

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
September 2025

PASTOR PAT'S PONDERINGS:

Rally Day is September 7th! Hooray! Sunday School will begin meeting again, and at church we will have a blessing of backpacks and of teachers and learners. Our Church Council will meet after a long summer break, Adult Bible Study will resume, and our Minister of Music, Miae Park will be planning some choir or handbell rehearsals. If you would like to share your musical gifts in worship, please let us know. The Little Clover School will soon be in session, the German School will be offering classes, and we look forward to fellowshiping with the Korean Church whose services follow our own.

Please remember Ashley Simpson and Andrew Obayda who have been worshiping with us and plan to join our congregation, in your prayers as they prepare for their wedding day. Ashley is the daughter of my wonderful long-time next-door neighbors in Freehold. I will perform their wedding on Friday, September 12th. "May you dwell in God's presence forever. May true and constant love preserve you!"

"Thoughts and prayers!" A big quarrel seems to have broken out about the meaning of these words after yet another mass shooting, this time at Annunciation Church in Minneapolis on the first day of school. Two beloved children were shot and many more people injured. Some are still fighting to survive. I cannot stop thinking about them and about the fact that these kids are the age of my own grandchildren now. Of course, I prayed for them and am still praying for healing for the injured and for the families of those who were stolen from us by the shooter, that God will sustain them and comfort them as they suffer an unbearable grief. We pray even for our enemies, as hard as that is to do, and so I am praying for the shooter's family and friends. I cannot imagine the horror of knowing that a family member concocted such a massacre. However, I too am outraged as a Christian that "thoughts and prayers" somehow do not seem to inspire practical action toward preventing these events going forward. Mental illness, yes, I am certain that nobody does something like a mass shooting without having what I would call a mental health crisis. Yet, people all over the world suffer from stress and mental illness, but among developed nations, we are alone in America in suffering from all these mass shootings and in 2017 President Trump signed a bill that rolled back the regulation that would have prevented an estimated 75,000 people from buying guns due to mental health issues. Apparently, most Americans do not own a gun, but there are more guns than Americans. There have been 285 mass shootings in the United States just this year, killing 262 people and wounding 1,275 as of July 31st--about one mass shooting per day. There have been 44 school shootings in the US as of August 27th. Some educators have quit the profession over gun violence. In 2022, following the shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, I attended an interfaith vigil at Bell Works. Soon after, Congress passed some minimal gun safety legislation, surging financial support for mental health and school safety programs, and raising the age from 18 to 21 to purchase a firearm. Back in 1994 Congress passed the Federal Assault Weapons Ban. Unfortunately, it was allowed to sunset. A 2019 DiMaggio et al. study looked at mass shooting data for 1981 to 2017 and found that mass-shooting fatalities were 70% less likely to occur during the 1994 to 2004 federal ban period. Others dispute whether the law was effective. The law had many flaws. It did not affect assault weapons made before the ban and gun manufacturers produced modified versions of banned firearms that escaped the narrow definition of "assault weapon" in the law. Also there was no buy-back program to encourage people to divest themselves of their assault rifles.

We recently visited Australia where after the Port Arthur massacre, in 1996, their Federal government, states and territories came together and agreed on the necessity of enacting strict gun laws. There is a 28-day waiting period to buy a gun. The gun owner must need the gun for target practice or work. Self-defense is not an acceptable reason to have one. A person belonging to a pistol club can use it while supervised, but not take it home. Gun owners who are hunters must store their firearm in a gun safe bolted to the floor, hidden in a cupboard, with the ammunition and bolts stored

separately and they are visited by local or federal law enforcement to assure storage compliance. Australia has not had a mass shooting since.

Every time one of these things happens, the people most directly affected say, “This must never happen again.” That’s what I pray for too! I remember counseling with a father of young children some ten years ago who told me that after a mass shooting, and I cannot remember where that one happened that traumatized him—a movie theater or a mall—he said he never took his children anywhere without wondering where he and his kids would hide from a shooter and feverishly plotting possible escape routes. I suspect that we are all suffering somewhat from PTSD. It seems to me that some Americans love guns more than we love our children. The commandments tell us to love God and neighbor and not to kill. I am not certain what changes would make a difference. It seems like mental health resources, for vets in particular, have hit the chopping block. Figuring out what would make a difference does not seem to be a priority, but it should be. There are sooo many things that are more regulated in many states than the purchase of firearms. I wonder about banning straw gun purchasing, enacting red flag laws, sensible restrictions on assault rifles, high-capacity magazines (which this most recent shooter employed, making rapid fire possible and killing and injuring many in seconds) and bump stocks (who really needs these things?). It seems to me that if we do nothing to study and advocate for change, we are complicit in the gun deaths that keep on happening.

