

# The Staff

*The newsletter of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd*

October 2006

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



The lines of Martin Luther's famous hymn, so often sung during this Reformation time of year, seem so appropriate for our times.

“Though hordes of devils fill the land,  
All threatening to devour us,  
We tremble not, unmoved we stand;  
They cannot overpower us.  
Let this world's tyrant rage;  
In battle we'll engage!  
His might is doomed to fail;  
God's judgment must prevail!  
One little word subdues him.”

In the classic story of the mad knight Don Quixote, the hero's companion Sancho Panza clings all night in fear to the ledge of a window – only to discover at daybreak that his feet are but an inch from the ground.

Some of the people who laugh at this incident are just as well laughing at themselves. Worry is a highly developed and often soul-destroying trait. All kinds of people, in every walk of life, are suffering from fear and apprehension these days. Will the terrorists strike again? Will it be a biological or chemical attack? What cities will they try to hit? Can we stop them? We find ourselves clinging to the ledges of doubt.

God did not intend that people, whom He created and redeemed, should hang suspended that way

## “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God!”

between life and death, dependent on their own ability and their own endurance to overcome the perils of the day.

God's answer to the problems of living in this threatening world is emphatically stated in the words of Christ: “Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Matthew 6:33)

This is good news! Christ was talking about living in this troubling world. He was talking to people who were anxious about the threats of disease, enemy occupation, and brutal retribution. He could have said, “Don't worry! There's nothing to worry about.” But that would be just about as ineffective as telling a person: “Don't catch a cold.” Christ understood people and their deepest needs better than that. He understood that the deepest need of people is their need for God. He also understood, that God's presence, God's help, and God's forgiveness are essential if a person is to enjoy a life free from the nagging concerns of a troubled conscience and the cares of living.

Worry is not, as some people seem to think, an essential ingredient for the maintenance of life. It has no nutritional value for the body or the soul. On the contrary, worry plays havoc with life. Just as a cold is a symptom of a deficiency that exists in the body, so is worry the symptom of a crippling disease that invades the soul. That disease is a lack of faith in God.

**Continued on next page**

## Pastor's article, continued from first page

A little boy was once asked, "What is salt?" He replied quickly, "Salt is what spoils the popcorn when you leave it out." So it is with the Christian faith. Christian faith is what spoils everything – when you leave it out. The tears and fears of life, the tragedies and concern over unseen enemies, are but the rash that breaks out on the surface of life when the bloodstream of our purpose is poisoned or weak or anemic. If things are wrong at the center of life, then things will be wrong at the surface of life. Keep Christ at the center of your life and everything else will be all right too. Christ says so! He does not lie!

May Luther's Reformation hymn be our bold belief and confession in these trying and difficult days:

"For God himself fights by our side  
With weapons of the Spirit.  
Were they to take our house,  
Goods, honor, child, or spouse,  
Though life be wrenched away,  
They cannot win the day,  
The Kingdom's ours forever!

Always in Christ,

Pastor Bill Qualman



The Sr. LYF started our new school year off with a great meeting. It was wonderful to see new faces and hope over the next few months more and more of our high school youth will want to join us. We always encourage everyone to bring a friend so we

were really excited to have three friends join us! Those at the meeting spent time making posters, and writing personal invitations too, for the Sr. LYF Kick-Off Ice Cream Social on 9/24. Everyone in high school should come out to share in our faith, fellowship and food!

In October we have two servant events on the calendar. On October 7<sup>th</sup>, some of the group will be heading to the NJ State Food Bank to help other volunteers pack boxes and do whatever else they need help with. On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will be painting a room at the Sayreville Group Home.

Also, there will be a brief meeting on October 1<sup>st</sup> after the 10:30 service for all youth (and parents) interested in attending the National Youth Gathering next summer in Orlando. Details are limited at this point but we wanted to share what we do know. Everyone in 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades should have received a letter with a registration form. We know most 8<sup>th</sup> graders may not meet any of the criteria but we didn't want to exclude anyone that does have an early birthday. Eligible youth must meet **ONE** of the following requirements:

- 15 years old by September 30, 2007
- Entering his or her sophomore year in high school
- A 2007 high school graduate

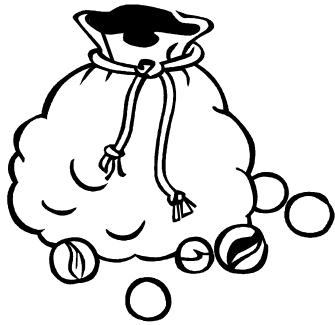
The registration form and \$235 deposit are due no later than October 15<sup>th</sup>. If you can't make the meeting, and are interested, please contact Alicia De Sena at 908.624.9153 or [adesena@comcast.net](mailto:adesena@comcast.net).

