

The Staff

The newsletter of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

November 2006

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



TOOTH FAIRY STEWARDSHIP!

Ten years ago I came across an interesting article in the "Christian Century" magazine written by Dr. Martin Marty, the famous Lutheran theologian. His article referred to an article he came across in the "Chicago

Tribune" by Eric Zorn. Mr. Zorn used the U.S. Department of Labor's Consumer Price Index to see if the Tooth Fairy was giving more or less in 1996.

I was immediately interested because one of my children at that time was in the process of shedding their baby teeth. Lisa and I had already had a discussion or two about the Tooth Fairy exchange rate at that time. Lisa held that the Tooth Fairy should leave a dollar. I quickly responded by saying I thought that amount was a little extreme. I could remember quite well that when I was a boy, the Tooth Fairy only worked in quarters! I didn't want this fairy guy (or girl?) spoiling our child or warping their sense of value when it came to money.

After reading Dr. Marty's article, I changed my mind about the current rate of exchange for teeth and money. Marty noted that a dollar left under a child's pillow in 1996 was the equivalent to just 20 cents in 1964! A quarter in 1964 would be worth \$1.26 in 1996.

Marty went on to compare those kinds of values and rates to our thinking about Christian giving in support of our churches. Back in 1946, people were told that a dollar was a generous gift. That 1946 dollar was the equivalent to just 12 cents in 1996!

The Marty article puts into perspective our situation and challenge here at Good Shepherd. Financially, we have struggled a bit this past year. Were it not for so many of you who have continued to generously support our ministry, things could have even been severe.

Sunday, November 26th is designated as "Loyalty Sunday." Each and every family will be encouraged to prayerfully consider the work God has given us to do together and to make an annual pledge between you and your Lord. On Loyalty Sunday, as you come forward for Holy Communion, you will be asked to place your sealed pledge envelope in a box in front of the altar in support of our church. Those pledges will never be opened but will be dedicated to the glory of God and remain by the altar through the year 2007. Your pledge will be returned to you at the end of the year along with a record of your actual giving for that year. You will then be able to compare the two figures to determine how well you did in honoring your pledge. It will, as always, remain a private matter between you and your Lord.

Our stewardship theme says it so well for so many of our dedicated and loyal members: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." In this month of "Thanksgiving" we have the great opportunity to once again count our blessings and to respond to God's goodness to us through our loyal commitment to be an integral partner and supporter of our God-directed and God-given ministry.

Always in Christ,

Pastor Bill Qualman

NOVEMBER 26TH – LOYALTY SUNDAY

“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”
(Joshua 24:15)



The story is told about a pastor who was walking on the beach one day. He happened across an old, sand-caked bottle that had washed to shore. He reached down, picked it up and began rubbing away the sand and silt from the bottle when, suddenly, the bottle began to shake, its top popped open, and a huge

beautiful plume of smoke erupted into the air. After wiping his eyes, he saw standing before him a Genie, who thanked him profusely for freeing him after thousands of years of confinement. The grateful Genie offered to grant the pastor any wish he wanted for his act of liberation.

The pastor thought for a moment and then said, “You know, I have always wanted to visit the Holy Land, but I’m too afraid to fly and I can’t go by sea because I’m deathly afraid of water. My wish is that you would build a bridge across the ocean so I could drive to the Holy Land.”

The Genie had a look of exasperation on his face and replied, “There are many things possible within my realm of power, but I don’t think you understand the complexity of your request. Have you any idea the amount of planning, engineering, and technical detail, not to mention the political and diplomatic efforts that would be required to achieve such a request? Could you possibly consider another wish?”

The pastor thought for a moment and then said, “I have a congregation of about 600 members. My wish is that you would make every member of my church a tither.” Now the Genie was silent. Sheepishly he replied, “Let’s go back and talk about that bridge thing you wanted.”

We in the church laugh at those kinds of stories, in large part because their truth is all too familiar. Like it or not, the ministry and mission of any church is greatly

dependent upon and determined by the financial support of her members.

Good Shepherd has been blessed over all the years with people who have been faithful and generous stewards of time, talent, and treasure. They have been those loyal servants of Christ who have seen to it that the ministry of this place has the means to support the variety of ministries, programs, facilities, and staff necessary to lead and undergird all that we do in the name of Jesus Christ.

On Sunday, November 26th, all of us are invited to make an annual pledge for 2007. On the following page, you will find a tithing chart to be of assistance in determining your loyal commitment for the Lord’s work.

As you receive your pledge card in the mail, you will want to prayerfully consider the importance of your stewardship in light of the ministry God has given us together. Are you still pledging or giving the same amount today as you were ten years ago, or five? Our church budget has almost doubled in the last ten years.

