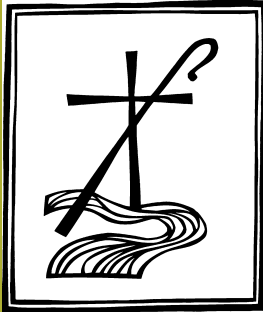


THE VOICE

NOVEMBER 2011



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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Friends in Christ,

So, what do you think of when you hear the word *saint*? Perhaps one of the apostles, or a long-dead holy guy whom the church has lifted up as important? Or, if you're a football fan, you may be thinking of Drew Brees! In our world this word 'saint' has taken on all kinds of meaning, not all of it positive.

So what is a saint? What should it be? The Roman Catholic church has a complex and lengthy process for someone to become a saint. Yet is there another way to think about the ordinary saints whose lives will never be recorded in a book of church history or theology? There are ordinary saints all around us.

A saint is a holy person of God. Someone God has made holy. Someone like you.

This is the time of year when we pause to remember the saints who have gone before us, and I would propose, also the saints among us right here and now. There are saints working in food banks, in hospitals and nursing homes, in grocery stores and schools, in corporate office building and community centers. Saints are all around us, those whom God has called, "Beloved Child."

Martin Luther struggled over the notion of saints as those set apart and so far removed from ordinary folk. In fact, he taught that each and every one of us are, at the same time, both saint and sinner. We are glorious, beautiful, holy people of God. We are also broken, complicated and mistaken at times. It is a great paradox, how we can be both saint and sinner, how God can see us as precious even in the presence of our failings. It is surely a sign of God's pure grace, that somehow, through it all, we are loved.

So, as we pause to remember the saints of God this month, I give thanks for you. You are God's precious child. You are a saint. You are loved.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Kathy

GIVE THANKS!

Thanksgiving Eve worship with Holy Communion

Wednesday, November 23, 7:30 p.m.

All are welcome!

We will be gathering baked pies to donate to the community Thanksgiving meal at the Harriet Tubman Church in Wilmington. Please drop off your pie in the narthex some time on Wednesday, November 23rd.

VISION FOR GOOD SHEPHERD: PART 2

On Saturday October 1st, fifteen members of Good Shepherd gathered to discern a ten year vision plan for Good Shepherd. We started with devotions led by Pastor Kathy focused on the question "Why are we here (in a congregation)?" Then Rick Bogda led us through a series of discussions and exercises planned by John Schneeweis and Rick to promote discussions that would culminate in concrete decisions. The day was filled with conversations on how we feel God is calling us as a congregation in North Wilmington to walk together in Christ, to grow in faith and love, and to share Christ with the world.

From the meeting in March and additional discussions on Saturday, we came up with 23 new or expanded programs for our congregation to pursue over the next decade. Yikes. However, through a series of discussions on balancing of people and financial resources and combining various ideas, we came up with a prioritized, shorter list. People present at the meeting have already volunteered to take ownership of some of these programs, so we can get started right away with the highest priorities.

Some of these programs can be accomplished in the short term, while others will take several years to bring to fruition. We are confident that members of the congregation will join this effort and volunteer to join the various teams that are spearheading these efforts.

We have some exciting yet challenging work ahead as we walk together in Christ. Come join us.

Prioritized list of ideas (proposed ownership):

1. Welcoming new members with a focus on attracting young adults & young families (Chet Norstrom and Nancy Koch with Evangelism, Worship and Music, Christian Education, and Youth and Family participants)
2. Actively maintaining and updating facilities (Craig Hooper and John Schneeweis with Property)
3. Caring for one another (Health Ministries and the Caring Ministry Team)
4. Maintaining & growing our active youth program (Sharon Oslin with Youth and Family Ministry Team)
5. Structuring LCGS for the 21st century -- consider modification of our current organizational structure
6. Continuing to grow our strong Sunday school program

PARTNERS 2.0: RETOOLING FOR MISSION

Two years ago, a large group from Good Shepherd participated in the synod event "Partners in Faith, Partners in Vision" or PIF-PIV, as it was called. Many positive ideas came from that one-day event, including our successful small group ministry that is still going strong. This fall, the synod has restructured PIF-PIV into three identical one-day training events held throughout the synod. **"Partners 2.0: Retooling for Mission" will be held at St. Andrew's in Dover on Saturday, November 12th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