The Sr. LYF has a new e-mail address - [sr.lyf.good.shep@gmail.com](mailto:sr.lyf.good.shep@gmail.com). If you're in high school and would like to be added to our mailing list, please drop us an e-mail.

Alicia De Sena

# Letter from the Chairperson

## *It's All About the Marbles*



Well, you've been back in the swing of things for about a month now. Let me see if I have your schedule correct. You have

probably spent all week at work, helping the kids with their homework, driving Mom's/Dad's Taxi service and the like. Then Saturday rolls around and the list of chores associated with it takes priority. Finally you wind the week up with Sunday, and again are trying to decide what is more important, the football game, errands not completed on Saturday, or going to church. Can you fit those few hours into your schedule? Can you spare the time to attend Bible Study before or after service? Can you get the kids to Sunday School on time and still get to one of the 2 services? The following story was recently shared with me in regards to putting life into the right perspective. I enjoyed it and hopefully you will too.

*The older I get, the more I enjoy Saturday mornings. Perhaps it's the quiet, or maybe it's the fact that I'm not at work for the day. But what began as a typical Saturday morning became a life lesson when I turned the dial on my ham radio to a Saturday morning swap net. I came across an older sounding gent with a golden voice, who was talking about a thousand marbles. I stopped to listen... "Well, Tom, it sounds like you're busy with your job and I'm sure they pay you well, but it's a shame you missed your daughter's dance recital. Let me tell you something that has helped me keep my own priorities," he was saying. That's when he began to explain his theory of a thousand marbles.*

*"You see, one day I did a little arithmetic. The average person lives about 75 years. I multiplied 75 times 52 and I came up with 3,900, which is the number of Saturdays in an average person's lifetime. It took me until I was fifty-five years old to think about all this in any detail, and by then I had lived through over 2,800 Saturdays. I got to*

*thinking that I only had about a thousand Saturdays left to enjoy.*

*So I went to a toy store and bought 1,000 marbles, and put them inside a clear, plastic container. Every Saturday since then, I've taken one marble out and thrown it away. I found that by seeing the marbles disappear, I focus more on the really important things in life. There's nothing like watching your time on earth run out to help get your priorities straight.*

*Now let me tell you one last thing before I sign-off with you and take my lovely wife out for breakfast. This morning, I took the very last marble out of the container. I figure that, if I make it until next Saturday, I'll have been given a little extra time. And the one thing we can all use is a little more time. It was nice to meet you, Tom. I hope you spend more time with your family, and I hope to meet you again here on the band. This is a 75-year-old man, K9NZQ, clear and going out for the morning!" You could have heard a pin drop when the old gent signed off. He gave us all a lot to think about.*

*I had planned to mow the lawn that morning, and then I was going to work on the amateur radio club's newsletter. Instead, I went upstairs, woke my wife and said, "C'mon honey. I'm taking you and the kids to breakfast." "What brought this on?" she asked with a smile. "Oh, nothing special, it's just been a long time since we spent a Saturday together with the kids. And while we're out, let's stop at a toy store. I need to buy some marbles."*

We all need to put our lives into perspective. We all need to figure out what our marbles represent. Sundays should never be an end to a week, but be the beginning of a new week. It's the **first** day of the week. A day spent in worshipping our Lord and Savior, a day spent at rest.

**Continued on next page**

**Chairperson article, continued from previous page**

Don't get me wrong, I have spent a Sunday morning or two debating if a few hours more sleep would be better for me than getting up and going to church. I have actually debated over attending an event or going to church. But I learned quickly that when I chose sleep or an event over church, my week was not the same. I entered the new week, just as I had completed the old week, tired and overburdened with the day to day. It's just like the poem that talks about starting your day in prayer. It is so true;

I could not face the week or the day without God being a part of it. Therefore, my marbles are saved for Sundays, days spent in worship, days spent in the Word, days spent at rest with my Lord and Savior, being rejuvenated for the week ahead. What will you use your marbles for?

