be weary in doing what is right.” This will also be Stewardship Sunday. Everyone will receive a Thrivent “LIVE GENEROUSLY” t-shirt. We will have a covered dish meal following the service. I have personally invited our Korean Church friends.

NOVEMBER 23, CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY:

Jeremiah’s promise of the execution of “justice and righteousness in the land” finds ironic fulfillment in the execution of Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. It appears utterly contradictory that a king should be crucified with a criminal. This victory appears for all the world as humiliating defeat. Yet through the gate of death, Jesus opens the door to paradise.

NOVEMBER 30, FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

Our new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today’s readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord’s coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

IF YOU CANNOT BE PRESENT AT WORSHIP:

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 on the right in the mini kitchen by the sacristy to avoid confusion with the preschool and Korean Christian Church. We hope that some of the members of the Korean Christian Church will come early for their service and find a warm welcome at our Coffee Hours!

GENEROSITY FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON: We will have a covered dish fellowship luncheon on Sunday, November 16th at 11:15 AM. We ask everyone please to bring a dish to share of any kind. Please

email PatMedley@aol.com to let me know what you plan to bring and I will attempt to cover any obvious omissions. There will be a free “Live Generously” Thrivent t-shirt for everyone to wear.

OUTREACH SERVICES AT THE VILLAS AT HOLMDEL:

Pastor Pat will be offering a morning weekday service of Holy Communion each month on the third Wednesday at 10:30 AM at the Villas at Holmdel, 200 Commons Way, Holmdel. This is a wonderful way to serve our neighbors. It is our hope that some of the residents there might decide to become a part of our worshipping community. If you would like to support her in doing this, let her know. The next service will be on November 19th. Some of the residents also Zoom in for our Bible study!

NEW MEMBER OPPORTUNITIES FOR SEEKERS: We have been offering classes on Zoom, or in person, to assist people to ask questions about becoming a disciple of Jesus, to prepare for baptism or membership. If you would like to meet to explore how to take a next step in your faith, please let Pastor Pat know at 732-822-0711.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY: We are studying Paul’s Letter to the Romans and using curriculum from Augsburg Fortress. The participant guide is a download available from Pastor Pat. The next class will be held on November 18th at 7:30 PM on Zoom. The link is here:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82124304337?pwd=McZizSkio0aItmHarsi6awtxUalrDd.1>

Meeting ID: 821 2430 4337

Passcode: 726758

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; 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 next meeting will be held on Monday, November 17th 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 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

FREE QUILTING CLASSES will be offered by Pastor Pat’s sister Robin Stauffer, who is an experienced quilter, at Good Shepherd for anyone who wants to learn., You do not need to own a sewing machine to learn to quilt. We need to know if there is interest and when would be the best time to offer the classes. Please let us know by return email to Pastor Pat at PatMedley@aol.com if you are interested and if you can make a weekday morning class, a weekday afternoon class or a weekday evening class, or even all of the above. You do NOT need to be a member to participate.

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

Grief is so painful and death brings unwanted, difficult separations into our lives. Our next meeting will be at church at 10:30 AM on Thursday, November 20th. 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 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. There is a donation center in the Holmdel Towne Center, at 2111 NJ-35, Suite 285, Holmdel.

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.

If you have a recipe you would like to like to share with us in a future edition of the Voice, send it to PatMedley@aol.com.

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

WE LOVE TO PRAY WITH AND FOR YOU: We have been remembering many needs in our prayers:

We prayed for God's blessing on creation. We prayed for those who lead and for peace, mercy, unity and justice here at home and in Pakistan, India, Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Iran, 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 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 hurricanes, 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, AIDS and hunger 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: Former President Joe Biden

Bob Robinson (requested by Pastor Pat)

Rachel Fink (daughter of the Mathisens)

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

Harold Brown (husband of Susan Martens-Brown)

Sung Ok Hahm (Miae Park's mother)

Nancy DiPiazza (Mike's niece)

Terry McCord (John's brother)

Ed Lustenberg (friend of Garry Westerweller)

Kathy Curran (Mike Carp's cousin)

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

Pastor Jack and Ruth and Marc Elstad

Lauren Hyde (Pastor Pat's relative)

Barbara Terry (Mother of Charles Reyes requested by him and Taylor Fitzgerald)

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)

Michael Voto (Jessica Voto-Pellegrino's uncle and godfather)

Cortney Brown (niece of Doreen & Glenn Hoffmann)

Stephanie Liuzzo (Doreen & Glenn Hoffmann's daughter)

