

The Staff

The newsletter of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

September 2006

Our Mission: To equip God's people for ministry with a vision to share God's Word

A TREASURE AMONG US



With the close of the summer season, families begin to regroup, settling back into the routines that demand so much of our lives. The pulse of life quickens. The church moves into high gear with its full complement of programs and ministries. The pews become fuller and our classrooms spring back to life.

Among the programs which are most often neglected and even de-valued these days is that of Sunday School and Adult Bible study. There is probably no ministry which requires so much effort and attention than these. Dozens of teachers must be recruited and trained each year. Materials must be selected, financed, and ordered. Appeals must be made to encourage our families to attend and take advantage of all that Sunday School and Bible study offers every individual and every family.

Yet, it seems that Sunday School and Bible study are viewed as optional. Some feel it is irrelevant and out of date. Some see it as secondary to worship. How unfortunate that there exists that kind of thinking. The numbers prove it:

60% of all grade school children do not attend Sunday School.

80% of all high school youth do not attend Sunday School.

90% of all college young people do not attend Sunday School or Bible class.

I wonder what that means for the future of our families as well as the Church? Consider these facts:

75% of all church members come from Sunday Schools.

85% of all church workers come from Sunday Schools.

80% of all missionaries come from Sunday Schools.

95% of all pastors come from Sunday Schools.

The now famous Christian author, Chuck Colson has noted a direct correlation between the decline in Sunday School attendance in our churches and the rise in juvenile crime. The same is true concerning adult Bible study attendance and adult crime numbers.

The words and wisdom of God in Scriptures says it so well, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6)

Well, how do we start to convince people of the power and importance of Sunday School and Bible study? How do we make the most of this treasure among us? It starts with us and with our families. Then it is able to go beyond us. What a golden opportunity we have considering the vast mission field all around us.

Beginning September 17th, during the Sunday School hour (9:15 – 10:15 AM), Good Shepherd will offer three different adult Bible studies for your choosing:

Continued on next page

Continued from first page

“The Difficult Sayings of Christ”
“How to Teach Your Children about
Really Important Things”
“The Names of Jesus”

Surely, there is one here that will interest and be a blessing to you. I am praying that the people and

families of Good Shepherd will discover for themselves the incredible opportunity they have to grow in God’s Word.

Always in Christ,

Pastor Bill Qualman

Letter from the Chairperson

Its time to Recharge our Batteries



I’m sure you can all relate to one of the following:

- It’s the perfect sunset and you go and grab the camera only to find out that the batteries have died – no picture this time
- You’re working on your laptop and just as you go to save the document the batteries die.
- You’re out and about and need to make that most important telephone call, you grab the cell phone – batteries are dead.
- You can’t change the channel on the TV, the remote has no batteries.
- The power goes out and you have no working flashlights or clock radio because the batteries are dead.

Have you ever felt like your batteries were dead? Long hours at work, driving the kids to their many different activities, bills to pay, shopping to do, dinner to make, all wears down our batteries – power runs low and even dies from time to time. Just like in all of the scenarios listed above, we need to recharge our batteries. Isn’t that what summer and vacations are all about? We take the time from our busy schedules to slow down a little, spend more time with the family, lounge by the pool or on the beach, and get our fill of sunshine and warm weather. We try to get refreshed and gear up for another school year, new initiatives at work, and more activities for the kids.

But, what about your spiritual life? When was the last time you recharged your spiritual batteries? Sure, you come to church on Sunday to hear the Word. Sure, you are here during the week to attend this meeting or that meeting. Sure, you are here on Sunday evenings with your child in Confirmation class. But when have you taken the time to recharge? When was the last time you attended a Bible study? When was the last time you held devotions at home with your family? When was the last time you read a good spiritually based book that just made you feel good and alive again?

I hope all of you took the time to sit back and relax a little this summer. I hope you made the most of your time recharging your physical batteries. I hope that each of you are a little more refreshed and energized for the upcoming year ahead. Now I pray that each of you take the time to recharge your spiritual life. I pray that you take the time to be filled with the Word of God and made to feel alive in His Word. I pray that you take advantage of the many different Bible studies available, the Book club, the Youth Groups, even Confirmation and Sunday School classes. It is important to feel God alive and active in our lives. It is time to be refreshed and recharged, not just physically, but spiritually as well.

