

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A Church of JOY



Annual Report

**2021 Congregational Meeting
February 6th, 2022**

For 40 years I have preached the fundamental truth that all things are possible through Christ who strengthens you.... It seems that God had these times in mind when He put this upon my heart to keep in front of our eyes. Never have we needed to know this more than right now.

First COVID. Then the Fire. More COVID. Then the loss of several very active and families due to relocation. Any one of these circumstances could be enough to close down many congregations. Not us. Why? Because we have a vision for the future; a vision that is about impacting lives for Jesus, teaching them that whatever they have done and wherever they have been, all things are possible for those who believe.

So.... We worshipped on the lawn the very first Sunday after the fire and the Levittown Firefighters attended as a show of solidarity with us. What a moment when they came rolling in and joined us for worship. By late February we had our worship tent. It blew down... not once but twice. We still worshipped on site. Once we relocated it on the lower parking area we were set.

Local churches have been supportive and St Bernard's came to worship with us and present a large gift towards our rebuild and many Priests and Pastor's have come by with collections they have made on our behalf. Strangers stopped by and pressed cash into my hand for the rebuild. All this was so heartening.

Then we engaged in a Campaign and raised commitments of 244,000.00 to be given over the next two years. We considered this amount a 'Victory' but we are beginning to close in on the 'Miracle' we had hoped for of 350,000.00 as more people make their 2 year commitments or send a one time gift. We are amazed at what God is doing as hearts are touched to partner with us as we battle back.

It HAS been a battle with various sordid characters trying to get in on the action and get hold of some of our funds. Fortunately, God protected us and even sent us a special man named Harry Hipper as a Public Adjuster; a man straight as an arrow and he ensured that we received from the insurance company every penny we are due.

Post fire the goal was singular; survival, faithful preaching of God's Word and compassionate care for His people. Then came programming and we necessarily morphed into an outdoor church! We needed to expand the activities already happening such as Food Truck Friday's and Farmer's Market.

These were dealt a severe blow on August 9 when our Special Events Coordinator abruptly resigned 'effective immediately'. Your Church Council within hours decided to pick up the shattered pieces, continuing the Farmers Market as best we could and take 3 weeks to re - group Food Truck Friday's. A few days following this abrupt end, Wendy L's other position as office assistant was terminated as we sought to re imagine church staffing.

Volunteers have stepped into the breach and everything is functioning as well if not better than ever. There is something blessed about collectively teaming up to do God's work... We were also blessed with numerous Food Truckers who love Jesus and the church. They helped coach us to success; even helping acquire trucks for our events. We also decided to expand FTF offering free live bands as well as children's activities... It wasn't easy but once more Church Council, the congregation and community came through. Thanks to all who made Food Truck Friday's their Friday Night out. I was worried there for a while but once more God raises people to serve as needed. YOU know who you are. I appreciate and love you.

COVID has been an issue but worshipping outdoors, albeit in a tent, worked in our favor. The air exchange exceeds buildings but the heaters keep it nice and warm on winter Sunday's. In fact, it's a downright luxury compared to how we started post fire out on the lawn and then down in the lower parking lot. Many of our regular activities had to be cancelled due to COVID and / or the fire. Now these are being gradually re introduced such as the Annual Ash Wednesday Pancake supper!

There is no denying this is the toughest year ever for our church and myself in my years of ministry. I have been immensely encouraged by your faithfulness in giving your time, energy, talent and money to help make

this work. It has been a sacrificial year for many and we know that God is blessing us all for our faithfulness.

The coming year of course has re building our facility as a main focus but I am finding that ministry to the hurting and grieving to be rapidly accelerating. This is what God calls us to do; being His hands in a hurting world.

Due to our situation, once the colder weather hit, AA ceased using our property... That was a major blow but understandable. The hope is that in the spring these groups will return. Addictions ministry is a huge part of our work serving the Lord.

I have been working to share the leadership roles I have absorbed during these two years of crisis; ensuring that should I 'hit a tree' driving home, the church continues without missing a beat. At this point the Pumpkin Patch, Sunday School, Confirmation, Tree Lot, Sunday Worship Organization and much more can manage without me. That is the goal such that I can focus on overall leadership, perceiving God's call upon our church, visioning the future and Pastoral Care.

"Is Pastor retiring soon?" is a subliminal question posed. I am 'rising 70' and still feel that if the New York Islanders have a void in net, I can fill in as their goalie. You'd basically see a resurgence of the Billy Smith goal-tending style.