I’m filled with thoughts, prayers, and much more right now. If you are feeling traumatized about these things or anything else, I am here for you.

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 at 9:15 AM, beginning September 7th. Join us for a Bible story, craft, snack and maybe even a song!

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. September 14th is already reserved. Most dates are available.

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!

September 7: The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost:

Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul’s request to Philemon into our prayer of the day. Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God’s grace in remembrance of baptism we can be strengthened in this hour to “choose life” –to choose life in God as our own.

September 14: The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost:

The grumbling of the religious leaders in today’s gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of 1 Timothy reminds us, “The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.” Thanks be to God.

September 21: The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost:

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. “Christ Jesus, himself human, ... gave himself a ransom for all.” Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God’s gracious favor we have everything we need.

September 28: The Sixteenth 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!

DO YOU HAVE A REFRIGERATOR/FREEZER YOU NO LONGER NEED? Good Shepherd/Little Clover Preschool need to replace the one in the large kitchen, as the freezer is not working properly. Gifts in-kind of this sort qualify for a tax-exempt donation credit.

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 will study the book of Romans. Pastor Pat has ordered the curriculum from Augsburg Fortress. The participant guide is a download available from her. The first class will be held on September 16th at 7:30 PM on Zoom. If you would like instead to zoom with me at the church, the class can be held as a hybrid in person and zoom event, but you must let me know at least a day ahead of time. If you need transportation, let me know.

THE 45TH ANNUAL RED BANK CROP HUNGER WALK will take place on Sunday, October 19th at Red Bank Regional High School, 101 Ridge Rd., Little Silver, NJ 07739, with registration at 1 PM and step off at 2 PM. 100% of the food and 25% of the funds raised support 14 local food pantries in Monmouth County and the remaining 75% of funds support the work of Church World Service in America and around the globe. Last year with about 300 walkers we raised \$120,000 and collected roughly 10,000 lbs. of food. This year, in recognition of our 45th year and the expanded needs of the community, our goal is to raise \$145,000 and collect 14,500 lbs. of food. Peanut butter, rice, beans, and soup are needed. Strollers are welcome, but dogs are not permitted on the school campus. There will be music, games, an art contest, the food drive, and refreshments. The five-mile route includes water stops. There is a tired walker van that can bring you back to the school parking lot. You can register on our team at www.crophungerwalk.org/redbanknj. Then click on Start or Join a Team: Type in Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd – Holmdel. You can register yourself, make a gift, and begin to fundraise on social media. Pastor Pat will not be able to walk in the Red Bank CROP Walk this year, because she is the coordinator of the 50th Freehold CROP Hunger Walk, which will be happening the same day, at the same time. Members and friends of Good Shepherd may donate by sending a check to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and marking the byline: Red Bank CROP Walk or Freehold CROP Hunger Walk. If you want to know more, Michael Carp will be with us in church on September 7th to promote the walk. You can email him at michaelcarp@verizon.net.

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 are still researching that. We are caring both for our facilities and also for God's good creation! Our next meeting will be held on Monday, September 8th 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=CNKNEc0wbp6aNUxJJpWiEd7PP6FEU.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.

A FREE LIVE CONCERT, which is part of the All-In Music Project, a movement to inspire social change through song, featuring Rev. Eric Moeller will be presented at Holmdel Community United Church of Christ, 40 Main Street, Holmdel, on Friday, September 5 at 7 PM. His music has been described as soulful rock n roll with a progressive message in the vein of Springsteen, the Clash, Frank Turner, and Jason Isbell. The doors open at 6:30 PM. For more on Eric's music and mission and to hear some selections, visit www.allinmusicproject.org.

"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 10:00 AM on Thursday, September 18th. 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. We Medleys are growing string beans in our garden, as well as tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, collards, eggplant, blackberries, strawberries, and we also have a grape vine and a fig tree. This month's recipe is taken from New Recipes from Moosewood Restaurant, published by Vegetable Kingdom, Inc.