For Jesus says that he is the solution for the weariness of the soul: “Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.” (Matt 11:28)

Bethanne Meyer

Don's Doodles



It's Time for a Change

At this writing I am about two weeks away from beginning a three month part time period prior to my retirement. I want to assure you all that this was not an easy decision for me to make. However, after much prayer and discussion with Betty, Pastor and Beth it became obvious that this was a decision I needed to make. The major reason, although not the only reason, is the long commute and the effect it was having on me and my work here.

Almost five years ago, January 2002, I joined the Good Shepherd staff. While the ministry at Good Shepherd hasn't grown as much as I had hoped it would, there have been a few important additions. I do believe that the Lord has allowed me to be useful in other ways and He certainly has given me the great privilege of working with so many of you. I can not begin to tell you how much this experience has meant to me. The opportunity to talk to you, to share with you, and to partner with you as we have done His work will be something I will carry in my heart forever.

I am extremely excited about the new direction that this position will take. With Amber Brown coming on board and the change of direction to Christian Education, I believe, will bring a much needed assistance to the Christian Education of the members and families of Good Shepherd. I also know that I leave the Confirmation program in very good and loving hands. This was something that

was very important to me as I went through the process of this decision.

I am confident that Good Shepherd, under the leadership of Pastor Qualman and through the partnership of Pastor and Amber, will grow in the Love of Christ. Good Shepherd's future is bright and exciting. The Lord has provided the Leadership and has created the opportunity for this congregation to be the beacon to those who have not yet met our Savior. There are challenges; however you face them with the "tools" necessary to succeed. These "tools" have been provided by Our all Powerful, all Knowing and most Loving God.

For over 25 years Betty has been unable to participate in activities at Good Shepherd. This has been very difficult for her. In addition I believe that the Lord still has work for me to do. Betty's schedule is such now that if we lived closer to Church she would be able to be involved. Living almost an hour away make both Betty's participation and mine very difficult. For this reason Betty and I have made the very difficult decision to transfer from Good Shepherd shortly after my full retirement in January. I assure you, if we still lived in Old Bridge we would not be making either of these difficult decisions. Good Shepherd has been a very important part of my life and my family's life for over 35 years. So many of you have helped me grow as a person and a fellow believer. I owe you so much. Only the Lord knows what he plans for Betty and me, but I pray that he allows me the same love, joy, and friendship that we have been blessed to experience at Good Shepherd.

Your Co-worker for Christ
Don Cousens
Coordinator of Lay Ministry



Coordinator of Christian Education

It is always difficult to learn that someone who plays such an integral role in something decides it's time to say good-bye. That is exactly how the Board felt when Don gave us notice of his intention to retire

from his position as Coordinator of Lay Ministry. We knew that we were going to have big shoes to fill, but we also knew that we could improve upon the position that was created so long ago. Though it is always difficult to lose someone so important to the ministry of Good Shepherd, we were challenged with the idea of being able to build something new and exciting.

It became a realization to the Board that we needed to go back to the basics. We needed to ensure that Good Shepherd had a strong foundation on which to build its ministry. Therefore, we knew that the Coordinator of Lay Ministry position needed to be re-worked and re-designed. We needed a position that would focus on the Christian Education of every member within Good Shepherd.

Therefore, we unanimously decided to re-focus the Coordinator of Lay Ministry position to the ***Coordinator of Christian Education***. What does this move mean for Good Shepherd? Well, it means an array of new and exciting ventures. The Coordinator of Christian Education will focus on all aspects of Christian Education from cradle to grave.

- ***Cradle Role***: Not just the maintenance of records, but how to bring Christian Education to our youngest members and their parents before they are old enough to attend Sunday School, thus filling the gap between birth and Sunday School and keeping young families engaged and active.
- ***Sunday School***: How do we better build upon our successes? What are our additional opportunities?

- ***Confirmation***: The continued management and coordination of the successful Faith Inkubator program.
- ***Youth Programs***: Let's bring back opportunities for the younger members of our youth programs. Its time to expand and create new and vital youth programs for all of our youth.
- ***Youth Music Programs***: Continue to provide various avenues for making our youth part of *today's* active membership and not just preparing them to be part of tomorrow's church.
- ***Adult Education***: How do we create vital and exciting ways to actively engage our adults? What programs best fit the needs of our members? What programs best fit the needs of our community? We are never too old or too learned not to continue to grow in God's Word.

