

The Voice of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

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Open Minds ... Open Hearts ... Open Hands
May 2020

Message from the Pastor

What have you been doing during the Covid-19 shutdown?

I've been reading a book about Frederick Douglass and various articles on line. I've been watching some,....only some,....news but trying to stay on top of things. I've been going for walks and riding my bike now and then for some exercise. Meals are now usually the major event of the day (I have a small part in preparing them). And I still do my normal prep for sermons and prayers and video them for Sunday. Along with that, I am staying in touch with the congregation.

But I miss baseball and sports in general. The sports page is like reading about recent UFO sightings - nothing to speak of. I miss going out to eat in Asbury Park and doing the other things that town and Ocean Grove used to offer. I miss seeing our kids and grandchildren and the people that I know while everyone is in lockdown. And, of course, I miss doing Sunday mornings and seeing all of you and visiting those who need a pastoral visit.

When I have done those visits, now and over the past years to the elderly and homebound, one topic invariably comes up. As we get older, or when we are disabled, etc. people always tell me their lament over being dependent on others. It's true that later in years, things like losing a drivers license or simply being unable to do what we used to, causes this aspect of life to seem more pronounced. Those folks often tell me how their main regret and even resentment is being "dependent" on others so much.

But, as I always tell them, this is really how we all live all the time because we are all always dependent on so many others. Day in and day out, whether we are a Wall Street stockbroker, a doctor, lawyer or simply retired and living comfortably, we all are needy and dependent. As we're filling our cars with gas, warming ourselves when we turn up the thermostat, reading a newspaper or news on-line, we are all dependent 24/7.

So, now with the Coronavirus causing a lockdown, we all are seeing that much more clearly in the limitations that we're dealing with. Now we are starting to be more grateful to the unappreciated grocery store workers for whom life hasn't completely changed because they are still going to work everyday. Now we are beginning to be more thankful for the working poor who, in the fields in this nation or in lands far away, are still picking the produce that we enjoy at meals. Now, I am even be more appreciative for the low status guys who are still picking up my garbage each week.

If our biggest take away from all this when it is over is to say; *'Phew, I'm glad I got through that!'* then we will have failed to realize what I always tell those that I visit. We remain overly self-centered if we fail to recognize and understand that we need to change the 'I got through that' to say instead that *"I'm glad **'they'** helped get me through that"*.

Because the people and workers who continue to do the jobs that help us manage and 'get through' this pandemic are the same ones we are always dependent on every day. Just like we tend to forget about our dependency on God, we also tend to forget how much we need one another.

When Jesus came and invited us into the kingdom of God, we know that he suffered and died and rose again for us all. The gospel of John, 3:16 says *"For God so loved the world"*. That means, to God, everybody is important and valuable. Christianity teaches that everyone matters and that part of loving

our neighbors is to realize that we all are connected with and important to one another. The rugged individual idea and self-sufficient loner is only a reality and hero in the movies. In real life, the heroes are the people you see everyday who diligently do their jobs in doctors offices, banks, working on the gas line in the street, and the many more we never see. Maybe and hopefully we'll continue to notice and appreciate them beyond how we do now in the midst of what is going on today.

Amen



Please remember in your prayers the following people whom we've noted in our Sunday bulletin each week at worship for prayer concerns. If you have anyone you would like to add to this list, please contact the pastor by phoning the church office or via email pastorpeteh@verizon.net