The task ahead is clear: The church must be physically re - built and the attendance equally re - built. We will need to pay off any debt incurred. We have great programs to re - establish and new ones to implement once we have a building to work from. There is much to do and to ensure that I don't wear out I intend to start taking my vacation and study leave more faithfully; not to mention a day or two off each week. I have literally not stopped since the start of COVID. A 'day off' now entails 3 -6 hours of work!

My motivation is to stay strong to serve the Lord and His church longer. I think it would be awesome to start performing weddings for people I baptized when they were infants.

The big challenges for 2022 is to keep our focus on personal financial giving to the Lord and His church. The only thing that can defeat us is the lack of income. The other is not attending worship. Now more than ever we need to be together in person to uplift each other in these difficult days.

I thank the Lord for my Administrative Assistant Gail George, who carries more and more church responsibilities uncomplaining. I thank our brilliant and selfless Church Council. I thank Jo Ann for being the incredible support she is. I thank you for all your loving kindness and serving. I thank Jesus for lifting me up and giving me a message each day to share via Facebook and Sunday mornings.

In the Lord's Service, Pastor Remo Arvid Madsen.

2021 Pastoral Assistant Report— Joann Madsen

My ministry, while primarily focused upon preparing and delivering the weekly Discipleship Bible Study, also involves one on one counselling; often via telephone. Sunday mornings are quite busy with much one on one ministry at different spots on the church property.

I also do several "Prepare and Enrich" pastoral counselling sessions as people look at their relationships in preparation for their potentially life long commitment. This is an excellent manner to connect with your partner on a deeper level and have a look at what this relationship means.

Without a doubt, this has been one of the most challenging years for our congregation and this involves being aware of the unique dynamics we are living under. It is gratifying to see us all growing in strength and commitment to Jesus. Tough times has a way of doing that!

The Pandemic has issued its unique set of challenges for people and I am often addressing these as I connect with our church community.

God is very present in our midst. We can be confident.

Jo Ann Madsen, RN and Masters in Christian Studies.

2021 Congregational Council Co-President Wendy Maddalena P 4

What a year 2021 has been! We started our first worship service in the freezing cold and wind, on the lawn in chairs we brought from home, and nothing else. But – we were together. And together we created a beautiful and cozy new worship area under our tent. Together we persevered through every obstacle thrown in our way. Together we remained faithful servants of God. And together we became stronger.

This past year has had many ups and downs. It has shown us the best in so many people. Not just in our church family, but in our community as well. Unfortunately, it also showed us that there are also a few sharks in the water. Thankfully, the good far outweighed the bad and we stand today, united in our love for God and for each other and eager to see what blessings await us in 2022.

My year has been spent first and foremost working hard on the rebuild, both the insurance and construction aspects. In addition, I have assumed the responsibilities of maintaining all our social media platforms which include 2 Facebook pages, 2 Instagram accounts, our website LIChurch.com, and our YouTube account. I also create the PowerPoint for each Sunday's worship service (except for the sermon slides J) and maintain the giving records for our congregation for tax purposes. It's a good thing I'm retired because Pastor sure does know how to keep me busy!!!

It has been a true pleasure and privilege to serve this year as your Co-President with Mary Marie. Mary's grace, kindness, compassion, and loving way with others is something that can't be matched. I have loved working beside her in our endeavors to navigate these waters and to help ensure that our little church of joy can continue to minister to our community through services and our many other outreach events and programs.

Praying for a 2022 that bring us all good health and happiness, and a thrust forward towards a new church building!

Blessings –

Wendy Maddalena
Council Co-President

2021 Congregational Council Co-President Mary M Carbonaro P5

Good day Pastor, JoAnn and my church family. I cannot believe another year has passed into my two year Councils President's term. When the fire broke out on Christmas Day 2020 I was home recovering from Covid.

I received the call from Johnny A - on my coat went and out the door I was!! Whilst driving in the heavy rain with tears running down my face - I could not believe that Christmas of 2020 will be defined with such sadness and pain. I had thought Covid had wrecked the holiday but the fire most definitely trumped that notion. Trying to fasten my mask as I ran towards our burning Church of Joy the roof ablaze seemed as though time just stood frozen still...But WE did not !! Pastor swiftly made the decision to team up Wendy and I and so the "Co-Presidency" was launched. The general duties of council is to work and serve for God so that each church member is sustainable in their faith and are always nurtured within their beings. All previous and new matters are brought to the table and discussed in great length by the most outstanding and intellectual & passionate people I've ever had the privilege to know and work with. Handling matters that may consist of something as simple as ordering coffee supplies or selling pumpkins and trees. After meticulously going through each detail we report all said information back to you folks displaying all figures before each of you via the Annual Report. We are an open book.