It is so exciting to think that we will have someone full-time to focus on Christian Education. Just think about how we can continue to grow as a congregation as we grow in God's Word together, finding just the right opportunity, Bible Study, program or event that fits our individual wants and needs.

It is also exciting that we had someone within our own midst that has the passion and God-given gifts to fit the role of Coordinator of Christian Education. *Amber Brown* was a recommendation brought to the Board by Pastor Qualman. It did not take the Board long to agree with his recommendation. Amber has created a successful and vibrant youth music program. She was a vital part of the creation of the L.O.V.E. JR. Youth program. She is someone who has remained actively involved with the various ministries of Good Shepherd, so there is no need for a "honeymoon" period. She will be off and running beginning September 5th. As Don begins to move away from his position and assist Amber in beginning the new position, both will be working part-time. Amber will begin as a full-time staff person in January.

Bethanne Meyer



The Administrative Board has two very Special notes of Thanks that we would like to share with the entire congregation.

The first note of Thanks goes out to the Child Care Board and Staff. Once again this year they decided to donate a significant sum of money to the Church. They have paid our staff salaries over the course of the past few months totaling \$29,279.06. In addition, they are also considering an additional donation above and beyond the salaries. The Board and Staff believe that God has been good to them through the support of the congregation. They have been good stewards of the gifts God has provided, and want to be able to continue to support the ministries of

this congregation as they are able. We thank them for their continued support and thank God every day for what they do for His children.

The second note of thanks goes out to Carol Sereda, who went above and beyond for us at the Tax Assessor's office. She took the lead in getting us on the Town Council's meeting agenda seeking approval for the refund of all taxes paid on the parsonage in 2006. The church was assessed taxes on the new parsonage for 2006 because the closing date on the house missed the deadline for the 2006 tax exemption. This will hopefully result in a significant refund and savings for the congregation.

Bethanne Meyer

Atonement Lutheran Church and School
6500 Riverside Drive, Metairie, Louisiana 70003
CHURCH/SCHOOL/FAX #: (504) 887-0225

August 3, 2006

Dear Members of Lutheran Church of The Good Shepherd,

I Thessalonians 3:6-9 reads as follows:

"But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you. Therefore brothers, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith. For now we really live since you are standing firm in the Lord. How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you?"

Surely you recognize with us that the words of the above passage reflect for us some of the heartfelt thoughts we have about you because of your gift to us. On the other hand we recognize that you must likewise have some of the feelings expressed in the three verses above.

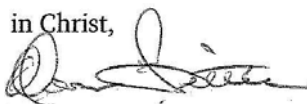
You have responded with a gift of yourself as you have given us your dollars. We appreciate that very

much. Your support for us during these challenging times is very much needed.

We continue to marvel at how God is at work in our Lutheran community throughout the United States. You are not only helping us, but you are touching the lives of people in a profound and significant way. Because of your donation, our people are sustained not only with their physical needs, but they are also encouraged in their faith as they recognize the love and generosity which you have extended to us.

So thank you again for your gift. We hope that with your gift and the combined gifts of others that we will be able to do many things for God's people here.

Cordially yours in Christ, Pastor Don Little

in Christ,


New Christian Education Courses Launch this September



There's a Class for You!
Submitted by Don Van Handel

During the Congregational Self-Study, the results were overwhelming that Good Shepherd's members believe Christian Education isn't just for children. Our Adult Bible Study survey also found that the best time and place for most of you to participate in Bible Study courses was during our Sunday school hour right here in our Church building.

After much discussion and thought I am happy to announce a whole new style of Adult Christian Education for the congregation this Fall.

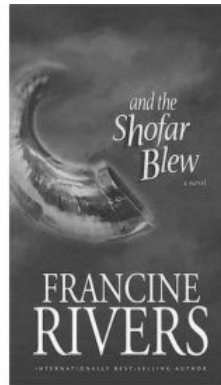
We will be offering three separate Bible Studies for adults on Sunday mornings:

- The Difficult Sayings of Christ
- How to Teach Your Children About Important Things
- The Names of Jesus

Each of these sessions will begin on September 17th and run through December, wrapping up prior to Christmas. These offerings have valuable information for everyone, whether you are not very familiar with the Bible or consider yourself an expert, we have some exciting material for you to consider.

Shortly we will be announcing our "Winter Semester" with new Studies to kick off in January. If there's ever been a time to join a Bible Study and grow spiritually, that time is now. I hope that you will take advantage of this great opportunity.