- the family and friends of Laura McManus (co-worker of Mike Carp who died recently)
- Nancy DiPiazza (Mike's neice)
- Doreen Minutella (Coordinator of Bayshore Lunch Program)
- Sung Ok Hahm (Miae's Mom)
- Sue McCabe (Kathe DaGiau's sister)
- Kaylee Gallagher (daughter of Dora Howard's friend)
- Jennifer Acker (co-worker of Kim Wehrle)
- Ed Lustenberg (friend of Garry Westerweller)
- Christopher Dall (John & Stephanie's son)
- Pat Gagnon (Pastor & Debbie's friend)
- Melanie Vara (Debbie's cousin)
- Michelle VanDerwalker (K.DaGiau's daughter)
- Christian Savage (young son of Pastor's friend)
- Lisa Rossi ('adopted daughter' of Sislian's.)
- Rev. Howard Weidemoyer (friend of Alberti's)
- Megan More (young daughter of Holly Wilgus' friend)
- Sal Suppa (friend of the Mathisen's)
- Rich Van Doren (friend of Linda Burns)
- Sid & Pamela Ketchum (parents of Pastor & Deb's daughter-in-law)
- Matthew Fisher (son of Kathe DaGiau's friend)
- Eliana Brengel (young daughter of friend of Deb's family)
- Cole Alberti (Sue & Dick's grandson),
- Kevin McCord (John McCord's brother),
- Danny McCord (John McCord's son)
- Cynthia Nevins (Kristen Listor-Proksch's aunt)
- Rachel Mathisen (Andy & Diane's daughter)
- Kathy Curran (Mike Carp's cousin)
- Dorothy Anderson (Holly Wilgus's mother)
- *Sue & Dick Alberti, *Herb & Bunny Kuhl, *Bob & Vivian Sislian, *Bob Fulmer, *Joan Horlacher, *George Groh, *Bob Stetz *members



Virtual Service -- ongoing reminder ---

With services temporarily suspended on Sundays, Pastor is producing a church service video each week you can watch. There is also a music video performed by Miae and members of her family. If you didn't receive any emails from him with these videos and would like to, email him at pastorpeteh@verizon.net



COG Update from Rikki Gracia

Calico Cat Thriftstore has closed down as directed by NJ government. Also because of the age of all the volunteers, they are very sensitive to keeping a large distance with all coming in and out of store and pantry.

So, for the time being, the family pack donations have stopped. Our month is June so we are in the halted month. They will most likely reschedule us for later in the year. Having said that, I am still hoping that some are still able to shop for this fundraiser and have some items at their homes. Toilet paper is

very tough now, but items like shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothpaste, plastic wrap, aluminum foil, laundry detergent may still be available for purchase. Then you can bring them to church when we resume Sunday services and I will get them to COG.



BLP VICTIM OF COVID-19 REGULATIONS

by Gil Vatter

Daily hot meals prepared by the Bayshore Lunch Program in Keyport have been halted by the Corona virus control regulations issued by the state of New Jersey. Food kitchens, such as BLP, are included in the state rules that prohibit people to gather for any reason in restaurants, churches and kitchens throughout the state and the Keyport oasis will not function until further notice. For the moment, clients who visit BLP on a regular basis are being sent next door to the Food Pantry sponsored by the Keyport Ministerium of Churches, which serves more than twenty towns in northern Monmouth County with food and supplies.

Nancy Mester, Co-Director of BLP reports that the BLP Board of Directors will meet on April 30 to "reassess the situation". She adds, "but at this point, I can say with confidence that we won't be opening on May 1. Thank you for keeping the 'Sponsors' checks coming because we will need them when we reopen. We will open when it's safe (and legal) to do so."

Nancy also reports that Doreen Minutella (see the Good Shepherd prayer list), the other Co-Director of the kitchen, "has only one more chemo treatment to fight her cancer. However, after a short break to let her body recover, she will undertake six weeks of radiation".

The Bayshore Lunch Program has been one of Good Shepherd's major outreach programs since it opened in 2013 and the church supported its predecessor, Saint Mark's Kitchen in Keansburg for many years before that. Thanks to everyone who has been a part of Good Shepherd's BLP program by offering food, supplies, cash or service We will continue to operate the BLP Sponsors Program and look forward to renewing our food and supplies collection in the near future.



The property day originally scheduled for May 16th is cancelled.

In its place we will be seeking volunteers to perform all of the maintenance that would have normally taken place on that day. The work can be done at anytime over the next month or so whenever its convenient. Below is a list of items we need done. I will assist in coordinating the work. If you are interested in helping out on any of the items please email me at jdall@yahoo.com. I will be able to give some more detail on exactly what needs to be done and possibly arrange for any tools required.