Sweet and Sour Vegetables and Tofu

Serves 4-6

Ingredients:

2 cakes of tofu, pressed and cubed

SAUCE

1 ½ tsps. grated fresh ginger root

4 T. brown sugar or honey

6 T white vinegar

3 T. tamari soy sauce

¼ cup tomato paste or catsup

Hot chili oil (optional)

2 scallions, chopped

3 T. vegetable oil

3 cups thinly sliced onions

1 T. grated fresh ginger root

2 medium carrots, diagonally sliced

½ lb. string beans cut in 3" pieces

4 cups sliced mushrooms (1 lb.)

4 cups zucchini rounds

¾ cup pineapple chunks (fresh or canned) (or omit)

1T. cornstarch dissolved in ½ cup cold vegetable stock, pineapple juice, or water

Stir together the sauce ingredients and set aside and prepare the tofu and veggies before you begin to stir-fry. Heat the oil in a wok or pot large enough for all ingredients. Stir-fry the onions and ginger. When onions are translucent, add carrots and continue cooking for 3 to 4 minutes before adding the beans (2 more minutes), the pepper (2 more minutes), and then the mushrooms and zucchini. Turn down the heat, cover the wok or pot, and cook, stirring once or twice, until veggies are tender but still crisp. Stir in the pineapple (if using), tofu, sauce, and dissolved cornstarch and bring to a boil. Simmer, stirring gently, for 3 or 4 minutes. If a spicy dish is desired, add a few dashes of hot chili oil. Serve at once over rice or noodles. Top with sliced scallions.

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.

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 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 prayed for the families affected by the shooting at the Annunciation Church School mass in Minneapolis. We asked God to care for those suffering with dementia, addiction, and all on our prayer list:

Former President Joe Biden
May Georgie, Andrew Obayda's Aunt
Bob Robinson (requested by Pastor Pat)
Rachel Fink (daughter of the Mathisens)
Tianna 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)
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 Terry (requested by her son Charles Reyes and 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)
 Michael Voto (Jessica Voto-Pellegrino's uncle and godfather)
 Courtney 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)
 Marc Elstad (the Elstad's older son, preparing for major surgery)
 Mena Gendy & Frida de la Parra & their daughter Mia,
 JJ Mistretta (Pastor Pat's friend, recent surgery)
 Deb Turi-Smith (Pastor's friend, recent hospitalization)
 Ginny Ettlemeyer, (new member, recently hospitalized)
 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)
 *Sonja Ongsiako, *Pam Baglieri, Bob & Vivian Sislian, *Bob Fulmer, *Ines Csulak, *Gil Vatter, *Jackson Pellegrino,
 *Lynne & *Garry Westerweller, *Phyllis Castello (recent surgery), *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 prayed for our new bishop, Rev. Dr. Christa Compton and for our new presiding bishop, Rev. Yehiel Curry, formerly the bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, ELCA. We praised God for the witness of the saints of all times and places, especially Lucy Bakalian, Jukyung Kim, Eleanor Hoffmann (Glenn's mother), 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:

We care for one another. You may remember that we gave financial assistance to a member after a house fire. Another member in need received a car, generously donated to our church. Thanks to all who kindly contributed to our COG Back to School Fundraiser. Now, we have a congregational family in desperate need of assistance through no fault of their own. One earner in the family who had hours cut back to nothing for a two-month period is now working full-time again. The other lost their job because the company was closed and sold when the boss divorced. The no salary months and the job loss put these good people in a hole that they are working hard to climb out of. Your gift to Good Shepherd for the Samaritan Fund will make 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.

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.

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 are available from the Pastor. 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).

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AROUND THE PARISH

by Gil Vatter

I love to read. Reading is one of life's greatest perks. A good book contains a talented author's views about a subject he knows very well. Through his book, he attempts to explain those views to interested readers. Preparing a book for market is not an easy task. It requires dedication and discipline. Still, books have been around for thousands of years and many millions have been written, published and read. Authors have a variety of reasons for writing a book. Some, in a university setting, must "publish or perish". Some use writing as a means of making a living. A very few write because they are driven to share their ideas and goals with others. Unfortunately, with the advent of computers, television, smart phones and electronic games, books have been relegated to a minor position in the lives of a lot of people. Even schools are now using fewer printed texts in favor of electronic teaching.