Let us not forget the trying challenges that are also sprinkled across the way for council as we seek to faithfully follow our church Bylaws, and Constitutional... and sometimes old fashion law in general.

Recovery from the fire of 2020 will prove to be the most challenging period of Good Shepherds history. Well, thank goodness for the gifts of faith, hope and love Pastor & Joann has instilled in us all these years - there was never no doubt this challenge will have to be met and it was our duty to complete it.

Peace and Love Always, Mary Marie Carbonaro

Re Build Campaign Report—Mary Marie Carbonaro

So off to work we went to raise funds to rebuild and our first step was to retain a professional campaign consultant. After many interviews and researching backgrounds etc we hired (with your approval) Jeff Shortridge from INJOY. His knowledge, insight and vision has proven in making this one of the most leading and aggressive campaigns across America he has seen in years.

Embarking on this campaign included assembling several of the most powerful and talented teams of the many people that are sitting before you now. These unstoppable people catapulted the very special events most of which took place right under the "big top". There was leadership commitment dinner, the public commitment Sunday and then our very special Reveal Sunday. Those are the happy memories I like to hold dear forever.

And let us not forget about our Bbq Ho-Down.. just another way to say Thank You!

Although still needing to be mindful to each of our commitments so that the campaign continues to move in the attainable goal I know we will achieve or perhaps exceed. Currently our campaign commitment amount received is \$114,050 out of the 250,000.00 total. We must enthusiastically keep marching on.

If you would like to make a two - year giving commitment, you can do so utilizing the Commitment Cards available at the entrance or by making a one - time donation.

This year began with much extra work to be done from the church office. Due to the fire, many different lists had to be comprised to keep track of all of our donations from parishioners and from many people from outside of our church. In addition, teams were created to ensure that this transition to a church without a building continued to thrive.

Mid-year we lost our office assistant, and I have now assumed full responsibility for the office.

The church office also was responsible for the mailings of all materials for our huge campaign—"Under the Big Top"

The church office is now run from my home as we have relocated the church computer and all paperwork needed to perform the job efficiently. The church phone number was forwarded to my cell as I receive and return calls on a daily basis.

The bulletins, newsletters and all other necessary material are created at my home, and then printed at the church for distribution.

We also have enhanced our food truck program and all permits and paperwork for this event are handled by the church office.

It has been an extremely busy year and I anticipate that this coming year will be just as busy if not more so!!

Looking forward to the challenge and let's make it a great one !!!

2021 Music Ministry Report- Gail George

This year began out on a cold front lawn ! But, not to be deterred, the first few services were done accapella with our worship team and song sheets were passed out to the congregants.

When we were faced with inclement weather, we picked up all the equipment at the church and moved it to another facility, ie The Legion or another church. As the year progressed, we became an authentic garage band with all of our equipment set up in the front of the garage. When we were finally able to get our tent set up, we began our worship services in the tent with a full band.

Many thanks to Paul George, our worship team sound man who arrived 2 hours early to ensure that everything was set up and ready to go.

We have had to shorten the music portion of the services due to the weather and time constraints.

This coming year, we will probably continue much the same until such time as we can get into the building. At that time we will be looking to expand our repertoire as well as looking for a few good singers. If you are interested in joining us,, please contact me.. Auditions will be necessary to become part of the music team

Our church fire made for a very difficult year for us but we were able to meet income projections. 2021 weekly giving came within \$75 of budget netting \$199,924. We had an outstanding year with both the Pumpkin Patch and the Christmas Tree lot. This year our pumpkin patch netted \$45,921 and our tree lot \$50,222. At the tree lot we took in an additional \$3600 toward the rebuild from the donation jar.

Food Truck Fridays netted \$9657. Our AA groups brought in \$ 5369. We had a winter concert that netted \$1000. Our Spring Basket Auction brought in \$1,933. This was our first year we had a flower sale that netted \$2344. For a very difficult year, hard work by all the teams made for success.

In the coming year it will be important to stay on track in every income line. Together we can do this.

We thank everyone for their help throughout 2021.

