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 August 2025

PASTOR PAT'S PONDERINGS:

The most exciting new thing at Good Shepherd is that we have a new renter! We learned through connections from the German School, that the Korean Christian Church of New Jersey, which worships on Sunday afternoons, was becoming homeless because the Lincroft Presbyterian Church has merged with the First Presbyterian Church of Matawan. They were looking for another church willing to rent to them. Members of Council were in agreement that we should pursue this. When I heard that they were in conversations with another congregation, I went over to Lincroft Presbyterian on their last Sunday there (and by God's grace, the Sunday before Roy and I flew to Australia), met with them after their service, and urged them to reconsider their plans and think about how wonderful it might be to come to Good Shepherd. After their fellowship meal, that same Sunday, they phoned and asked if they could come over and look around. They were so happy with our church that they prayed about it and voted to come and be our newest renter. I am not sure about how all this has developed since my trip began on July 1, but they are the nicest people and it appears that this will be a blessing to both our congregations. I have hopes that we will be able to develop some cooperative ministry and fellowship.

Now, some summer thoughts for your August spirituality! If you feel like you have been on that hamster wheel, you look forward to vacationing. And sometimes when you've been on vacation, you feel like you need a vacation from your vacation. After being away, I'm always glad to sleep in my own bed again! God loves us and knows that we need rest. For that reason, God built a sabbath day of rest into the very plan of creation—as a gift! Sometimes, after many years of employment and layers of responsibility, we forget how to rest and play. We admire and praise people who are experts at multi-tasking and assume that being busy, busy means that you are very important indeed! We are uncomfortable with silence. But the Bible says, even God rests. What? Do you think you need to be busier than God??? That's an oppression from the devil, I think! I have discovered that there is great power in rest and silence. Where do we get power for living? From God who gives us life. Where do we get guidance for the steps we take and the decisions we make? From God's Word, if only we are eager to read it and hear it--and from the Holy Spirit, who is always wooing us and eager to enter into "Open Minds, Open Hearts and Open Hands"—such a great church motto! Quality relationships are maintained by investing quality time. We are so eager for the gift of eternal life. Ha-ha! Really? God wants quality time with us now as well. When we forget God, we are gradually on our way to dying. In one of our recent readings from Isaiah, God says, "I was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask, to be found by those who did not seek me. I said, "Here I am, here I am," to a nation that did not call on my name." How poignant! God is ready and yearning to engage with us. How blessed we are to live in a time where the gospel has spread completely around the world and we can find a Christian community of some kind almost everywhere! I hope that if you travel, you will make time for rest and recreation in worship. Bring back the bulletins to help us experience the communities where you have been welcomed.

I'm back from our trip, participating in the Baptist World Alliance in Australia, visiting friends there, and seeing some new parts of Asia. I am so looking forward to worshiping with you again in August.

And thanks to all of you who did so much to keep things humming at Good Shepherd while I was away! We are a family of faith!

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 will meet again in September.

WORSHIP WITH US IN AUGUST:

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!

August 3: The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost:

Today's texts offer instruction and encouragement for all who are occasionally overwhelmed by the "unhappy business" of life. Jesus urges us to take care and be on guard against all kinds of greed. We who have died with Christ in holy baptism have also been raised with him and are encouraged to elevate our thinking, seeking the "things that are above." To that end we seek the sustenance of the Lord's supper and the encouragement of God's word.

August 10: The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost:

Jesus says, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. It is God's promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the "little flock," of which we are a part in today's assembly. Faith, God's baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

August 17: The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost:

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great "cloud of witnesses." In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."

August 24: The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost:

Remember the sabbath day. Call the sabbath a delight. This is the Lord's day, and the Lord will do for us what the Lord does: feed us, forgive us, help and heal us. Rejoice at all the wonderful things God is doing.

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!

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, or to meet to explore how to take a next step, please let Pastor Pat know. We will schedule Bible study classes again in the fall. 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! We only meet if absolutely necessary in the summer. You will be notified if a meeting will be held. 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

"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, August 21st. 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.

LUNCH BREAK ANNUAL COMMUNITY PICNIC:

Saturday, August 16th, 9 AM to 2:30 PM at Count Basie Park, 11 Henry Street, Red Bank, NJ 07701. Free BBQ, Health & Social Services, Softball tournament, video game truck, bounce houses and & fun bus, book giveaway, and a backpack distribution from 10 to 1 PM. Child must be present to receive the backpack. For more information, contact Gina Vastola at gvastola@lunchbreak.org, or Mille Jeter at mjeter@lunchbreak.org.

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. This Orzo Salad is absolutely delicious—and a favorite of Pastor Pat's for the summer. It comes from the <u>Those People at that Church: The St. Francis Lutheran</u> Cookbook. St. Francis is an ELCA congregation in San Francisco that celebrates diversity.