*Beth Meyer*



## Faith, Family and Fun

*Fun ways to inspire your faith and encourage your family as you live and grow in Christ*

*Compiled and written by Amber Brown, Coordinator of Christian Education*

### **Coming Together**

*Simple Ways to Make the Most of Busy Days*

We know that the early years are when self-esteem is formed, and we need to continue to build and reinforce strong, healthy self-images in our children as they head into adolescent years. Our children are faced with so many societal pressures, a lot of which go against our Christian values. Wouldn't it be great to send our children off each day with a reminder of the wonderful person we think they are and the unique child God created them to be? Try this little "Personality Poster" with your child to help them remember how special they are.

Put a current picture of your child in the center of a piece of poster board, with enough room around the perimeter to write personal notes. Take time to share with your child all the gifts you see in them and write little phrases such as, "Sarah plays the clarinet very well...her hard work pays off!" or "Joey has a wonderful smile...it's so infectious!" As you add little notes of encouragement and praise to this "Personality

Poster," watch your child grow in confidence, knowing that Jesus made them super special!

### **Teens Think...**

Would you rather run a 26-mile marathon or swim 5 miles?

Would you rather eat squid or chocolate-covered ants?

Would you rather have a runny nose or itchy eyes?

Would you rather give or receive?

Would you rather be needed or wanted?

Would you rather feel guilty or be guilty?

### **Read to Me**

Jack and Jill  
Went up the hill  
To fetch a pail of water.  
A man there said,  
"If you drink this,  
you'll still be thirsty after"

"But there is water JESUS gives,  
So won't you ask Him first,  
To give you LIVING WATER  
So that you will never thirst"

Up Jack got  
And home did trot,  
A whole mile and a quarter,  
To tell the GOOD NEWS  
To his friends  
About God's LIVING WATER!

**Continued on next page**

## Family Devotion

### Why Do I Have to Brush My Teeth?

*“Don’t you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself.” 1 Corinthians 6:19*

If your parents tell you to brush your teeth, then you should do it. God wants you to obey your parents (what commandment is this?). But there is another reason for brushing your teeth. Each person is a very special creation of God. He gives us our bodies for serving Him and it’s our job to take good care of them. This means eating right, exercising, staying clean, getting enough sleep, and yes, brushing our teeth. God gave us our teeth so we can enjoy the wonderful food of His world. Our body is a “temple of the Holy Spirit” and was given to us by God, so take good care of the gift He gave you!

### ACTIVITY

Ask a parent to buy you a new toothbrush, one that does the job well and is easy to use...then go home and brush, everyday! ☺



### *A family That Prays Together, Stays*

**Together:** Dear Jesus, Thank you for our wonderful family. Help us to remember how special we are and to love one another just like you love us. Help us to treat each other the same way we want to be treated-with love and respect. Help us to share the love you have shown us with others. Amen.

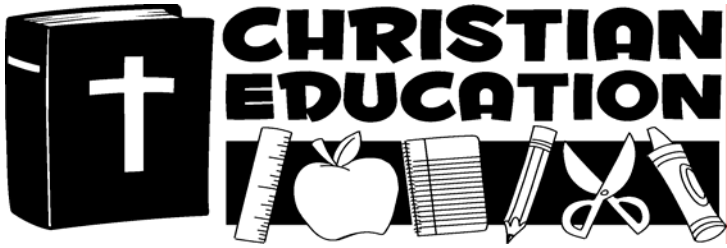
## WHERE IS JOSHUA’S TRUMPET?

This is a question that several of the members of the group have heard from people. Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, we sang for the Racers for Christ at their Sunday service at Old Bridge Raceway Park. They truly enjoyed us, and we were asked to come back again next year. Later that afternoon, we went to the Care One Center in East Brunswick. We truly enjoyed

singing for them, and had them tapping their toes and clapping their hands along with us.

We will be performing at the coffee house on **November 18<sup>th</sup>** at Good Shepherd, so mark your calendars **NOW**.