Liz Miano

Joy Counseling Report—Ryan Duck

We are well served with a capable staff.

Ryan Duck is an accredited counsellor with great success. He handles a variety of situations. His fee schedule for church members is very affordable. RYAN does couples counselling and individual counselling. He is truly a blessing to many.

Jo Ann Madsen offers Prepare and Enrich marriage preparation as well as individual counselling for women.

Pastor Remo does crisis intervention, grief and addictions counselling as well as general Pastoral Care.

Our three counsellors are capable to handle all of life situations.

Call for an appointment at any time.

Sunday School Report

Sunday School **** more to come from leaders,,, Pastor will send this once finalized...

Unique is what it has been! Once the fire happened we resorted to an On Line Sunday School thanks to Linda Brady Strom and Mary Heuman. Once the tents were up we had Sunday School 'Under the Little Top.'

The 'All Things are Possible' Campaign had a month of special children's activities in Sunday School with Anne Madsen – Isedeh leading.

So, its been a bit of this, that and the other with the main thing being the children getting to know who Jesus is.

We fully expect a return to Vacation Bible School in the Summer of 2022

The 200 boxes of 2022 envelopes have all been either picked up or delivered directly to your homes (special thanks to the McCardell's, the Orzechowski's, and Bill Wilson!). Envelopes to more distant homes were mailed.

We have an additional 70 families who are “virtual” givers with “virtual” giving numbers as well so that we can easily record donations for tax statements.

If you are new and in need of envelopes, please come and see me! We have an extra 40 boxes for any new members that come along.

Finally, the 2021 Giving Statement for tax purposes was mailed in mid-January. Please reach out to me if you did not receive it or if you think there was an error.

Wendy Maddalena
Envelope Secretary
wendymadds@aol.com
516-361-3649

Property and Maintenance Report—Matt Koenig

Property and Maintenance had a very busy year. Without a building to maintain we focused our attention on the grounds. We assisted in the installation, relocation and securing of our new tent. In the springtime we began an effort to clean up the property. We started by removing trash and debris all through the property. We also removed dead trees, bushes, weeds etc. Property and maintenance teamed up with the gardening group as they planted flowers, vegetables and herbs in an attempt to beautify the grounds.

The lawn mowing and landscaping was taken care of throughout the summer. We also assisted with many special events such as food truck Fridays. We helped out any way we could with the tough task of having outdoor worship service.

In the fall our main focus was setting up and maintaining the pumpkin patch and the tree lot. Both were a huge success!! As winter approached our main focus was running temporary electric and providing heat so the congregation can have a safe and comfortable place to worship. We will continue to do so throughout the year.

All in all we had a successful year. A big thanks to all who helped out.

Confirmation started in September 2021. The new teacher is Kerri Stallone with three students: Anna McCardell, Ava Orzechowsky and Faith Stallone. We started the year finishing the last of the Old Testament. The curriculum is easily relatable and interpreted for teens. The girls were asked questions such as: Like Samson who was given supernatural strength by God, what superpower did God give to you? What are your special talents? They said dancing, math, and reading. Things to learn from the story of David: Never judge by appearances, don't be afraid to speak up about something you believe in and don't worry about others may think. They interpreted that into teen scenarios like to always stick up for someone being bullied. They moved into the New Testament where we have learned about Solomon and to have integrity when handling success. The greater our success, the more likely we are to forget our need for God. We reminded ourselves to always stay humble and to never brag about our achievements. We learned from Jonah that while our love for others may fail, God's love knows no end. We asked the question "Have you ever felt disappointed in someone for their actions? Did their actions sever your relationship or make it stronger?" Faith recalled being disappointed in a girl in school that she thought was her friend. The girl kicked Faith out of a friend group in 6th grade and it severed her friendship for the girl. From that situation we went over in class the beautiful ability to forgive people and how to move past bad situations in life. The girls learned that John the Baptist had a mission of preparing people's hearts for the coming of Christ. Based on John's story, we asked these questions to each other:

True or False –

One person can have a positive impact on thousands

The most powerful people make the biggest impact

A small group of people can change the world

We talked about how these questions can relate to their lives as teenagers. Can they, as one person, make an impact in life? Can they do a random act of kindness just one day that can change a person's outlook? We try to make the curriculum so that their "homework" is something that can remind them of God's miracles that He placed in them.