Bruce Solomon (cousin of Karen Rajala)

Nila and Ashok (In-laws of Michael Kohlhaas)

Karola (Michael Kohlhaas' grandmother)

Courtney (Pareen Kohlhaas' friend)

Wayne (the Elstads' cousin)

Robby (Alexa's nephew)

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), *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, 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 and for the healing of Joseph Barbosa. We praised God for the witness of the saints of all times and places, especially Lucy Bakalian, Jukyung Kim, Frank Csulak, Bunny Kuhl, Sonia Gracia, Eleanor Hoffmann, Sonja and Augusto Ongsiako, Sue Smith and our own beloved dead. Pastor Pat offers anointing for healing after the intercessions each Sunday.

YOUR OFFERINGS MAKE MISSION HAPPEN:

We care for one another. Your gifts to Good Shepherd for the Samaritan Fund are making a huge difference. Thanks to those who have already generously contributed. You are the best! And a reminder: we do not text or email people individually asking for gift cards, Amazon and Best Buy purchases, and the like. These scammers frequently pretend to be Pastor Pat or our treasurer and say, "Don't call me, I'm in a meeting." Yes, call me and verify. This is NOT our way of supporting the needy.

WOULD YOU LIKE 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 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? Here's good news: 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 or 732-895-7555.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH GROUP CHRISTMAS SHARING:

We always accept donations to support our neighbors in need so that, with dignity, people can use the gift cards we purchase to buy what is needed to celebrate Christmas. More information will be coming out in future emails.

THE MEMORIAL STONE: We have a small memorial garden with a stone on which the names of those from our congregation who have died are carved. Pam Key, our Council member is collecting names to be added. Please email Pam at plkiwi@aol.com, or call her at 732- 687-8244 and give her the exact name. She will get a quote from Uras Monuments, get approval for the work and will try to get the names added before the winter weather sets in.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS sent to your email address are available from the ELCA. Just go to elca.org. and enter Daily Bible Readings in the search bar. Open the first one you see, scroll down to the bottom and click on Subscribe, and then enter your name and email address.

GERMAN CHRISTMAS SERVICE DATE SET:

Please save Saturday, December 6th at 6 PM for this year's German Christmas Service. Please note the time change! Refreshments will follow with the German School. The traditional Good Shepherd Christmas Dinner Party is still to be planned. If you would like to help us organize the details, please let Pastor Pat know.

An Intent for Giving in 2026

In gratitude to God and in thanksgiving for the ongoing ministry of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, I/we intend to give the following offering:

\$ _____ to be given weekly **OR**

\$ _____ to be given monthly **OR**

\$ _____ to be given in total for the year on another schedule.

I/we understand that this offering may be adjusted if necessary by notifying the church office.

____ I/we will begin this new level of generosity starting now

____ this commitment is an increase in generosity

____ I have ____ am interested in including the congregation in my estate plans

____ You may contact me when volunteers are needed.

If able, we plan to worship ____ weekly, ____ 2 x/month, ____ monthly, ____ as able. ____ Shut-in Communion, please.

Name(s) _____

Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Signature _____

Date _____ Phone _____

This intent may be mailed to Good Shepherd at 112 Middletown Road, Holmdel, NJ 07733, placed in the offering plate, or emailed to clemhergenhan@gmail.com. We appreciate your prayerful consideration and planning ahead to help us meet our mission. We are maintaining and even growing our mission.

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MEMORIAL GARDEN UPDATE

From Pam Keyl

We are in the process of updating the list of names on the headstone in the memorial garden. if you have a name you believe should be added please contact Pam Keyl. 732-687-8244 plkiwi@aol.com

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AROUND THE PARISH

by Gil Vatter

Both you and I, all of our fellow humans, and, in fact, all living things on Earth inhabit a small planet, in an insignificant solar system, part of the huge Milky Way galaxy, in one corner of the vast universe. A solar system is a star which is orbited by one or more planets. Our solar system is made up of eight planets plus comets, asteroids and space debris being held in place and orbiting our star, which we call the Sun. The Sun, an 865,000 mile sphere of very hot plasma, is about 93 million miles from planet Earth, which is close enough to give you a bad sunburn if you are exposed to its rays, even for a half hour, on a sunny day.