## “Jesus is our Best Friend”

by Amber Brown, Coordinator of Christian Education

Oh, how I love the hymn, *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*. It is often such a sweet and gentle reminder to me of how freeing our friendship with Jesus can be...

*What a friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear,  
What a privilege to carry,  
Everything to God in prayer...*

Isn't it a relief to know that Jesus is our friend...better yet, that He is our **best** friend? Who else would suffer and die for you, for me, for the world if He did not love us so much. When the world and all its pressures weigh us down, God is there...no overage or long distance charges when you talk to Him. It's never too late to call on Him--day or night He is there. He never cuts us off with call waiting and His communication system never crashes because of a power failure. He *is* the Power!

There is peace in the privilege of going to Him with **everything** and knowing that we will not be disciplined, rebuked, chastised, reprimanded or rejected. He already knows the very depths of our hearts, so nothing surprises Him. What a relief to not have to lie or keep secrets or skulk about when we have done something wrong...and what a joy to celebrate with our Truest of Friends when we count our blessings and look upon life as the gift it really is. It truly is a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer, yet we also know...

*Oh, what peace we often forfeit,  
Oh, what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry,  
Everything to God in prayer...*

How many times have we been consumed by worry, stress, anxiety and fear? It sure has a way of getting a hold of us, doesn't it? The peace that we forfeit by not bringing our burdens and grief before the throne of Christ causes a needless pain which only intensifies our current feelings of concern. Instead of being consumed by such feelings, let's take all of our pain and lay it at the foot of the Cross, knowing that in God's perfect wisdom, it has already been worked out. This is not an easy thing to do, though, because as humans we often feel we are the ones that need to be in control. Yet why take control when it often harbors such uneasiness? But on and on we go, in this crazy cycle, until we seek out a friend to share our pain with. And just as we run to the arms of our earthly friends for comfort and consolation, remember that our Heavenly Friend has the biggest arms of all. This treasured hymn ends with these last comforting words...

*In His arms He'll take and shield you  
You will find a solace there.*



# Good Shepherd Children's Center



## WHAT'S NEW AT SCHOOL

The school year has kicked off very successfully. The children are now beginning to settle into their new classrooms and routines. It's quite an accomplishment for a child who has never been in school before to "sit for circle time" and to line up to go to the bathroom. We look forward to the fall changes, a cool breeze, leaves on the ground, the beautiful colors, pumpkin picking, hay rides, apple cider and our fall festival and parade which the kids and parents look forward to every year.

If anyone would be interested in being added to our sub list please contact me at the Care Center, thanks.

Remember to get your kids involved in the new season. Fall can be just as much fun as summer; go to an Octoberfest, experience all the new foods, culture, and music they have to offer. Go to a local farm and pick apples for pie, make the kids clean up

the leaves and then have a good romp. If you want a nice idea to go to with the kids and don't mind driving, Columbus Day weekend at Hunter Mountain in the Catskills is a wonderful Octoberfest filled with vendors and authentic German food and music, rock climbing, birds of prey display, Clydesdale horses and more. Another place upstate that same weekend is Bellearye Mountain in the Catskills which has an arts and crafts festival where they feature live music, German food, vendors, a man-made lake where the kids can go fishing for trout for free, a ski-lift ride, and a kid's tent where they can participate in making their own crafts, painting a pumpkin and face painting. Make it a new family tradition. My family has been going up for almost 10 years now!

Director  
Lorraine Campo



## FROM THE ALLEYS

Yes, the pins are again falling at Strathmore Lanes (or at least they are for some of us.) Still, in the words of a new team member, "we're having oodles of fun." And we are, challenging ourselves and encouraging and cheering on each other.

I'd now like to introduce you to this fun-loving band, and the aliases they assume on Monday night.

**Shanghai Rollers** -Tara Lange, Tony Onorato, Jon Artache

**UnStopaBowl** -Beth Krawiec, Vin Stefanelli, Wayne Krawiec

**9 & a Wiggle** -Norman Sigmund, Sandy and Bob Shipley

**Lane Rovers** -Marie Bergfeldt, Carol and Bob Hahl

**Ugly Ducks** -Beth Meyer, Doreen and Ron Humiston

**Pretty Lucky Bowlers** - Paul Jordan, Laurie and Bill Burke

**Triple Threat** -Jim Hatcliffe, Brigette Meitzner, Dean Olson

**Alley Gators**- Tom Rutan, Mary and Julio Artache

**Holy Rollers** - Steve Weiss, Steve and Danny Onorato

**Old Goats** - Betty and Don Cousins, **VACANCY**

Did you notice that last name **VACANCY**? Would you like to see your name in its place? Just contact Carol Hahl or Laurie Burke for more info. Just a reminder, we bowl Monday nights at 9:00 pm at Strathmore Lanes. See you at the alley.