Thanks - John Dall

- 1) Pick up all loose brush
- 2) Pull weeds around the cross by the entrance
- 3) Pull weeds near the entrance by the flower beds
- 4) Fill in the holes in the parking lot with the excess rocks by the dumpsters
- 5) Rake and clear out the leaves by the Frank Hall kitchen
- 6) Move the broken concrete pieces outside the choir room to outside the fence by the shed
- 7) Clean debris and weeds around all the air conditioning units
- 8) Trim the hedges around the air unit outside the Little Chiefs office
- 9) Trim any low branches on trees (especially the large tree on the road by the Good Shepherd sign)
- 10) Clean weeds and debris around the shed
- 11) Scrape and possibly paint around the window frames in front of the nursery
- 12) Replace any burnt out lights in the Narthex



Contributions

Thank you to all who have continue to give by mailing in their contributions. It is much appreciated. Our mailing address is at the top of this newsletter. If you happen to be out and going by the church, you can also drop your Giving Envelope in the mailbox on the driveway.

(The mailbox drops incoming mail into the lower section where it can only be retrieved by us by key).

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AROUND THE PARISH

by Gil Vatter

Hey, I miss you guys. Here we are about to begin the month of May and we still have all these rules and regulations we have to follow because of the Corona Virus. We live in a very strange world; a world where it's impossible to see your friends, let alone give them a big hug. Cyber church is much better than no church at all and Pastor Pete is faithfully giving us appropriate services when they are scheduled. Miae and her sons are providing beautiful music to add to the meaning of the services, so there is just one thing missing.....the people. Boy, do I miss the people. To be sure we have a *minyan* every Sunday morning but it is made up of folks gathered around computer screens.....it's just not the same. It's our people who are the important, but missing ingredient. Let's hope that we all will soon be together again on Sunday mornings.

- Because of the virus, we all missed the beautiful Bartlett Pear tree blossoms on the Good Shepherd campus this spring - always a sign that winter is over.

- Happy birthday to Anthony and Cole Alberti (Sue and Dick Alberti's grandsons), Hannah Oberkehr, Jeffrey Miller, Miae Park, Lilah Nichols (Maureen Bartlett's granddaughter and Jason Medling (Karen and Dave Rajala's grandson)..

- Happy anniversary to Becky Bartlett Nichols, Sue and Dick Alberti, Lou and Elaine Medici, Dora and Keith Howard and to my bride and me who celebrate our 67th at the end of May.

- May 28 marks the date of our former Pastor, Jack Elstad's ordination. Congratulations to Pastor Jack.

- Thanks and a tip of the Good Shepherd Easter bonnet to Pastor Pete and his crew for leading us through Lent, Holy Week and Easter.....despite covid-19. Thanks for the wonderful job Pastor.

- Thanks to Miae Park and her three sons for continuing to provide beautiful music for the congregation each Sunday with our worship service.

- - Thanks to everyone who has written, e-mailed or phoned during the "stay at home" time. It's so good to hear from you.

There was a young lady from Cork
Who's father made a fortune in pork.
He hired for his daughter
A tutor, who taught her,
To balance green peas on her fork.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH SOON

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From Pastor Pete ---- Our own Mike Carp wrote the letter below to encourage and invite everyone in a day of prayer Wednesday, April 22 (Earth Day) at 4pm. Mike sent this to me and I forwarded to the ELCA. He also sent it to the coordinators at the Red Bank Crop Walk who have forwarded it to all the churches who participate in that.

So, along with Mike and many others, we prayed these things on that day and at that time.

Thanks, Mike!

An invitation from one of our dedicated Red Bank CROP Walkers,

I am inviting all of the people of this world to join me with cyber hand in cyber hand in prayer. On April 22, 2020 at 4:00pm I will pray for all the people who are now dealing with COVID 19, those who stepped up and are risking their lives to fight this disease, for all the people who lost their jobs and now dealing with the stay at home orders. I will also pray for those who seek to promote the protection of our environment because when our environment changes so do the diseases. Lastly, I will mourn for all the victims of this disease.

We all have a common cause in the fight against this disease. By inviting the people of the world to pray at 4:00 pm within their own faiths we could create a wave from the Far East all the way to the far west. We do not always have an opportunity to work together and this might build a friendlier world.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Carp
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Holmdel NJ

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Just in
Germany cancels its famous #Oktoberfest beer festival because of #coronavirus. And Spain cancels the famous Running of the Bulls in Pamplona in July. Calls for the 2 events to be run jointly, at a neutral venue, were wisely rejected.
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