



July/August, 2010

The GOOD NEWS

of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Loudonville, NY 12211

Next Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, August 15

Call the Church Office
at 458-1562
or e-mail

news@goodshepherdchurchloudonville.org

if you have item(s) for
publication in the next
issue.

Thank you to
John Adams

who has set up the new
office computer,
networked the
computers and printers
together, and is serving
as our Computer Guru
this summer!

Thanks to
Mark Silo

Who has volunteered to
be our delivery man for
our food collection,
which goes to the
Outreach Center.

“We Lift Our Voices!”

Alex DiCicco and I, with the support of the Worship & Music Team have instituted a “Hymn of The Month” to help introduce some of the hymns from the “Cranberry” hymnal (ELW). Each month we have a chance to spend some time with one of the hymns. The choir will introduce it the first Sunday and gradually we’ll be ready to join them over the month.

In May, the hymn was “We Eat The Bread of Teaching” (ELW 518) with text by Omer Westendorf (1916-1997) one of the most revered of 20th century hymn writers (he wrote: “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”). The music was written by Jerry Brubaker who was featured soloist, arranger and composer for the US Navy Band for over 30 years. The hymn reminds us that “we all are one at Wisdom’s holy feast”.

In June, we have introduced “We Are An Offering” (ELW 692) which we have been using as an offertory each week. It was written by the Rev. Dwight Liles, a Presbyterian pastor from Tennessee who has written hundreds of hymns. This is his most familiar and is sung throughout the world. The meditative words remind us that we don’t just “give an offering”, but rather we “are an offering” given to God with our voices, our hands and our lives.

In July, we will introduce: “You Are Mine” (ELW 581) which tells of the strength that is ours in God. In a simple and reverent manner it evokes the presence of God and says: “Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name.” It was written by David Haas (b. 1947) who has written a number of hymns included in the ELW including “We are Called”, which has become one of our favorites.

In August, Alex and the choir will introduce “Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading” (ELW 401). This hymn was written in Swahili by a former president of the Lutheran College of Tanzania, The Rev. Wilson Niwagila. In this hymn we invite the Holy Spirit to enter our lives and to teach us, to guide us, to nourish us and to lead us into witness: “Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.”

We are fortunate that Alex and the choir (and some instrumentalists) will continue all summer and will help to lead us in these hymns and the liturgy.

Staying Connected to our Church Family

Summer Schedule: Starts July 4

Beginning July 4, there will only be one worship service at 9:00 AM. Fellowship will follow. On September 12, we will return to the regular schedule of two services.

Family News

- Congratulations to the **Akuoko family** on the baptism of **Tracy and Brandon**, and the first communion of Tracy on June 6.
- Also on June 6, **Tracy Akuoko, Heather Dilcher, Michael Dilcher and Ellie Yarter** received their Bibles from the congregation.
- **Maggie Sherwood's** granddaughter, Christine O'Brien, had a little girl on May 25. Her name is Ayla Iyanna Cody.
- **Congratulations to Lizbeth & John Day** on the birth of their son Lincoln Maximo, born on June 17. All are fine and healthy.
- **Barbara and Jeff Emptage's** house was struck by lightning and suffered severe fire and water damage. They are living at the Homewood Suites until they can find a condo, apartment or small house until their home is repaired. At this point, there is little anyone can do for them, but keep them in your prayers. We all hope for a speedy repair so they can get back to normal soon.

Hillenbrandt Scholars

Congratulations to our newest Hillenbrandt scholars who were announced at our worship services on May 30. Both are previous recipients of the Hillenbrandt Scholarship and the committee felt their newest applications were worthy of granting them scholar-ships.

Torrina Adams is a student at SUNY Oswego where she is majoring in Education. Torrina has been a volunteer in the church office, a staff member of our vacation Bible school, and a regular worshipper.

Clifford Brant, Jr. is a student at the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam. Cliff is a frequent guest musician during worship services and sings in our choir when he is able to be at home.