The day will focus on the theme: EVERY MEMBER A MISSIONARY. Together, we will learn and discern what it means to give witness to our faith in daily life. Please see Pastor Kathy for more information or to register. The three events will be:

- Saturday, November 5, 2011, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Hagerstown, MD
- Saturday, November 12, 2011, at St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Dover, DE
- Saturday, November 19, 2011, at St. John Lutheran Church, Parkville, MD

FAMILY ADVENT NIGHT

Come join us for the fourth annual Advent Night! A time for crafting, singing, worship, and fellowship!

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, November 27th from 4:30pm - 6:30pm** for an intergenerational Advent experience. Welcome the holy season of Advent by creating faith-inspired decorations for Good Shepherd and your homes, sing songs about Advent, and enjoy time with your Good Shepherd family.

Supper for this event will once again feature a Chili Dump: Bring a pot of meatless or meat chili which will be combined with others into big chili pots, or bring a salad or dessert to go with the chili.

Donations of \$5 per individual and \$10 a family would be appreciated to cover the cost of supplies. Sign up on the bulletin board or on the Count-me-in form in the bulletin. This is a great fellowship opportunity to talk with and get to know more members of the congregation - families, friends, and people of ALL ages are welcome to attend this fun-filled event. We hope to see YOU there!

- Sponsored by the Youth and Family Ministry Team

FAMILY PROMISE

Check The Family Promise Bulletin Board

Good Shepherd starts hosting again on Sunday November 6th. Please take a moment to check the bulletin board to see the opportunities to help out. As always, YOU make this outreach program work!

2012 Hosting Schedule:

February 12, 2012
 May 20, 2012
 August 12, 2012
 November 4, 2012

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Good Shepherd's 2011 fiscal year ends December 31st. Thank you to all of you who have and continue to give generously of your financial resources so that Good Shepherd can pursue the ministries to which we made a commitment in January of 2011.

As of September 30th, we have received 95% of the pledged income (\$299,148 of the \$314,828 pledged). If you are behind in your pledge, there is still time to catch up before the end of the year and we thank you in advance for doing so. If you are facing unforeseen financial hardships and are unable to fulfill your pledge, we understand. Perhaps others will be able to contribute more on behalf of those who cannot.

Although 95% giving is impressive during a recession, the congregation should be aware that if we are unable to fully fund our 2011 budget, we will need to cut fourth quarter non-operating expenses, namely, Benevolence and Buildings and Grounds Reserves.

We are hopeful that, as a congregation, we will faithfully fund our 2011 budget. Please prayerfully consider how you and your family can financially support the ministries of Good Shepherd.

Sharon Oslin

President, Congregational Council

SOCIAL MINISTRY

The Social Ministry Committee is doing the following:

- Collecting "pocket change" (coins, bills and checks) each month on the last Sunday of the month for the ELCA WORLD HUNGER FUND. The 'big' jar will be on a table outside the sanctuary. So far this year, we have sent \$249.59 to the national office. Here is your opportunity to share with our neighbors around the world!
- Collecting Bar Codes cut from the following: Campbell soups, juices, beans, all Pepperidge Farm products, Spaghetti's, Prego, V-8 beverages, Swanson's frozen foods, Franco-American, and Bic products. Also, we are collecting the Box Tops for Education labels. These are all sent to the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission in Rock Point, AZ to be sent to and redeemed by the Campbell Soup Company and General Mills Company for vans, computers and school supplies for the school there. This mission continues to need our help! Give coupons/bar codes to Phyllis Bierstedt.
- Promoting the ELCA GOOD GIFTS Program in November and December You will be able to purchase a cow, sheep, chicks or a goat from God's Global Barnyard catalogue as a donation to the ELCA World Hunger Fund. Gift cards will be available. This program also includes ELCA Vision for Mission, ELCA Missionary Sponsorship, ELCA Disaster Response. Plan to Christmas shop for these meaningful gifts next month.