BOOK CLUB & DISCUSSION GROUP



It is that time again !!!

Please join our Book Discussion Group. This year we will meet in the church library on the second Tuesday of **every OTHER month**, beginning September 12th from 7:30 – 9:00 pm. (unless otherwise

noted). We will discuss a different Christian fiction or non-fiction book each time we get together. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to e-mail me at: Junedh1@aol.com or call me: (732) 840-6894. This is an excellent way to get to know people in a very relaxed setting. We have a lot of fun each time we meet. Please join us!!

June Hullings



One Sunday in a Midwest City, a young child was "acting up" during the morning worship hour. The parents did their best to maintain some sense of order in the pew but were losing the battle. Finally, the father picked the little fellow up and walked sternly up the aisle on his way out. Just before reaching the safety of the foyer, the little one called loudly to the congregation,

"Pray for me! Pray for me!"



Music Notes

It's that time of year again...time to dust off those vocal chords and exercise those biceps and come sing and ring with us! There are so many musical opportunities at Good Shepherd, many that have been part of the Music Ministry for over 25 years! What a wonderful way to praise the Lord by singing and making music to our King! Below is a short description of our musical offerings...practices will begin on September 20th.

- **Little Sheep:** a vocal choir for youth in grades 2-6, karaoke style! This choir practices every Wednesday from 4:30-5:00 and sings during the 10:30 Sunday worship services on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month.
- **Heavenly Dove Bell Choir:** a beginner handbell choir for youth in grades 5-8. This choir practices every Wednesday from 5:00-6:00 and plays during several worship services throughout the year.
- **Shepherd Singers:** a vocal choir for youth in grades 7-12, karaoke style! This choir sings contemporary Christian music and practices every Wednesday from 6:00-6:30, singing in church one Sunday per month. This choir will begin in December.



- **Jubilation Bell Choir:** an intermediate handbell choir for youth in grades 9-12. This choir practices every Wednesday from 6:30-7:00 and plays in church several times throughout the year. This choir will begin practice in December.
- **Senior Choir:** a vocal choir comprised of high school graduates and adults. This choir practices on Sundays after the 10:30 worship service and sings during service on the 1st and

3rd Sundays of the month, as well as Festival Days. This choir is directed by our organist, Ed Roynesdal.

In case you are undecided about whether these programs are right for you, we are pleased to offer a Music Workshop after both worship services on Sept 10. This will give you an opportunity to sample some musical selections and try ringing a handbell or two. This is also a good opportunity to talk with Ed or myself and ask some questions about rehearsal schedules and program expectations. We look forward to working with you and making a "Joyful noise to the Lord"!

Amber Brown
Little Sheep, Shepherd Singers and Handbell Director



RALLY DAY – September 10 @ 9:15 AM
Refreshments will be served. Teachers for Sunday School and Care Center will be installed that day also.

Good Shepherd Children's Center



WHAT'S NEW AT SCHOOL

Well, as the summer sun starts to fade, it's an exciting time at GSCC. The teachers come back next week to get their classrooms ready for all those eager little faces on September 5. Everything will be apples and school buses. The staff at GSCC will have our in-service day on August 28th. My Director Academy teacher MaryJo Mackintosh is coming to talk to everyone about Integrated Curriculum and Positive

Discipline. On August 29th, the teachers and I will be having our CPR/First Aid class because we are all up for renewal.

Personally I'm excited about starting another year with GSCC, everyone is rested and ready to take on the challenges a new school year brings.

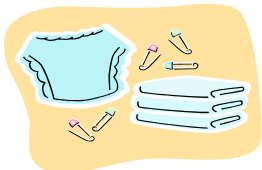
Director
Lorraine Campo



FROM THE ALLEYS

September and the sound of falling pins again rings out at the alleys. Yes, bowling starts on Monday, September 11th, with a short "back to the alleys"

meeting at 8:30 pm. It will be followed by a fun night of fellowship. (and bowling). As of this writing we still need **2** more bowlers. If you are interested, we bowl at Strathmore Lanes on Route 34 in Aberdeen/Matawan. You can contact Carol Hahl or myself Laurie Burke.



Diaper Derby

This year, the drive will run from August 6 through September 24th. You may purchase diapers in any size, or if you prefer, you may make a cash donation or write a check payable to "Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd." Any donation will be greatly appreciated.