# For Your Information

## Happy Birthday to...

Mitchell Siegler	10/01
Daniel Bergfeldt	10/02
Shawn Reilly	10/03
Jonathan Artache	10/04
Laurie Coletti	10/04
Shauna Cunningham	10/04
Lenin Simicich, Jr.	10/04
Marge Hammarstrom	10/06
Elsa Mottola	10/07
Lori Myers	10/07
Alyssa Kotora	10/09
Elena Pineiro	10/09
Adam Van Handel	10/10
Juliette Lepre	10/10
Ricky Langone	10/11
Priscilla Seesman	10/11
Mary Ellen Brace	10/11
Andrew Porbansky	10/11
Loretta Dlugosz	10/11
Deborah Reilly	10/12
Ruth Welter	10/12
Steven Brown	10/13
Kyle James Griswold	10/13
Diana Simicich	10/14
Dave Virelles	10/14
Meghan Farrell	10/15
Lauren Lepre	10/17
Kevin Lo	10/17
Laurissa Whittington	10/18
Jung Kim	10/18
Scott Oliva	10/18
Yvonne Siclari	10/20
Anna Mallepalle	10/20
Drew Pfeifer	10/20
Eric Van Fossen	10/20
Billy Bleistein	10/20
JoAnn Shiber	10/20
Justyn Hatcliffe	10/21
Brian Frank	10/21
Jakob Casey	10/21
Brian Frank	10/21
Jeffrey Brace	10/23
Bill Bleistein	10/24

Danielle Kim	10/25
TerriLynne Shear	10/25
Tyler Drews	10/25
Nicole Stacy	10/26
Taryn McGrane	10/26
Anna Mihalik	10/27
Betty Cousens	10/28
Heather Wilmot	10/29
Pat Pryor	10/29
Brian Lo	10/29
Karen Scanlon	10/29
Alfred Grana	10/30
Addie Ebersole	10/31
Steven Onorato	10/31
Dylan Seesman	10/31



## Happy Anniversary to.....

Kurt & Michelle Carlson	10/03
Jennifer & Mitchell Kaplan	10/06
Paul & Cathy Jordan	10/07
Frans & Allison van Riemsdyk	10/09
David & Dale Petersen	10/09
Patricia & David Virelles	10/11
Grace & Yee Wong	10/11
Roy & Barbara Ebersole	10/12
Scott & Therese Smith	10/14
Kevin & Ceil Prenderville	10/15
Sandy & Scott Wolven	10/16
Donna & Lenin Simicich	10/16
Manny & Pat Beltran	10/17
Paul & Kristine Anemone	10/20
David & Kathy Schulmeister	10/24
Colleen & Anthony Cistone	10/27
Joseph & Gladys Ouge	10/28
Christine & Anthony DeMarco	10/31

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*Those Recovering*

**Gunhild Nelson** –mother of Carol Hahl

*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



## Announcing! Church Services on CD and the Web

Have you ever missed a service?  
Are you shut in?

Have you ever wanted to listen to the church service  
while you were away?

Want to listen to the sermon on your iPod?

We've recently begun recording the church services  
and are making the recordings available on both the  
Internet and on CD.

Contact the office if you wish to receive a copy of the  
service on CD.

To listen to the service, or just the sermon, you can  
access the MP3 recordings on our church website. Go  
to [www.lc-goodshepherd.org](http://www.lc-goodshepherd.org) and click on the  
Recorded Services link. If you use a podcast client,  
follow the directions.

If you have an interest in computers, audio,  
podcasting, etc., and would like to be part of the team  
that's recording the services and publishing them,  
please talk with Tony Hansen.

## Revolve Tour 2006

What does your life REVOLVE around? Help your teen  
daughter experience the joy, love and peace of Jesus as  
she discovers that her life shouldn't revolve around  
worldly things but around her Savior.