ORZO SALAD Serves 12-16

1 pound of orzo (rice-shaped pasta 1/2 cup pine nuts (pignoli)
1 cup olive oil, or more to taste (I like Robusto) 1/4 cup roasted peppers, cut in 2" strips 1/2 cup strozen peas (keep them frozen) 1/2 cup chopped fresh basil 2 cups broccoli florets 1/4 to 1/2 cup chopped oil-packed sun-dried tomatoes

Cook the orzo in boiling water with a little salt and some olive oil until just tender. Drain and place in a heat proof bowl. Combine the oil and vinegar in a lidded jar and shake vigorously to blend. Add this mixture to the orzo. Separate the frozen peas, and toss. (Frozen peas will cool the pasta; the heat from the pasta will thaw the peas.) Toast the pine nuts in a medium skillet over medium-low heat, stirring frequently, until they are evenly brown. Be careful not to let them burn. Add the pine nuts, peppers, sun-dried tomatoes and basil to the orzo. Toss. Taste; add salt, olive oil or vinegar to adjust the balance. Mound the orzo in a wide shallow bowl. Surround the mound with lightly steamed or microwaved broccoli florets. Serve at room temperature or chilled.

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.

<u>WE LOVE TO PRAY WITH AND FOR YOU:</u> While Pastor Pat is away in July in Australia, please email your urgent prayer requests to Andy Mathisen at <u>armathisen@gmail.com</u> and Pastor Bob Fritch at <u>revbobnyc@gmail.com</u> as well as to <u>PatMedley@aol.com</u> for future bulletins. 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 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 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, 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)

Tianna Mickens.

Baby Rowan (Requested by Sandy Mickens)

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

Harold Brown (husband of Susan Martens-Brown)

Francine Brogan (friend of Rikki Gracia)

Sung Ok Hahm (Miae Park's mother)

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)

Barbara (requested by Taylor Fitzgerald)

Dolores Keeler (stepmother of Lori Lashenick)

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)

Joey Livingston (Pastor Pat's former parishioner)

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)

Mena Gendy & Frida de la Parra & their daughter Mia,

Toni Tschampion (Michael DiPiazza's sister-in-law, recovering well from major surgery)

Joshua and Loren Corsello (requested by Bob Sislian)

Bob & Jennifer Sislian (requested by his father Bob Sislian)

*Sonja Ongsiako, *Pam Baglieri, Bob & Vivian Sislian, *Bob Fulmer, *Ines Csulak, *Gil Vatter, little *Jackson Pellegrino (getting a new rod in his leg), *Lynne & *Garry Westerweller, *Phyllis Castello, *Jennifer Bull, the McKnight family*, *Holly Wilgus, Ellen Muench.*

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 prayed for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as the NJ Synod, ELCA elected a new bishop and thanked God for our bishop-elect, Rev. Dr. Christa Compton. We praised God for the witness of the saints of all times and places, especially Jukyung Kim (Miae Park's father-in-law), Eleanor Hoffmann (Glenn's mother), 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, Eleanor Hoffmann, Sharon Deming, 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 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.

Lay Preacher Training

The Leadership Mission Team once again is coordinating a program to prepare lay members to preach in their congregation when no ordained pastor or deacon is available. Participants will be recommended by their pastor and may include those already providing such preaching, so please speak to Pastor Pat if you are interested! The program will consist of four two-hour courses online (each course taught over two zoom sessions) and one all day Saturday retreat (November 15, 2025) as well as preparation of a sermon to be shared with the cohort of participants.

This program is designed to help fill the need for a supply preacher when the pastor is on vacation. Participants who complete the program will receive a certificate of completion but will not be authorized to preside at the sacraments.

The four courses include:

- Lutheran Theology Basics (focusing especially on the law/gospel distinction)
- Worship Basics
- Bible Basics
- Practical Preaching Leadership (structure of a sermon, delivery, preaching resources, etc).

The classes will begin on Tuesday, September 9, 2025 and continue for eight Tuesday evenings (7:30-8:45 pm). Registration and recommendation forms will be available in July. A \$50 per person fee will be collected at the time of registration. (If you wish a scholarship, speak with Pastor Pat.) For more information about the program, contact Pastor Eric Trozzo (pastor@stmatthew-lutheran.org).



Celebrating David Kim and blessing him as he leaves for medical school

News from Michael DiPiazza

I (Clem) asked Michael to send me a picture of him falling out of his boat but he steadfastly refused. Maybe we'll have that in a future newsletter. Meanwhile he reports -----

I am in "Disneyland for Adults" and I thank God every morning for the life I have here. The weather is temperate - hot, not humid with typically a 10-15 degree drop from 8 PM onward. I get to enjoy sailing regularly as well as many other interesting and fun activities.

I still regard Good Shepherd and its wonderful people as my spiritual home. Please give everyone my fondest regards and best wishes. Here is a picture of my new home and me sailing on Tellico Lake/Little Tennessee River.





AROUND THE PARISH

by Gil Vatter

I've been collecting one thing or the other all my life. I think it might be in my DNA because I have always enjoyed looking for and adding to collections of a variety of items that interest me. For example, I began collecting postage stamps during the 1930's and I am still working on a collection of civil censored Canadian postcards from World War II. Stamp collecting has given me many, many happy hours and I have learned a lot from it as well.