DON'T FORGET THE BABIES!!

For Your Information

Happy Birthday to...

9/1 Joan Hullings
9/1 Brian Puricelli
9/1 Ben Mallepalle
9/1 Leah Craig
9/2 Brian Farrell
9/2 Ryan Hall
9/2 Jamie Toth
9/3 Rosemarie Staudinger
9/4 Nicholas Massa
9/4 Adam Toth
9/5 Kenneth Lisk
9/7 Katherine Galaro
9/8 Kayla Brietweiser
9/9 David Palmer
9/9 Bianca Medina
9/10 Eileen Arzberger
9/10 Pauline Skrok
9/11 Gail Previte
9/11 Jim Hatcliffe
9/13 Justin Gonzalez
9/16 Dean Olson
9/16 Annette Dill
9/19 Robert Shipley
9/20 Emily Jocus
9/21 Ryan McGrade
9/22 Jessica Waite
9/24 John Coluzzi
9/25 Silvia Herbert
9/25 Laura Allen
9/25 AJ Brown
9/25 Julia Capurso
9/27 Gloria Carias
9/27 Steven Humiston
9/28 Anthony Massa
9/30 Robert Kotora
9/30 Kristen Raba



Happy Anniversary to.....

9/1 Bonnie & Brian Lo
9/4 Jeffrey & TerriLynne Shear
9/6 Jill & Tim O'Connor
9/7 Steve & Cassandra Weiss, Jr.
9/7 John & Sherri Cocklin
9/9 Lois & Douglas Raba
9/9 Gail & Joe Previte
9/10 Tom & Joanne Jocus
9/11 Ken & Eileen Arzberger
9/12 Bill & Christine Bleisteine
9/13 Ed & Yvonne Sicliari
9/16 Charles & Lori Myers
9/17 Millie & Enrique Junco
9/17 Jung & Christine Kim
9/17 Randi & Tom Rutan
9/20 Jovina & Michael Donaghue
9/21 John & Joan Habinowski
9/23 Marianne & Wayne Krawiec
9/25 Arthur & Rosemarie Staudinger
9/27 Dave & Alexis Dill
9/29 Alan & Rose Marie Cline
9/29 Tom & Deborah Conover

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Mrs. Amber Brown

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Mrs. Lorraine Campo
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In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Those Recovering

Gunhild Nelson –mother of Carol Hahl
Abby Eaton – JFK Hospital

Those in Nursing Homes

Emmy Moore –sister of Katrina Clapsis

Those who are Shut-in

Yvonne Koenig
Irene Inneo
Josie Schubert –mother of Mary Artache

Those with Other Needs

Evelyn Kotora
Dot Trabalka
Ruth Gunderson –mother of Lynn Hughes
Ray Monel –father of Barbara Di Maggio
Annie Acuri-Abbey –friend of Sue Hawley
Jake Johnson –grandson of Pastor &
Georgeann
Gregory Pryor –brother of Patrick Pryor
Vincent Siclari, Jr. –brother of Ed Siclari
Jan Burkett –grandmother of Amber Brown
and Dani Sloan
Terry Hayes –mother of Laurie Burke
Eric Brown –son of Amber and Steve
Dylan Brown –grandson of Hatcliffes
Marilyn Evenga –sister-in-law of Alexis Dill,
awaiting liver transplant
Margaret Wrigley –suffering with arthritis
Betty Pallé –mother of Bob Pallé
Christine Olewine –granddaughter of Lyman
& Deloris Laub
Trudy Conway

Those Struggling with Cancer

Carol Powell – mother of Carol Sereda
Marie Giacomini – mother of Bill Burke
Peggy DeMarco – friend of the Kotora
Family
Nancy Musick – cousin of Tony Hansen
Beth Prudente
Joseph Spinelli – friend of Toni & Pat Pryor
Debbie Pryor – cousin to Toni & Pat Pryor
Ed Borkowski – father of Wayne Borkowski

Kathy Hill – friend of Pryors
Jimmy Walker – friend of McGrades
Kathi Farrell
Mildred Elliot – mother of Laurie Coletti
Ruth Cousens – mother of Don Cousens
Patrick (Patch) Rose – brother-in-law of Marie &
Dave Bergfeldt