There are "how to" books, hobby books, text books, reference books and specialty books covering topics such as religion, business and politics. There is a whole industry based on children's books alone. However, the greatest number of published books are the never ending trail of novels, biographies and histories which are written to entertain us. Want to join the crowd, write a book and become a published author? There are specialty publishers who, for a fee, will publish any kind of book for anybody. Actually, one of them, Newman Springs Publishing, is located on Newman Springs Road in Red Bank and they advertise on television on a regular basis. They claim they can make your manuscript into a saleable book. They offer to edit it, illustrate it, print it and send it to the bookstores for public sale; all for a fee, of course.

I must confess that I took a stab at writing a book about 15 or so years ago, My tome was titled, *My Great Adventure* and it recounted the years of my enlistment in the U. S. Navy. I wrote it primarily as a gift to my daughters, grandsons and sisters so they had some idea of what my life was like from age seventeen, when I enlisted, to age twenty one, when I returned to civilian life. My biographical effort covered the years 1945 to 1948. I was my own editor and the folks at Staples did everything else; printing (Xerox), binding and putting on a suitable cover. The edition was limited to about a dozen or so copies and six went to family and two to shipmates. The rest are gathering dust in my book case.

From that experience, I can tell you that there is much more to preparing a manuscript than just listing daily events. I tried to evoke some feeling of excitement about where the ship was, what the crew was doing and how I felt as part of it all. I surprised myself with how much I remembered about people, places and events so many years in the past. As they say it was a "journey down memory lane" and I enjoyed the hard work of making an outline, researching, writing and assembling the final product. Would I do it again? Or should I have asked, could I do it again? Well, I'm not sure I have the stamina, incentive and memory to immerse myself in another project like that. It was a very time consuming undertaking and required my full attention and more energy than you might think.

I re-read *My Great Adventure* every once in a while. It's always fun to evoke good memories from the past. And every time I leaf through the book, I remember additional details; stories I failed to make a part of the original narrative. Maybe, someday, I'll write a revised version of the book and include some of the things I forgot. Maybe not.

There was a young horseman named Lowe
With a mattress tattooed down below.
It happened, of course,
If he fell off his horse,
The mattress was quite apropos.

1. Spoke on the phone with Randi Stetz. She is doing well and sends greetings to all her friends at Good Shepherd.

2. The congregation welcomed Pastor Pat home again after her Pacific trip.

A poor forty-Niner named Jay
Worked his claim 18 hours a day.
Then, lo and behold,
He finally struck gold,
Moved to Beverly Hills right away.

3. Happy birthday to former member Debbie Blackburn

4. Autumn arrives on September 22.

A robot who worked in Racine
Was not your usual machine.
It could clean up your house
While ironing your blouse
And bring you some tea in between.

ENJOY THE FINAL WEEKS OF SUMMER

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The Rev. Dr. Christa Compton, on the day of her installation as Bishop of the NJ Synod, ELCA



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Pastor Pat in the procession at Bishop Compton's Installation, August 23rd.



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All the clergy present for Bishop Compton's Installation.



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COG Update

from Rikki Gracia

I have been collecting for COG's back to school fundraiser. I acquired some free backpacks & water bottles from a Verizon giveaway offer and Jessica & Rob Pelligrino provided school supplies and got a company match of \$250 for gift cards that we give out to our community families in need of help for back to school supplies and clothes.

I collected items at church in August. But if you wish to still contribute, we welcome checks made to "Good Shepherd Lutheran Church" (note as 2025 backpack fundraiser) or \$25 gift cards to Walmart, target, old Navy, Kohls to help this cause.

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Year End Giving Statements

Clem Hergenhan, Treasurer

Okay, I'm a little early to be talking about year end Giving Statements but here's my short pitch.....

Several different groups now use our church (Little Clover, German School, Korean Church, ...) and so there is considerable foot traffic in the narthex. Past practice has been to print and leave Giving Statements in the narthex for a few weeks for members to pick up and then, at the end of January, USmail any still remaining. With the additional traffic there is a greater chance that statements will be lost/misplaced before mailed.

Over half of our contributors now receive their statement via email, receiving it as soon as it is ready (usually mid January), and we urge you to consider doing the same. If emailed it would be in a format that would allow you to print it should you need a paper copy.

If you already get it via email, there's nothing you need to do. If you currently get the printed copy and would like it emailed to you, please email clemhergenhan@gmail.com and let me know. If you want to continue to receive a paper copy, there is also nothing you need do. If you do receive paper we won't leave your statement lying in the narthex but will try to hand it to you at church or mail it immediately.

Merry Christmas....