YOUTH NEWS

Leaf Raking and Hay Ride

12:30, 5:30 pm

Saturday, November 5th

The youth will be raking leaves for members of the congregation on Saturday, November 5th. We will meet at the church at 12:30. The youth group hay ride will be at 5:30 after the raking. We have 12 spots reserved, so let Katie know soon if you are interested!

Youth Auction

12:15 pm

Sunday, November 13th

The youth will be hosting an auction after the 11:00 service on November 13th to raise money for the ELCA Youth Gathering and other youth activities. There will be a variety of things up for auction, including homemade dinners, art projects, and much more. Come join in the bidding and support the youth! If you would like to contribute an item to be auctioned off, please sign up on the main bulletin board. Thank You!

Thanksgiving Youth Group

4:30 – 6:00 pm

Sunday, November 13th

Middle school and high school youth are welcome to join us as we spend some time remembering the blessing in our lives.

Thanksgiving Dinner

4:00 – 6:30 pm

Saturday, November 19th

Come prepare and enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner with the youth group. It will be a great evening of thanksgiving and fellowship.

Family Advent Event

4:30 – 6:00 pm

Sunday, November 27th

Come join us for the fourth annual Advent Night, a time for crafting, singing, worship, and fellowship. Don't forget chili for the chili dump!

Youth Auction

You are cordially invited to attend the annual Youth Auction, which will take place on Sunday, November 13th after the 11:00 worship service. Proceeds from the auction will go towards supporting youth group activities, including the ELCA Youth Gathering and a spring retreat.

There will be a variety of items up for auction, ranging from artwork to home cooked meals. A light lunch will be served. Come support the youth group and enjoy the festivities!

The youth are also looking for goods and services to auction off. If you have a new or original item to auction, or can offer a service such as providing a meal, please sign up on the main bulletin board.

PRAYER LINE REQUESTS

| PRAY FOR: | CONCERN: | REQUESTED BY: |
|------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| DAVE BARRELL | Ocular Melanoma | Nancy Wolfe |
| SUZANNE BEAM | Breast Cancer | Betsy Lengel |
| ROE BLUME | Lung Tumor | Pastor Kathy |
| RACHEL DELUCA | Leg Surgery | Helen Moyer |
| DONNA HARRIS | Breast Cancer Surgery | Self |
| TRINA HAXTON | Auto Accident | Susan Wendt |
| PATRICIA HIGGINS | Cancer | Carol Lee Waslick |
| LINDA LARKIN | | Self |
| TONIE LISOVICH | Heart Procedure | Ruth Ellefson |
| KELLY MALONE | Cancer Treatments | Barbara Keller |
| BOB MELEGA | Dementia | Victor Melega |
| JAMES PERSOLEO | Colon Cancer | Carol Lee Waslick |
| JUNE ROBINSON | Continued Care | Debbie Sheridan |
| SUE SHANK | Valve Surgery | Barbara Keller |
| OTIS SHEALY | Continued Care | Pastor Kathy |
| GAGE TOBIN | Kidney Problems | Nancy Koch |
| KELLY TYSON | Cancer | Kaye Tyson |
| HELEN TORGERSON | Continued Care | Bob Torgerson |
| NANCY WILLIAMS | Well Being | Janet James |



Friends & families of those persons removed from the prayer line thank everyone for their prayers and concerns.

Prayer requests may be made by calling Pastor Kathy at the church office, (302) 478-3030 or Faith Moyer at (302) 475-3122.

COLUMBARIUM COMMITTEE

We hope that everyone has had an opportunity to visit the columbarium garden area. If you have any questions about this service to Good Shepherd members, new brochures are available in the narthex. You can also contact any member of the Columbarium Committee for information. Committee members are listed on the brochure.

If you have been thinking about reserving a niche, the cost of doing so will soon increase. The current prices are "pre-construction" prices, and the deadline for ending this pricing was extended to Nov. 6, 2011. After this time, costs for a single niche will increase by \$250 and the cost of a double niche will rise by \$500.

MUSIC

Greenville Flute Orchestra

Of all the varieties of musical ensembles with which we become familiar during the course of our lives, ensembles made up entirely of flutists seldom come to our attention.