Those in the Military

Chris O'Shea –nephew of Addie & Les
Ebersole
Chris Hill –uncle of Stephanie Olson
Jeff Borkowski
Brian Farrell
Gordon Houston
Rob Farrell
Darrin Brown
Jeff Kotora
John & Annette Kope –brother and
sister-in-law of Maryellen Boggia
Patrick Galvin –son-in-law of Ouges
Joseph Puoplo –nephew of Clines
Brian Borkowski –nephew of the Borkowski's
Ashley Welsh –niece of Mary White-Stevens
Drew Williams –friend of Hogan's
Fabian Lopez –friend of Russell Domis
Dustin Brown –co-worker of Beth Meyer
Travis Borre –friend of Lisa Gergasko
Matthew Munoz –friend of Siclari's
Jon Griswold –brother-in-law of Heidi
Griswold
Charlie Ratcliffe –friend of Bill Burke
Marc Artache –nephew of Julio & Mary
Artache
Robert Bracero –nephew of Julio & Mary
Artache
James McCabe –friend of White-Stevens'

And our Missionaries :

Rev. Chuck and Jeanette Groth in Cambodia
LINC – NJ



ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC –

September 24th, 12:00 – 4:00. The picnic will be held at Geick Park in Old Bridge. Sign up sheet will be posted on the counter by the kitchen. Bring your bats, balls, baseball gloves, volley balls, basketballs, etc. There is a playground there for the children. What would a picnic be without our annual Pie Eating Contest. Live music will be supplied by Joshua’s Trumpet, so come and enjoy a day of fun in the sun with food and music.



The past few months have been a satisfying and rewarding time for the Deacon Staff of Good Shepherd.

We saw the graduation from the Delta program of the LCMS of Deacon Lay minister, Ben Mallepalle, and he is now serving Luther Memorial in Tinton Falls. He will be their Vicar for the next two years as he continues on his way to becoming a Pastor in the LCMS – Way to go Ben.” The Deacons presented him with a gift in recognition of his achievements at his installation.

Joanne Jocus has accepted a position as Deacon at Good Shepherd and is now serving as a communion assistant until she completes her Lay Ministry classes – Welcome Joanne!

Traveling Light by Max Lucado

Wednesday Bible Study, September 13th @ 7:00 PM.

We will be finishing the last few chapters of Traveling Light. After our discussion, we will decide what we want to study next. Please join us. It is a fun way to get to know other women from the congregation, and discuss issues and challenges we all face in our day to day lives.

Come join us on Wednesday, September 13th @ 7:00 PM

The Old Bridge Manor Nursing and rehab center held a volunteer appreciation dinner at which our Deacons and Good Shepherd volunteers attended. We hold services on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sunday of every month at the Manor for all the residents who wish to attend. The evening was a lot of fun. During the entertainment portion of the event, “Elvis” presented scarves and smocks to two of our volunteers, Gail Ferrara and Evelyn Kotora. (Hey that’s one more reason for Good Shepherd members to volunteer to help out at our Sunday Services or midweek visitation at the Manor).

Joshua’s Trumpet sang at the Manor on July 17. The residents loved them and it had a positive impact on our Sunday Services. More people came to our Sunday service and said how much they enjoyed Joshua’s Trumpet. Thank you Mary Artache, Marie Bergfeldt, Dave Dill, Marianne Krawiec, and Tom Rutan.

The Deacons also received a Thank you from Pastor Voitko for the brunch a few weeks ago, and the Missouri Synod Cross. He said it will always remind him of Good Shepherd. Thank you to all the Deacons, and the members of Good Shepherd.



Bloom Where You're Planted

submitted by Amber Brown, Coordinator of Christian Education

I am eager to begin my new position at Good Shepherd as Coordinator of Christian Education. This position calls me to train, recruit, support and oversee all of the education at Good Shepherd, from cradle to grave. I am extremely excited at this prospect, not only because I have a vision for the church, but because I believe I share that vision with you ...and all of us have the same purpose and goal of sharing the great news of Jesus with others.