We learned about the Twelve Disciples and what Jesus called them to do. He taught them how to pray and also how to love sinners. We asked the question, what does Jesus call you to do as His disciple? We are all disciples of Jesus. They said that they can be disciples of Jesus by helping out with their family at home, or to help out a student in school with a subject that they are good at. Or to help out someone with a sport that they excel at. Learning that we can always do something good every day to show Jesus that we are disciples.

We have spent the last five months talking about how to pray. Does it have to be well rehearsed or long? Does it need to sound formal and very "God-like"? Does a prayer need to sound biblical with fancy words? No, no and no. So we have broken down our lives to the simplest prayer, The Lord's Prayer. I have asked the girls to start saying The Lord's Prayer every night before they fall asleep. I asked the families to spend one day per week thanking God as a family for something good that happened. I am trying to instill in the girls that praying makes your soul feel good. I believe they are catching on. All in all, it is a great class. I love the girls and they absolutely are friends with one another.

The addictions ministry has been compromised by the lack of indoor meeting space although in the warmer weather we did have several groups meeting on site.

Pre - Fire, we had a total of 15 different groups utilizing our facility... It was so special and the Pastoral Care we were able to impart was meaningful.

Our hope is that in the Spring groups will be back to meet on site. It is a magical spot that so many are drawn to. Miracles seem to happen here!!!

Once we are into the building, the goal is to expand to ALANON and ALATEEN to minister to the families of those dealing with addictions and to get our 15 groups back under our welcoming and healing roof.

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2021 Adult Ministries—Remo and Joann Madsen

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULTS TO GROW IN THEIR FAITH WALK IS CRITICAL AND WE OFFER THESE OPPORTUNITIES!

These are three - fold:

Daily Devotions: Pastor Remo offers a devotional on Facebook covering a variety of subjects connected to daily living. They are filmed from wherever he is and often in the midst of whatever he's doing such as chopping wood, cleaning his garage, walking the church property, out and about with Winston the dog that rules the Madsen household... The intent is to refresh all who tune in on a daily basis. Sunday's it's the worship service and on Thursday's Jo Ann Madsen's online Bible Study takes over.

Discipleship Bible Study: Every Thursday at 7:00 PM Jo Ann Madsen offers this deeper life Bible Study. It is encouraging to see the many who participate from our congregation and across the nation. It's a faithful and robust audience.

The plan is to, once COVID has subsided, to hold monthly LIVE under the Big Top fellowship (with meals or dessert) and Bible Study events while continuing the weekly broadcasts. The topics vary. The current one is "Seeking and Hearing God".

New Members Bible Study: On a continuous basis Pasto offers this study, "RENEW". This study is a good faith foundations experience as well as serving to prepare people for church membership.

Pastor Remo and Jo Ann Madsen.

The tree lot team did exceptionally well and went far beyond expectations. We are proud of them and of the hard work they did. The Lot Team and Cashiers were incredible and many guests complimented the pastor on the kindness and enthusiasm each displayed.

This is a fun month for the teens of our church and community while they work together, gorge pizza and more... It may be the very best church youth group on Long Island!!! Pastor works side by side with the teens while supervising the tree lot along with the capable assistance of our Lot Manager, Danny. It is a truly special time.

The Long Island community loves coming to our property with many repeat guests every year. The fellowship and yes, at times pastoral care, that happens amongst the trees is unique and powerful.

This was a record year with 1,100 trees, 200 + wreaths and grave blankets, table ornaments and more. Last year we sold 884 trees. Yet, once more we ran out of trees with only a few 'Charlie Browns' available a week before Christmas. Once more we are thankful to Brett "Mountain Man" for his support and acumen. He has ideas to re organize displays and increase our output manyfold next December. Next year we will increase our product by 15 – 20% as we've sold out the last 4 years.

Best of all the teens and Pastor get a good workout and none needs to go to the gym in December!

Submitted by Danny Cisotto and Pastor Remo.

Pumpkin Patch—2021—Annie Cariello and Pastor Madsen

The Pumpkin Patch at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is not "Just a Pumpkin Patch". The "Patch" as we call it, is a place to relax and be yourself.

Volunteering at the "Patch" is magical. Whether you are cashiering, greeting customers, pricing pumpkins or just taking in the scenery, the "Patch" lends a sense of serenity and community to all.

Creating a Fall outing for families and moving pumpkins is what happens. We have incredible help from Brett S.. He's a mountain of a man; not in stature but intellect. After quality and delivery issues, we turned to the Amish for our pumpkins and Brett acquires them for us going to auctions. He also turns up to re arrange our set - up; making it more appealing for the many guests.