We have a wonderful opportunity coming our way in November. The Greenville Flute Orchestra is a group comprised of many of the best flutists in the region. Spearheaded by Joan Sparks, the group is directed by John Hintz, son of Good Shepherd's own John Hintz. On Sunday, November 13th, the group will lead us in worship during our 11:00 service, and on Sunday afternoon, November 20th, at 3:00, they will present a concert in Swears Fellowship Hall. This promises to be an extraordinary occasion that you won't want to miss.

Ring in the Holidays
Winter Concert Schedule
2011-2012



Thursday, December 1, 2011 - 12:30 PM
First & Central Presbyterian Church

Saturday, December 10, 2011 - 7:00 PM
St. Paul's United Methodist Church
 Wilmington, DE

Saturday December 3, 2011 - 6:00 & 7:15 PM
Rockwood Park & Museum

Friday, December 16, 2011 - 7:30 PM
Ebenezer United Methodist Church

Sunday December 4, 2011 - 7:00 PM
Elkton United Methodist Church

Sunday, January 8, 2012 - 4:00 PM
St. Paul's United Methodist Church

Visit our website: www.wilmingtonhandbells.org for more details

NOTES TO THE CONGREGATION

Thank you from the Honey for World Hunger Program -

Thank you to everyone who has purchased honey for the "Honey for World Hunger" Program. Since the inception of the program, approximately 600 lbs of honey have been sold generating \$1,500 in donations to the Lutheran World Hunger Relief Fund.

The honey is all raw (not heated above 130° F) which maintains it's natural aromas and flowery taste. Heating honey (like the big suppliers do) breaks down many complex sugars and boils off many lighter flavors that make local honey special. Raw honey will crystallize over time but it can be easily re-liquefied by soaking in warm (not boiling) water. The honey is also lightly filtered between the hive and the bottle which preserves the local pollen content of the eastern PA region. The honey will be different colors from batch to batch depending on the trees and flowers in the area of the hives and on the time of year that it was harvested. Honey is a little like wine that depends on the type of grape and the weather that year. Local honey is always natural and sweet, never spoils, and is healthy for you. That's all part of the enjoyment.

I have been a beekeeper for 5 years now and have grown my "hobby" to include over 40 beehives (about 2.4 million bees in the summer). Considering it takes about 2 million flower visits to make 1 lb of honey, I'm happy to have plenty of workers supporting the program. I am also a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Kutztown, PA where the program originated. Several other churches in the area are also making the honey available to their members.

Thanks again to everyone that has participated and I hope you enjoy the honey. Someone in the world is a little less hungry because of your help.

Regards, Steve Finke - Beekeeper

Co

Congratulations!

Emery Reese Hammonds, daughter of Staci and Nick Hammonds, grand-daughter of Jaime and Todd Prater and great grand-daughter of Chet Dewey, will receive the sacrament of Holy Baptism on November 27th. Emery was born on May 27, 2011.

Prayers from my church family at Good Shepherd are so very appreciated. Over the months—a soft tissue tumor, knee situation and a pace maker have all been “fixed”. Many, many thanks for your kindness.

~ Jane Crowley

The Flower chart for 2012 will be posted on Sunday, November 20th. Flowers will be \$30 per arrangement.

The Poinsettia Chart will be posted on Sunday, November 27th and will be \$10 per plant.

HILLTOP LUTHERAN NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

“We Offer with Joy and Thanksgiving What You Have First Given Us...”

The familiar words that follow are, of course, “our selves, our time, and our possessions; signs of your gracious love.”

They are indeed signs of God’s gracious love for us. And what better way to give thanks than to give back some of what God has given us through the Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center.

There are two opportunities for giving back at Hilltop again this year: the Thanksgiving Basket Drive and the Clothes/Toy gift project. This year, the need is especially great for both programs as families are still reeling from the effects of the economy. The upside is, we can help them.

On **Sunday November 20th** please bring frozen turkeys, canned vegetables, boxes of potatoes and stuffing plus non-perishable desserts to church where your contributions will be boxed up and delivered to Hilltop and the hundreds of folks who are in need there. Watch your church bulletin in November for notices on this important ministry.