Paul tells us in Ephesians, "to live a life worthy of the calling you have received." I think for us to fully understand this, we need to tap into the gifts that the Lord has already blessed us with, in other words, our *spiritual gifts*. What are your spiritual gifts and what are you doing to spread the wealth of those gifts? How are you using your gifts to "live a life worthy of the calling you have received?" I want to discuss with you your desires and needs, ideas and insights...if you have a

passion, please share it with me so we can work together to help you bloom where you've been planted. As we plunge ahead with purpose and vision, I want to help you implement your gifts, for how can we effectively minister to others and win lives for Christ if we don't know how to *use* those gifts? As we develop and use your gifts, I will not be seeking you out as "volunteers", but rather "service partners", for we are all "to prepare God's people for works of *service*, so that the body of Christ may be built up..." (Eph 4:12)

Remember, my job is not only to train and recruit you to build up our Education program, but it is also to support you. We can then, in turn, build up our Ministry. Many of you are already involved in so many areas of service with the candle burning at both ends that it is very easy to get...well... burned out! Please know that it is not only my job, but by pleasure and desire to help, support, refresh and renew you as we work together to build this Ministry to it's fullest potential. I am looking forward to speaking with you and getting your thoughts and input on our ministry at Good Shepherd and to serving you and our Lord.

Thank you to all who have helped keep the **Food Pantry** well stocked. At this time, we have enough food in stock, and would ask that **NO** new donations come in until we use up some of what we have. If you know of someone who is in need, please call the Church Office. Thanks for your help.



IF YOU'RE IN HIGH SCHOOL, READ THIS!



Okay - Here's your first test of the new school year! This one is really easy; I promise!

1. Who doesn't love spending time with friends who live in a different town or go to a different school?
2. Where can you go to share your faith and know no one will judge you for your beliefs?
3. What happens every 2nd and 4th Sunday between 6 PM and 8 PM?
4. Is there a cooler place to be than the youth room?
5. Who died for your sins and loves you know matter what?
6. How often do you take a test where you know there will always be a question where the answer is Jesus?

As the new school year starts, so does another new year for the Sr. LYF. We are so excited to welcome all the new freshman and can't wait to see you at our first meeting in September. So you're a

By Alicia Desana

sophomore, junior or senior and haven't come to a meeting before? That's okay too! There is no wrong time to join the Sr. LYF. You are always welcome!

You think the Sr. LYF is not for you? Well, unless you come and tell us what you want from **YOUR** youth group, we won't know how we can meet your needs. The Sr. LYF is a place where you can feel safe and share your faith with other kids who are going through the same things you are. We all know growing up can be tough so why not spend time with people who will help you through the rough times with Christian love and fellowship?

Our next meeting will be Sunday, September 10th @ 6 PM. Please come and help us plan our activities for the next few months! We have some exciting things on the horizon - Winter Youth Gathering, LYF play, National Youth Gathering, and much more!

Spanish Immersion

by Jessica Caban



This summer I applied to Dickinson College in Carlisle PA, and was accepted to a 5-week, pre-college Spanish Immersion program, to Queretaro, Mexico. I had never been out of the country before, so this was a real treat! The

paternal half of my family speaks Spanish. I wanted to be better able to understand them, as well as, gain more of an insight into

Hispanic culture. This was an excellent opportunity that I was fortunate to have.

While there, I took a college level grammar and Spanish-language class including homework, quizzes, and tests! In Mexico, we received two additional classes daily, where we learned about Mexican history and culture, the art of authentic Mexican crafts and foods, and dancing. During one of my classes, our teacher Lourdes brought our class to a class of Mexican students that were learning English. We talked to them in English first and then they spoke to us in Spanish. It allowed us to practice our

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Spanish, and for them to practice their English. Despite having taken 4 years of Spanish between 8th and 11th grade, I had not gained an appreciation of being able to speak to someone else in another language before this opportunity. This was a great way to get to know what life was like living as a local in Mexico, beyond what I learned from my host family. The students explained different things they did for fun, as well as, the best places to see during my stay. I asked them why they were studying to learn English and they answered, “for more job opportunities.”

I stayed with a host family in Mexico. My family consisted of a mother, her two sons, a resident-border from Mexico City, two college exchange students from California, and me. My host mother only spoke Spanish, so this made for some challenging and often funny experiences. A funny story about my lunch each day was what my host mother thought was a delicacy to the American teenager, which is definitely not. This was Cheese-whiz! Each morning she would make me a bag lunch and my sandwich would have ham, tomato, mayo, avocado, a baked bean spread, and then Cheese-whiz on top of it. I tried to express that I liked cheese...just not that kind of cheese...