Congratulations to both of these fine students!

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Business of the Church

Council Minute

- * The Nominating Committee recommended Amy Rudat to join the Church Council, replacing Donna Legg who recently resigned. Council approved their recommendation.
- * The Financial Committee reported that our deficit has improved since last month. Their reports were approved.
- * Marc Kleinhenz presented his research of creating a business plan for GSLC to help solidify our goals for the congregation's future missions and financial needs. Council was tasked with reviewing this information and moving forward with our thoughts at the next meeting in August.
- * The Building Plan Survey continues to be looked at and analyzed. More information will follow after the next Council meeting.
- * Pastor will be on vacation 6/29-7/6 and 7/28-8/11.
- * Vacation Bible School registration is off to a good start with many people registered all ready. They expect they may need to have a cut off of 60 children. Please speak with Pastor if you would like to help out in any way.

Electronic Giving

Did you know there is an easy way to send your offering to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church? Would you like to be relieved of the responsibility of remembering your envelope every week, or to not worry about staying on track with your pledge?

A regularly scheduled electronic transfer can be done for you from your bank account directly to Good Shepherd. You will even have the option of choosing where your offering is allocated (i.e., Building Repair Fund, Hillenbrandt Scholarship, etc.)

Please contact the church office for more information. It's easy!

New Newsletter Editor

Bill Siiss has graciously volunteered to be the Newsletter Editor. He is passionate about Good Shepherd and is continually amazed at all the good things our congregation is involved in. He currently manages the online calendar, and is involved in several committees himself, including Church Council and Worship and Music. He brings to the position computer knowledge too.

Please continue to use the email address of news@goodshepherdchurchloudonville.org to send him an article or question.

Thank you to everyone who has worked with me in the past to provide articles and answer my many questions. I'd especially like to thank all the volunteers who assemble the 200+ newsletters every month!! And, of course, thanks go to Pastor John and Kathy Silo for working with me.

- Jessica Kaercher

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Be Involved with the Church / Volunteer Opportunities

The Outreach Center Needs Your Help

The Outreach Center is in need of feminine products for the women they help. Their grants only cover food and personal care items for all people (like soap, toothpaste, etc.) but not feminine care products. Won't you consider donating an item or two? Thank you!

Berry Festival



Plans are being made for our Fifth Annual Berry Festival which will be held on **Saturday, July 10 from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM**. We will have homemade shortcakes, ice cream and some wonderful fresh strawberries, blueberries and raspberries. There will be entertainment provided by Alex DiCicco and Cliff Brant (Jr.) and fun activities for the children too!

A free-will offering will be accepted and a portion of the proceeds will go into Good Shepherd's 50th Anniversary Celebration Fund. So mark your calendars and don't miss this fun summer time event!

Book Group Update



The July meeting will be on **July 20 at Melinda Burns' house at 5:00 PM**. It will be the annual picnic and this year will be a potluck. The book we will be discussing Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close by Jonathan Safran Foer.

There will be no meeting in August. For questions or information, see **Gail Koser** or **Marilyn Knarvik**.

Blood Drive

For those of you who like to plan ahead, the next blood drive will be held at our church on **October 8 1:30 PM - 6:00 PM**. Thanks go to **Carol Phelps** for leading this initiative, and additional thanks to everyone who donates their blood and time.

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Cluster Collection: July - August

Various supplies are requested to make welcome kits for the US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants. USCRI will help new immigrants obtain furniture and clothing, we are going to help supply the daily living items. They need:

- Cleaning Equipment and Supplies
- Paper and Plastic Supplies
- Personal Hygiene Products
- Kitchen Goods
- Household Items
- School Supplies

A detailed list is on a poster in the narthex.

Church Picnic

On **Sunday, July 25** we are holding our church picnic at **The Crossings**. We will begin at **10:30 AM** with a worship service with music, to be followed by lunch and games. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided, and everyone is encouraged to bring a dish to share.