Then on **Sunday November 27th** sign up for gifts of new clothing and toys for needy children at Hilltop. These children were selected by the staff of Hilltop as having a special need, where there is a severe family crisis. This poster fills up quickly, so please check it out and bring your gifts to church on Sunday, December 18th. More on that program will be provided as the time comes closer.

Thank you and Happy Thanksgiving from *The Board of Directors of The Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center.*

COUNCIL CORNER

Council met on October 12th. Craig Hooper led devotions which centered around the topic "What do you manage?"

Pastor Kathy highlighted the following:

- The Caring Ministry Team will kick off at the 10/23 services with Jim Simpson giving the sermon and in adult Sunday school the first 2 weeks of November. On 10/23, Jim did a wonderful job explaining this new ministry to our church family. The team consists of Heidi Preisendanz, Chet Nordstrom, Jim Simpson, Betty Setterquist, Carole Lee Waslick, Amy Canady and Pastor Kathy. The team is attending training classes at Christiana Hospital. This ministry has great potential to enhance and support pastoral care. You will be hearing more on this in upcoming weeks and months.
- Confirmation is set during our Reformation services on 10/30 for Kyle Erwin, Ava Gulino, Anne Hasse, Trina Harmon, Donald Kerr, Sarah Klocke, Rachel Loney and Alyssa Moore. Council approved these 8 confirmands and congratulates them on their accomplishment and commitment.
- A big thank you to John Schneeweis and his Stewardship Team and to Donna Harris, Karlis Ulmanis and Nancy Koch for sharing their heartwarming testimony of faith and stewardship. Remember, it is never too late to make a pledge.
- Kathy also highlighted the Visioning Event, Part 2 and thanked Rick Bogda, John Schneeweis and Sharon Oslin for organizing the event. 15 people attended and helped develop our key initial thrusts as we move towards 2021. Sharon shared the highlights in another article in this Voice so don't miss it. If you have any questions, please see Sharon, John, Rick or Pastor.

Malcolm Styer highlighted we received only 85% of our pledge commitments and YTD we have received 95% of pledges. A motion to fund the building reserve as budgeted was passed. Overall, we are now about \$9000 short of our 2011 budget. If you are behind in your pledge and can make it up, please do so. We have few levers to pull with benevolence and our building fund being the main ones. The financial reports were approved as submitted. We also approved a motion to rework our mortgage to a lower interest rate with Thrivent that will save us about \$27,000 over the 15 year loan versus our current loan.

John Schneeweis highlighted that Bishop Herz-Lane addressed 29 of our church leaders at the Leadership Event on 10/9 where we shared wine, cheese and much fellowship. For Consecration Sunday, Pastor Ginny Price, Director of Admissions at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg and a friend and mentor of Pastor Kathy gave the sermon at the single 11am service that was followed by a lunch where we again shared much fellowship.

The 2012 budget planning is continuing with a reconciliation meeting scheduled for 12/7 at 7pm. Also, the Council member nominating committee is underway and is soliciting nominations for Church Council. If you or someone you know would be interested in serving, please let the committee know. The outgoing Council members include Sharon Oslin, Donna Harris, Sam Holloway and Malcolm Styer.

In new business, we approved Dan Schroeder as the chair of the Audit Committee.

Council closed with the Lord's Prayer. Please feel free to contact any Council member with any questions or concerns. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Council,
Rick Bogda

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

1530 Foulk Road

Wilmington, DE 19803

(302) 478-3030

E-mail: lgsde@gmail.com

On the web:

www.goodshepherd-wilmington.org

Sunday Worship

8:00 & 11:00 AM

Church Staff:

Pastor: Kathy Ierien

Youth Minister: Katie Mulrey

Secretaries: Susan Wendt and Sandy Andrews

Church Council President: Sharon Oslin

Director of Music: David Bowsbey

Handbell Director: Margaret Love

Parish Administrator: George Huemmrich

Parish Nurse: Heidi Preisendanz

Sexton: Bob Moyer

Volunteer Ministry Coordinator: Nancy Griffith

Voice Editor: Nancy Huber

Note to Contributors:

For the next issue, please submit your articles by November 15th. If you would like to send a contribution by e-mail, please send an attachment in Word to nancyhuber@comcast.net