A major hot spot for the local people that I loved to visit was *Queretaro's centrol*. Here there were all sorts of small *tiendas*. Each vendor cart had something different on it, from hand made dolls, to silver jewelry, and authentic Mexican clothes. I gained more knowledge of Hispanic culture, made new friends from different parts of the world (not

just Mexico), and a deeper appreciation for the skill to listen and speak Spanish. This program has helped sculpt the way I view the world and other cultures within it. Some things I definitely took for granted that I am more grateful for now that I have returned home are:

- American transportation laws and that our police officers actually enforce the laws!
- My American diet!
- Air Conditioning, especially since with all the windows open, all the time, every sound, everywhere was heard.
- Daily Showers, and showers that have water pressure and hot water (sometimes the water was just shut-off completely)
- Shorts!
- Not being treated like a foreigner...I now have had my first experience with being treated negatively by someone for being a *gringa*.

I am very happy to be back home but that does not mean the next opportunity I have to go to a different country that I would not jump at the chance. I will!



Food Certificates – are just like cash. They allow you to purchase groceries at your regular food store. We carry Shop Rite, Pathmark, and A&P. We receive 5% profit, on all purchases. If you have any questions, please contact Katrina Clapsis or Faith Caban. *Everyone* has to go food shopping, so give it a try.



Church Secretary



As I sit and write this message, I cannot believe that I have been here for almost 2 months. It has truly been a joy

to work here in the office at Good Shepherd. Sometimes I feel like I have been here doing this for years, (only because I feel so comfortable with what I am doing), and other times I feel like it is my first day again.

I have to give a big, giant **THANK YOU** to Don for all his help. If it weren't for him, I think I would still be trying to figure out how to print the bulletin for July. He has talked me through so much. Learning a new computer system, and how to get information from the membership program and updating it. The old phone system was fun too. (*not really*)

I will truly miss our lunch time "talks", and the jokes he reads me from time to time. Who is going to talk about wrestling with me and keep me up to date on some of the other teams, and what about those Blue Claws? It has been truly been a pleasure working with him, and I wish him and Betty all the joy and happiness they deserve.

I know they say change is good, but it is always so hard to say Good Bye. Don you and Betty will be missed. God Speed to you both.

I look forward to working with Amber, and hope that I can help her in anyway to make her transition to this new position as easy as possible.

Doing the Lord's work

Marie

The Shepherds Place Presents- **Oracle**

September 16th, 2006 -- Kitchen opens
@6:30 PM

Admission \$5.00 (10 and under free)
theshepherdsplace@yahoo.com



Bring a friend

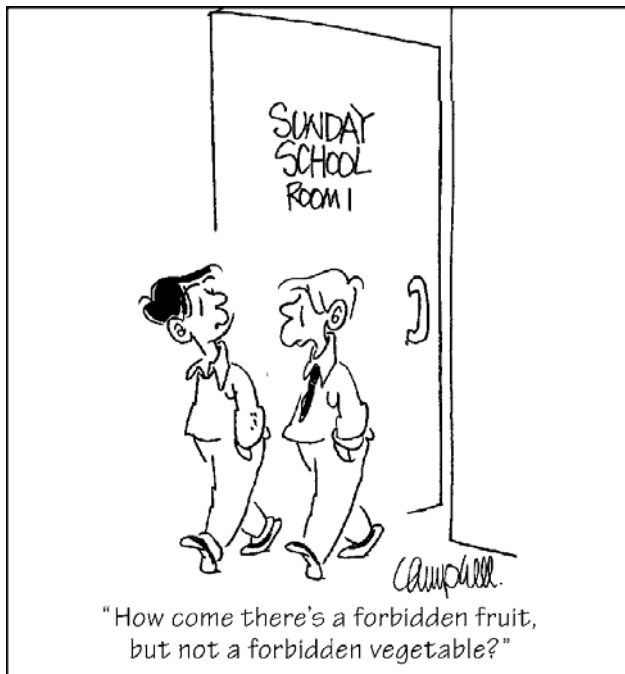
If anyone is interested in helping out at the coffee house, please contact Kathy Hogan

Membership Forms

Thank you to all who have already filled out the forms and returned them to the office. It has been a great help, and I have been able to update many of the records that we keep. If you are not a member, and are an active "friend" of Good Shepherd, I would encourage you to fill out a form also so we can keep better records in the office.

There are some blank forms in the basket in the Narthex if you wish to help me keep our records current.





***The Lutheran Church
of the Good Shepherd***
3139 County Road 516
Old Bridge NJ 08857

God's love at work here!