For those unable to attend the picnic, there will be a spoken worship service held at church at 9:00 AM.

Everyone's Invited to "Showboat"

KITS (Keep In Touch Seniors) will have their annual outing to Mac Haydn Theatre on **Sunday, August 22**. We will meet at the theater about 1:30 PM. You will receive your reserved tickets for SHOWBOAT at that time. After the show we will meet at Winding Brook Country Club for dinner. Your choices are Yankee Pot Roast or Chicken Cutlet. The dinner menu includes sherbet and fruit appetizer, green salad, entrée, rolls, coffee or tea and dessert. The cost is \$40.00 for the show and dinner.

Please call **Marion Truland** with your reservation. Checks should be made payable to Marion Truland and mailed to her at 463 8th Avenue, Troy, NY 12182. She can also provide directions if needed.

Guests and pre-seniors are welcome!

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A New Way to Help Good Shepherd

As you may know, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is launching a new charitable grant program and benefit of membership called Thrivent Choice. Choice Dollars will be designated to some Thrivent Financial members when that portion of the program launches this summer. (Thrivent Financial member eligibility will be based on fraternal benefit society product ownership and Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership, and helping direct Choice Dollars will be subject to the Terms and Conditions of the Thrivent Choice program.)

As always, Good Shepherd is grateful for your consideration when you make charitable giving plans. If you are a Thrivent Financial member who learns you will be eligible to direct Choice Dollars (watch your mail for details from Thrivent Financial this summer), we ask you to consider Good Shepherd as you help direct Thrivent Financial's charitable funds.

Coffee Order

You can support farmers throughout the world and drink great coffee by purchasing Fair Trade Coffee. Good Shepherd has provided a service to members and friends by ordering coffee directly from Equal Exchange – a faith-based cooperative for fair trade coffee. Order forms are available in the narthex for our next order. The deadline is July 18. For more information, speak with **Marilyn Knarvik**. (Hazelnut Creme coffee is on sale for \$25.40 this month.)

Summer Schedule Seating

The summer is often the time when people new to an area look around for a new church home. Good Shepherd naturally wants to do all it can to help a visitor feel comfortable and welcome when they visit. Our greeters, ushers, visible directional signs, and other things contribute to this purpose.

Taking this into consideration, the Worship and Music Committee would like to request the congregation's awareness and assistance in our effort to make the summer seating arrangement easy for a visitor or guest to navigate, and more welcoming for someone entering an unfamiliar setting. We ask that some seats in the first section upon entering the worship space remain available for visitors when possible.

Stories for the Journey

Continue your faith journey outside of church, by reading the bible a few minutes every day.

During the month of **July**, please read and contemplate the story of "The Lord Appears to Abraham", Genesis 18:1-10. For the month of **August**, please consider the story of "The Magnificat", Luke 1:46-55

Our library at church has many bibles and books that you may borrow. Please come browse and take a book home to enjoy at your leisure.

Pick up a new list in the narthex.

Door to Door Visitation



In **July** we will conduct another Door to Door Visitation in the neighborhood. We offer information about Good Shepherd and invite people to our Worship Service and Picnic at the Crossings on Sunday July 25. We did this in November and it was a very positive experience.

We would like to share this information with those of you who might be interested in participating. We will provide training and material that will answer your questions about this special ministry. If you are interested please speak to **Danny Patrick**.

Walk Through the Bible



The New Testament program (scheduled for June 19) has been rescheduled to **Saturday, September 25 from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM**. The registration forms will be in the narthex very soon.

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The Upstate New York Synod Assembly



Carl Phelps, Alex DiCicco and Pastor John gathered with hundreds of other believers at the Annual Synod Assembly held in Rochester, June 6-8. The highlight of the assembly was the festive worship service on Monday afternoon where Bishop Jerge told us: "I know how you get when you haven't been out drinking love." And then she invited us to join her at the table of God's love where we were refreshed and invited to "Rejoice in the Lord, and again I say rejoice." The major part of the assembly was spent in three bible studies on the book of Philippians

where we were inspired to "live in Christ" and live in community.