The REVOLVE TOUR is only for teen girls  
(recommended age range of 12-18) and they will have a  
fantastic time listening to the newest Christian music and  
speakers, talking about issues like friendships, boys, self-  
esteem and faith. All girls are welcome and encouraged  
to come. This conference will serve as an overnight  
retreat, as the convention is held in Philadelphia and  
begins on a Friday night; conference dates are November  
3-4, 2006.

What an explosive weekend as girls worship together  
while hearing incredible music by 2005 Female Vocalist  
of the Year *Natalie Grant*, Christian rapper *KJ-52*,  
*Tammy Trent*, *ZOEgirl*, and speakers *Chad Eastham* and  
Olympic medalists *Laura Wilkinson* and *Kimiko Soldati*.  
What's even more amazing is that these girls will be  
celebrating their faith with 5,000 other teenage girls who  
are going through the same things that they're going  
through. They will be worshipping our one true God in a  
room full of their Christian sisters...how incredible! ☺

Due to the recent notification of this event, we are acting  
quickly to start sign-ups, collect money and make hotel  
arrangements. The ticket price is \$59.00 for groups of 10  
or more (groups less than 10: \$69.00)...but there will also  
be food, hotel and souvenir costs. Because this is such a  
last minute and unexpected expense, we are looking for  
"Gift Scholarships" to help defray the cost for this retreat.  
We're sure you understand the incredible significance of  
girls bonding with Christ, so we are asking for anyone, be  
you an empty-nester, grandparent, or a family member,  
through Christ to consider purchasing a ticket for a young  
person who may be limited by financial resources.

Announcements have already begun, but Amber Brown  
has further information and details, so please see her  
regarding sign-ups, ticket info, donations and questions.  
You may also check out [www.revolve.com](http://www.revolve.com) to view  
video clips, downloads, get the total 411 and bios on the  
all-star line up. If you are unable to attend, we ask that  
you keep those in prayer who are going that they may  
have a new view of themselves through the eyes of Jesus.

Amber Brown

# Church Secretary



September, the beginning of the “school” year, and what a busy time it is. The Child Care Center is busy with all the children, and the sound of laughing can be heard faintly through the hall. The parking lot is full of cars and parents coming and going, picking up and dropping off children. Sunday school classes have started, Confirmation I and II has started, LYF, Bible Studies, book clubs, etc. There is something going on almost every night.

## Thank You

I have learned that there is also a lot of “behind the scenes” activities that are taken for granted. For instance, “who puts the inserts into the bulletins every week, and who inserts the calendars into “The Staff” every month?” Well, I would like to thank Christine Kim, and Marilyn and Dean Olson for their help with the bulletins, and Donna Dooley, for her help with the bulletins and “The Staff.” They take time out of their busy schedules to insert the announcements and calendars into the bulletins and “The Staff”, and to fold the children’s pages for Sunday worship. A small task as they say, but a

**BIG** help to me. If you are interested in helping out one day a month, please let me know.



Please remember to let me know if you need something included in the bulletin or in “The Staff.” Articles for “The Staff” are due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. You can either call or e-mail me the information. If you are writing an article, please e-mail to me at [marie@lc-goodshepherd.org](mailto:marie@lc-goodshepherd.org). If you want an announcement included in the bulletin insert, please let me know before 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday. If you need to use a room, please call the church office so I can put it on the calendar.

*Marie*

*Occasionally I receive notes in the office from members who are far away, or former members who receive “The Staff”. Recently I received a note from Anita De Sena. She states that she thinks of everyone here at Good Shepherd fondly, and reads “The Staff” from cover to cover. This is a passage that she had read, and it caught her eye: Ecclesiastes 4:4-6: “And I saw that all labor and all achievement spring from man's envy of his neighbor. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind. The fool folds his hands and ruins himself. Better one handful with tranquility than two handfuls with toil and chasing after the wind.”*



## BOOK CLUB & DISCUSSION GROUP

Calling all Women  
who enjoy reading and  
talking !!!!!!!

Please join us on  
Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm in the library  
to discuss the book [A Light to My Path](#) by Lynn  
Austin.