In the past, we called the Sun, "Sol", as in solar. Many ancient civilizations centered their religions around the Sun, including the Aztecs, Incas, Egyptians, Japanese, Greeks and many others. They planned their agricultural and

religious activities based on their observations of the Sun and some actually invented calendars based on those observations. The realization that the Sun is important to our existence must have occurred to our ancient ancestors early in the game. Repeated daily light followed by darkness certainly made an impression on them, which led to religious practices venerating the large, fiery ball in their sky.

The Sun's light and energy are essential for life here on Earth. Although it is so far away, we receive both energy and light from the Sun. It is called photosynthesis. Sunlight is also collected on solar panels, which convert it into electricity. "Solar fields", large installations of solar panels, are becoming a major means of providing electric power to our cities and towns. Scientists call us a "Goldilocks" planet, since we are "not too far from" and "not too close to" our star. We are just the right distance. If we were closer we would be like our neighboring planets, Mercury and Venus, with no life on the very hot surfaces of both. If we were farther away, like Mars or Jupiter, we would be on an icy world, too cold to support life.

As we orbit the Sun, our planet is, in turn, orbited by a single satellite we call the Moon. In comparison, Saturn has 51 moons and Pluto a diverse collection. The Sun, and in our case the Moon, control our tides. Along with the tilt of our planet as it rotates, our star also controls our seasons, so that when it is warm in the northern hemisphere, it is cold in the southern hemisphere. When it's winter in Brisbane, it's summer in Holmdel. When it's summer in Toronto, it's winter in Rio de Janeiro. A slight change in the heat emitted from the Sun can cause wide temperature variations on Earth. The onset of "Ice Ages" in our planet's past history is an extreme example of this phenomenon.

The Sun is classified as a "white dwarf" star. It is approximately halfway through it's life cycle. One day, about 5 billion years from now, our bright Sun will become a very dim "red dwarf" star and will no longer provide the heat, light and energy which has made our planet the home of such a diversified collection of animals, plants and humans.

There was a young man who played ball
For the Twins (Minneapolis/Saint Paul).
He pitched a great splitter
Which made batters bitter
'Cause they could not hit it at all.

1. Thanks to Pastor Pat for bringing communion to me in October.
2. Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd beanie to Mike Carp and his Crop Walk team.

There was a young lady named Dot
Who wanted a quick "selfie" shot.
But she stepped in a hole
While attempting this goal
And a blur was all that she got.

3. Heard from Diane Mathisen, who is recovering from hip replacement surgery at home. She is doing well and feels better each day.
4. Our old friend Dan Marrone has been approved for ordination. Congrats and best wishes.

An old bearded lady named Flo
Worked for years in a circus sideshow
With a midget, a geek,
A sword swallowing freak
And a girl with tattoos, head to toe.

5. Happy birthday to our former Pastor Jack Elstad, Lukas Proksch and Olivia Medley.
6. Now, more than ever, it's important to support food kitchens. Please remember the Bayshore Lunch Program. Are You a BLP Sponsor?

HAVE A VERY HAPPY THANKSGIVING

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COG Christmas Update

From Rikki Gracia

Planning for the Holidays has begun and your COG leaders are already planning to make sure those in need of Christmas giving help in our community are not forgotten.

This year's outreach needs are growing and a little help from everyone will go a long way.

This year's Calico Cat Pantry Holiday Gift Giving Program is starting early and are seeking your assistance. Currently, we support families, senior citizens, children, grandchildren and individuals who need a helping hand during tough times.

For this year's fundraiser we are once again relying on the ease of gift card donations which bring great joy to our kids and families. This way they have fun picking out their own special gifts, making for lots of holiday fun.

Our aim is to distribute the following gift cards:

- \$50.00 for each child (and grandchild) under 18 years of age, we currently serve approximately 50 children
- \$25.00 grocery store card for senior citizens without children in their household
- Note: Clients receiving "children" gift cards are not eligible for the \$25.00 card

Eligibility for gift cards is as follows:

- Clients and their families must have been registered with our pantry for at least the past 6 months.
- Clients must have visited our pantry at least once a month over the past 6 months.
(We are open twice a month)

We request donations in \$25.00 denominations.

Suggested retailers include: Target, Kohl's, Walmart, Old Navy, Hobby Lobby, Shoprite.

We plan to hand out the Cards to our clients on Wednesday, December 17th. We kindly ask that you deliver your donations by Sunday, December 14th, if possible.

We extend a heartfelt "Thank You" on behalf of the families we assist. Your contributions will allow them to enjoy a nice meal or give an extra special gift to their loved ones.

For any inquiries, questions or item pick-ups, please don't hesitate to contact/text me, Rikki Gracia, at 917.309.3071.