We started our Patch a week late and ended several days early as we ran out of pumpkins. Yet, we exceeded our income significantly relative to last year.

The Patch is a true joy and a superb outreach to the people of Long Island. Many are to be thanked for their selfless service to the Lord so that this event builds upon success after success. God is good.

Flowers. Springtime. Mother's Day... What a magic time!!!

In 2021 we decided to have a Garden Center. It was very special to have flowers and fruit trees for sale. A side benefit is that we simply plundered the Garden Center for our own Church flowerbeds and vegetable garden!

While not a huge success, it was a modest endeavor from which we learned much; such as to be open for regular daily hours as well as to shorten the amount of weeks we are open. We also learned what sells and what does not sell... To add a few congregation members who know horticulture will be of great help as well. We are looking for just such persons...

In 2022 we intend a one - month season; all of May and daily hours. These changes as well as moving it to the front of the lawn up by Hempstead Tpk will allow for greater visibility will add to the success of this endeavor.

Food Truck Friday Report—Mary Marie Carbonaro

When Labor Day in September came along, it was about that time that Wendy L had resigned - more fun was about to unfold. While Food Truck Friday had been a huge community event - who was going to take it over? It was all hands on deck!!

We collectively reached out to those trucks and had them come back to us they were hungry for business as well. People came swarming- once we built up a genuine and kind rapport with the food truck owners they were all back - food and craft vendors as well!!

We had live music organized by Gail and Paul naturally. Annie Cariello, Pastor and I recruited Food Trucks. Wendy M. did our Face Book Promotions. Gail G. ensured we were in permit compliance. Kid's games were set up by creative and fun Linda Brady Strom capably aided by her husband Steve... Fun kid movies were set up shown by our sweet Annie -and just so much more! This is the place that Harold and I come to kick off our weekends on Friday Nites.

These are just some of my stories I have to share and also that I can be grateful for. It helps softens that pain and sadness of Christmas Day of 2020 - Hopefully with happy memories being made it'll ensure the fact of the matter that God always does for us what we can't do for ourselves. -All things are Possible-

Peace and Love Always, Mary Marie Carbonaro

Women's Group and Welca Report—Chick Lent

The Womens' group were very limited this year due to COVID. We did give blankets and gifts at several Christenings this year and we did have about 3 meetings in the tent.

We did not give the hats and scarfs to the Indians as they did not want them any longer, so instead they were donated to the veterans.

We are hoping to resume our Women Get –togethers as soon as the weather warms up.

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Annual Basket Auction is more than an event; it is a process that strengthens our church and reaches people as well as helps fundraise for specific causes.

The volunteer teams within the church own the event and the target audience is people who haven't connected to the church. Every year the event is evaluated to make sure it is still fulfilling its primary purpose. And gladly it is!!

Jane Bibla.

Food Pantry Report—Bill Wilson and Robin Waslin

The food pantry is still a functioning mission this year. Robin Waslin has been using her basement for food storage and distribution..

There are currently 3 active families in need of food/supplies which are distributed on an as needed basis.

Sunday School ** more to come from leaders,,, Pastor will send this once finalized...**

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We fully expect a return to Vacation Bible School in the Summer of 2022.

2021 Statistical report

Baptisms:	
Marriages:	2
Funerals:	4
Confirmations:	11
Average Weekly Attendance:	N/A
Transfers from Good Shepherd:	0

Rebuild Report

The path to the rebuild has been paved. There have been some potholes but make no mistake... the road is paved.

We have settled with the insurance company for a lump sum payout of \$2,065,193.20. And while our initial plans proved in the end to be too expensive to achieve (due to an increase in labor and materials, and an overstretch on the part of the architect to give us the entirety of our dream), we have now finalized plans that will fall well within our budget. These plans will be presented to you for congregational approval once we have a complete set of drawings and renderings. Simply put, the sanctuary level will remain very similar to the initial plans, but the downstairs level will remain in its original layout.

Our next steps are to secure detailed drawings from the architect and start to submit our permit applications as well as begin to obtain bids from contractors to complete the work. We are truly hoping that the Town of Hempstead sees fit to expedite our permits so that we can begin construction sooner than the estimated 10 month waiting period.

Please look for information regarding an upcoming congregational meeting where the final building design will be presented!

Wendy Maddalena
Rebuild Team Coordinator