Here's what you need to do:

1. Get the book and read it. Some of the books are in the church or public library, or you can purchase them at Barnes & Noble, Jesus Books & Gifts, Borders or online.
2. Take one of the bookmarks for that book from the display in the church

*On Line Review: In 1862 South Carolina, Confederate soldiers warn Missy Claire that 6000 Yankees are marching towards her plantation and arming slaves. Missy is angry and panicking as she orders her slaves but talks down to them as if they are cattle or pets, which is how she sees them. Field slave Grady informs house slave Kitty that he plans to run away and would like her, the woman he loves, to come with him to freedom. Kitty hesitates as she has lost the ability to make decisions having spent her life having her massahs tell her what to do.*

*As Kitty struggles whether to run off with Grady or stay with Missy, she reflects back to the early 1850s when she as a child met her young mistress. Kitty, called Anna, back then, had some kittens that Missy wanted, but her mother refused her request, saying that anything owned by a darkie was diseased. So Missy told her mom that she wants the darkie as her kitty. Since then Kitty has always done whatever her owner tells her to do, like a cat. Meow!*

- library to help guide you while you read.
3. Take some notes when you are reading – things you found interesting or items that might spark conversation. This is a very important step to enhance the experience.
4. Come to the church library on the night the book will be discussed and share your thoughts and insights with the group.
5. Remember, you can come for one book or all of them – it's up to you!!

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to e-mail me at [Junedh1@aol.com](mailto:Junedh1@aol.com) or call me at 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

FYI – Future meeting dates are: January 9,  
March 13, and May 8.  
Book choices to be announced.

## Groth Report September 2006

Lord teach us to number our days that we  
may apply our hearts to wisdom.

It is always a cause for rejoicing when after  
thousands of miles, five different legs of  
travel and 36 hours of elapsed time you  
finally reach your destination. We are  
thankful for God's travel mercies and our

safe arrival in Lexington. It was joyous to be  
safely stateside and be greeted by our  
children and grandchildren and meet our new  
grandson. The first opening of our local  
paper revealed the death of a friend who had  
been a strong supporter of my teaching  
career.

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### **Groth Report, continued from previous page**

Our first phone call was from a friend whose wife died while we were gone. Our first meeting of a former congregation member told of the sudden death of a faithful leader in our Japanese mission outreach. Then came Sunday and the Lexington air fatality that took the lives of 49 members of our community there. At times like these you listen for God's voice and are reminded of the above section of His Word. Yes, we are to have a truly purpose driven life. Like our Savior we are to be about our Father's business of sharing a message that does not just give earthly life but far more important gives life eternal to those who know Jesus as Savior and Lord. While earthly deaths bring us sorrow over our loss, the possibility of the loss of eternal life focuses us on the importance of sharing the message of hope and life to those who do not have this comfort in difficult times. Where is your focus? What is your purpose? May you be applying your heart to true wisdom.

August saw Chuck mentoring both Pastor Kosal from Battambang and Pastor Naro from Opengate on sermon preparation and working with God's Word. He has strongly emphasized the use of the periscopes and finds it gratifying to see them use this tool to guide their sermons and worship.

We were privileged to take Missionary Gary Thiese and President and Mrs. Sieveking on a tour of God's mission in Cambodia. It is always a blessing to share the exciting things that God is doing in His mission. Personally as you share with others it is also a great reminder of the work God has sent you to do. We spent time with these guests visiting Opengate and God's ministries there. I (Jeanette) had just finished a workshop with the preschool teachers there the morning they arrived. When we visited at the preschool the teachers were pleased to share some of what they had learned. It was fun to see them display their posters and sing "Father Abraham" in Khmer. Pastor Oun Rien and

Pastor Naro took time to explain God's ministry at Opengate to our guests and we prayed together that God would continue to build His kingdom through this ministry. Our purpose to work in God's mission here was affirmed.