For a long time, I also collected memorabilia from the "Golden Age of Radio". I searched for anything that was related to both network radio shows as well as shows found only on local stations. The Golden Age of Radio lasted from the late 1920's until the middle 1940's, when television made radio a relic of the past. Those were the days of "Fibber McGee and Molly", "Town Hall Tonight with Fred Allen", "The Shadow", "Vic and Sade", "Jack Armstrong, the All-American Boy", "The Camel Caravan", "Our Gal Sunday" and so many, many more. Everything from soap operas to commodity reports for area farmers. Radio had it all. There were radio programs for the kids, shows for housewives, sports broadcasts for fans of all ages, political reports and entertainment for the whole family. There was a weekly broadcast from New York's Metropolitan Opera and many religious shows, such as the "Lutheran Hour" and the "Mormon Tabernacle Choir".

At our house, my sisters and I listened to "Let's Pretend", "Little Orphan Annie", "The Lone Ranger" and "Bobby Benson and the H-Bar-O Ranch" when we got home from school. Mom had already heard her soaps, "The Story of Mary Marlin" and "One Man's Family" and after supper, the whole family sat around our Philco floor model and laughed at "The Eddie Cantor Show", "The Jello Program, starring Jack Benny" or listened to a variety of musical presentations. There were no pictures to watch, only audio. Which meant that we had to use our imaginations to guess what the people on the show and icons like the Green Hornet's car, "Black Beauty" really looked like. I was totally surprised (and I must say, somewhat disappointed) when I finally saw my favorite radio stars when they appeared in magazines or in the movies, During World War II, everyone sat anxiously by their radios for the scheduled news reports as well as the occasional "special bulletins" which kept us abreast of the war in Europe and the Pacific. My father kept a world map by our radio set so that we could actually follow where the battles were taking place.

Those days are gone forever and now radio is something you listen to while driving in your car. Our television sets bring us everything we used to get on the radio, adds a picture to it and it's all in color. Can you imagine what it will be like 100 years from now? One thing I know for sure, whatever the new entertainment innovations may be in 2125, they will never match the "family togetherness" of our good old Philco radio set.

A pro baseball player named Blair Grew some very long, black facial hair. One game, while at bat He stepped on his mat And the ump called him out, then and there.

- 1. August 1, 2000 was Mia Park's first day at Good Shepherd, 25 years ago.
- 2. "Around the Parish first appeared in the Shepherd's Voice in August 2008.

There was an old cook from Cape Cod Whose chowder ingredients were odd.

She used some cod fish

And some clams in her dish

A lobster and a handful of scrod.

- 3. Happy birthday to Randi Stetz.
- 4. Happy wedding anniversary to Ruth and Jack Elstad.

There was an old Mau Mau named Mose With a wildebeest bone in his nose,
A ring in each ear
And he carried a spear
But wore nothing else, head to toes.

- 5. Welcome home to the Medleys. What a trip.
- 6. The BLP Sponsors program has sent over \$900 to the Keyport food kitchen.

ENJOY THE SUMMER DAYS



WHERE DOES MY OFFERING GO?

MEMBER OFFERINGS

CONGREGATION

NJ SYNOD

In 2025, we anticipate that members of our 143 congregations will share \$1,600,000 in Mission Support with the New Jersey Synod. This represents the largest portion of the Synod's mission spending plan (aka 'operating budget') which synod congregations voted and approved in 2024 totaling \$2,054,300. This total includes additional income from investments, grants, interest and designated gifts.

IN 2025, YOUR MISSION SUPPORT OFFERINGS WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO:

Grow the ELCA and MINISTRY PARTNERS



Half of our Mission Support is shared with the ELCA Churchwide organization. Additional ministry partners in New Jersey and our region grow as a result from the financial support offered through our gifts.

6

Strengthen CONGREGATIONS



The 143 congregations served by pastors, TEEM candidates, deacons, vicepastors, interim pastors and clergy serving congregations in retirement are provided with resources, networks and support for faith formation, stewardship, justice, multicultural ministry, discipleship, witness, and communication



Accompany NEW and STRATEGIC MINISTRIES / COHORTS



Together we support new mission starts, strategic ministries and cohorts of learning communities practicing vitality and innovation along with *Go And..., Caminando Unidos en Cristo*, and *Waves of Hope*. Among these partners we count our mission initiatives in Camden, Elizabeth, Jersey City, Passaic, Secaucus, Trenton, New Brunswick, Summit and Pennsauken.



Provide leadership for MISSION through the OFFICE OF THE BISHOP



The Bishop seeks unity in faith and common mission among the expressions of this church. Our Bishop manages the roster and the calls of leaders and candidates for ordained ministry. She strengthens our Lutheran identity and facilitates common action among communities of other faiths.



Engage in OVERSIGHT and PLANNING for Synod Ministries



The Synod organizes lay and clergy leaders to serve on governance boards and committees that provide guidance and oversight for our ministries. We provide facilities, equipment and human resources for staff and operations of the New Jersey Synod.