Give Thanks to God and Each Other



Many thanks to everyone who helped with this year's Community Sale. Thanks to those who helped with set up or clean up (or both). Thanks to those who helped by donating garage sale items, plants and baked goods. Thanks to the Youth Group for helping out by having the car wash. Thank you to those who helped with the bake sale and the Senior Shepherds for the flowers and handmade items. Special thanks to Jeannette Harting who made the delicious chili! Thank you all for the joyful spirit with which everyone gave of their time and talents.

Cathi Durr
Community Sale Chairperson



Thanks to the following people who made 41 heart pillows for the Veterans' Administration Hospital.
Marilyn Graver, Joan Walker, Ann Rasmussen, Barbara Rasmussen, Lynn Best, Dorothy Everin, Marie Wagner, Carol Phelps and Bertie Cole. Thanks also to **Carolyn Wolfe** and **Janice Weiner** who sewed some of the pillows at home.

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Dear Friends of the Home Furnishings Program, Thank you for your recent financial gift (\$339.00) in support of our operating budget. Your support plays a vital role in our ability to fulfill our mission to provide basic home furnishings to individuals and families in transition throughout Schenectady County. *(Note: This was a contribution from the Endowment Fund.)*



Thank you to the following who volunteered to either host or facilitate a "Discover Your Gifts" Stewardship cottage meeting: **Meg Winters, Danny Patrick, Nancy and Stephen Layne, Elaine Sacco and Bill Siiss, Maureen and Keith Behrens, Carl Phelps, Susan and Keith Kelly, Vicki LaFrank, Marc Kleinhenz, Gail Koser, Kathy Westerholt, Louis and Lisa Reiss and Bud Sechler.** Some of our groups were small but the feedback has been positive and some folks were surprised by the spiritual gifts God has bestowed on them. The Stewardship committee will be planning another time to be announced at the church if you are interested and were not able to attend one of the cottage meetings.



On behalf of hospital patients in your community, thank you for your commitment to the American Red Cross blood program. On May 7, you helped 66 patients by collecting blood donations from 22 people. Thank you for helping to save lives!

Thanks go to **Carol Phelps**, and her helpers, for providing another successful Red Cross blood drive.



Dear Council Members and Pastor,

Thank you all so very much for the wonderful recognition you showed Good Shepherd's Sunday School staff during the 10:30 service on May 23rd. I greatly appreciate your kind words and generosity.

-Lori Meredith-

Summer Day Camp for Kids 2010

BAOBAB BLAST

Good Shepherd will hold a week-long camp for kids **ages 3-12**, the week of **August 16-20**.

In order to accommodate working families, the camp will run from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM each day with breakfast at 8:30 AM. Students are asked to bring a bag lunch.

The day will be divided into two sections. From 10:00 AM to 2:30 PM will be a "Vacation Bible School" program with music, crafts, age appropriate Bible studies and a lunch period. Some students may wish to come for this time only. The cost for this will be \$20 for materials.

Wrapped around this will be additional activities, breakfast and snack, and outdoor activities. The cost for this will be \$25 per day or \$100 for the week (the \$20 fee for Bible school materials is included)



BAOBAB BLAST

Summer Camp for Kids August 16-20, 2010

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 458-1562
510 Albany Shaker Rd, Loudonville NY 12211

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Name of student _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____ Last school grade completed _____

Parents or Guardian _____ Phone _____

Email address _____ Cell Phone _____

[] Full Day Program (8:30am-5:00pm)
\$25.00/day or \$100.00/week

[] Half Day Program (10:00am – 2:30pm)
\$20.00/week for materials

To guarantee a spot in the program, registration must be made **by August 1st**. A \$10.00 registration fee is required, which will be deducted from the day camp fees. A late registration fee of \$10.00 will be needed for registrations received after August 1st

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