That afternoon we traveled to Battambang. Sunday morning we worshipped together. It was a moving experience for all of us. The various groups of young people in the congregation sang praises. There were about 80 young people present and the music was full of joy. For the first time the three scripture lessons for the Sunday were read by various congregation members a result of Chuck's previous teaching. Chuck preached and a young church leader from Opengate, Vannak translated. Then he sang powerfully, "Cambodia for Christ." What a moving plea for the saving of his nation! In the afternoon we returned for Sunday School. What affirmation to see the Bible teacher telling the Bible account and using the flannel graph in the way I had shared with her two weeks before. What eagerness to learn and share we see among God's people there!! The youth met and studied God's Word together and danced traditional dances to praise God led by this same young Cambodian Christian. The English teachers also met for their training session so our guests got a good picture of God's mission in that place. God's purpose and direction is clear. The next morning we traveled to Siem Reap. We had decided to have our guests visit Angkor Watt. It is a powerful testimony to the entrenchment of Buddhism in this country. As we approached the entrance to this World Heritage Site President Sieveking led us in prayer that God would strengthen His mission in Cambodia and bring this land to salvation in Christ. Cambodia has such a history of genocide, pain, and hopelessness that our purpose of bringing the message of true Hope in Christ Jesus is critical. What purpose for God's mission in this place. In the afternoon we visited another mission partner possibility —the Bethel school and church.

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### Groth Report, continued from previous page

We were there to see the preschool operation and to visit the English/ computer center. We are discussing the possibility with the pastor there of furthering the school beyond preschool so these children can continue the foundation of good Christian education begun there. The young pastor told of his life change to Christianity as well as his vision that this school would provide a firm grounding in Christianity for the young children there. We are exploring how we can partner to make this Godly vision reality. We visited with English students and computer students who were using God's Word in their studies. We also met a young man who had been a Buddhist monk for eight years and now was part of the Christian community there. Purpose and direction for mission here is obvious. As we worked and toured with these mission supporters we shared and saw anew God's purpose in our ministry here. Your prayers for discernment have begun to help us focus the direction of our work here. There is so much to do. As we begin intensive workshops for 12 key leaders we hear the lament, "We can send just one?" As we talk about Sunday School we hear the plea, "Can you come and visit our 15 congregations to build a relationship so we can pull our teachers together and you can teach them?" Yes we pray that God would help us apply our hearts and time wisely in serving Him. Our transition stateside for furlough saw us orienting new long-term missionaries in Thailand. It was a delight to experience the start of God's mission there with Bob and Diana Hedtke and Kimmy Galiant. They have discerned God's purpose for their life and are ready and able to share Jesus through their English teaching, devotional leading and relationship building. We pray that you too, will discern God's purpose in your life and continue your financial and prayer support of His mission. Truly enjoying the purpose filled life of God's mission, Chuck and Jeanette Groth.

Prayers Answered: Safe Travel, Dissertation progress, Good family reunion. Prayers Requested:

Continued Safe travel, more learning about our continued mission on our St. Louis visit, continued adjustment for our new long-term missionaries to their new life, more good family times.



Mentoring—Chuck working with Pastor Kosal and another church leader.



Workers – the group of preschool teachers that Jeanette is working with.



Anchor Wat -Gary These, Groths, Pastor Paul & Sue Sieviking in front of the Anchor Wat Buddhist temple.



October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006  
**FIRESEED**

6:30 – 10:00 p.m.  
Good food, fellowship and music. Join us and bring a friend.

\$5.00 admission, 10 and under free  
[www.lc-goodshepherd.org](http://www.lc-goodshepherd.org)  
e-mail: [theshepherdsplace@yahoo.com](mailto:theshepherdsplace@yahoo.com)  
or  
[office@lc-goodshepherd.org](mailto:office@lc-goodshepherd.org)



## **Family Life Fellowship**

Will be hosting a *Grandparents Day* Social on Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006 from 2:00 – 4:30 p.m.

## **Honoring Grandparents**

This will be held in the fellowship hall. Anyone interested, please contact Kathy Hogan, Pat Breitweiser, or Elizabeth Pedersen.

The Lutheran Church of the Good  
Shepherd

[www.lc-goodshepherd.org](http://www.lc-goodshepherd.org)

3139 County Road 516

Old Bridge, NJ 08857

732-679-8883

The Rev. William A. Qualman

Worship Services

Sunday Communion Services

8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Adult Bible Classes – 9:30 a.m.

Youth Fellowship Meetings

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday - 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

GS Children's Center

732-679-8887

Mrs. Lorraine Campo, Director

[gsc@lc-goodshepherd.org](mailto:gsc@lc-goodshepherd.org)

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***of the Good Shepherd***

**3139 County Road 516**

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**God's love at work here!**