The fact of the matter is – you are needed! If each and every member family would commit to an annual pledge, the results would be tremendous in terms of the ministry God would have us carry out in His name.

Your pledge is a private matter between you and your Lord. The envelope will never be opened but will be returned to you still sealed at the end of 2007 along with your record of actual giving. You will then have the opportunity to assess your actual giving against your pledge.

Remember – “The Lord loves a cheerful giver!”

Always in Christ,

Pastor Bill Qualman

THE TITHE

GOD'S PLAN OF SUPPORT FOR HIS CHURCH

“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse that there may be food in my house. And prove me now in this,” says the Lord of Hosts, “if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such a blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.” Malachi 3:10

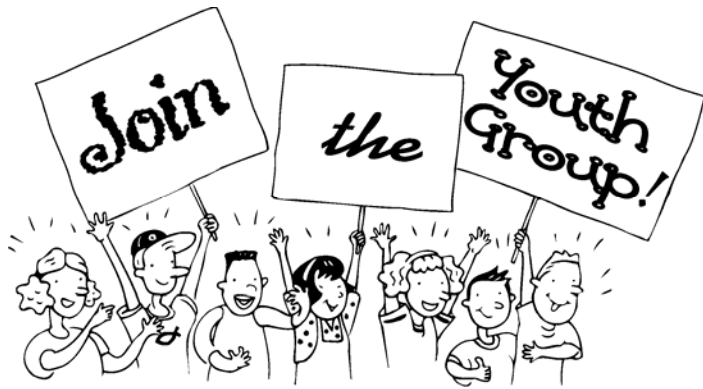
HOW TO FIGURE YOUR TITHE

Tithing involves a \$2.00 gift each week for every \$1,000.00 of income. Therefore, if your annual income is:

\$1,000	Your weekly tithe is	\$ 2.00
\$5,000	Your weekly tithe is	\$ 10.00
\$10,000	Your weekly tithe is	\$ 20.00
\$15,000	Your weekly tithe is	\$ 30.00
\$20,000	Your weekly tithe is	\$ 40.00
\$25,000	Your weekly tithe is	\$ 50.00
\$30,000	Your weekly tithe is	\$ 60.00
\$50,000	Your weekly tithe is	\$100.00
\$75,000	Your weekly tithe is	\$150.00
\$100,000	Your weekly tithe is	\$200.00
\$250,000	Your weekly tithe is	\$500.00
\$500,000	Your weekly tithe is	\$1,000.00

**THE TITHE IS SEED WE SOW
NOT A DEBT WE OWE**





"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." Luke 19:10

There are many times in life we feel LOST. As long as we keep our lives focused on Christ, we will be able to move through those times and end up better for it. If you're in the 7th - 12th grades, consider joining the other youth of the NJ District for LOST, the 2007 Winter Youth Gathering.

We are very excited to move the Gathering to a new location this year. No more sleeping on classroom floors. No more 3:00 AM showers. No more getting hit in the head by basketballs when eating. At Camp Lebanon, everyone will get to sleep in a bunk. There are individual, private showers and basketball will be in a completely different building than meals.

Here are the details:

- Dates: January 26th - 28th
- Location: Camp Lebanon, Lebanon, NJ
- Ages: 7th - 12th graders
- What to expect: Fun, fellowship, food, free t-shirt, workshops, servant events, Bible studies, variety show, music and much more!
- Cost: \$99 (due December 17th)

Registration forms will be available early November. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Alicia at sr.lyf.good.shep@gmail.com.

Thanks to everyone who came out to the Sr. LYF-sponsored Pastor Appreciation Dinner on 10/22. We all had a great time and we were really honored to be able to let Pastor Qualman and his family know how much we all appreciate having them here!

Also on 10/22, members of the Sr. LYF spent a few hours at the Sayreville Group Home to give one of their rooms a fresh coat of paint. We were happy to help them out and brighten their home. Thanks Paulette, for letting us know about this opportunity to serve the community.

What's coming up this month?

- Meetings
- Movie & pizza
- Revolve Conference

Be sure to check the Sr. LYF bulletin board for any updates. The Sr. LYF has a new e-mail address. If you ever have any questions about the group, prayer requests, or want to share some news with the group, drop us a note: sr.lyf.good.shep@gmail.com. If you're in high school and you haven't given Jill or Alicia your e-mail address, please send us an e-mail so we can keep you updated on what's going on!

Alicia De Sena



PIES, PIES, AND MORE PIES
MARKET DAY is having their annual PIE MONTH. Just in time for the holidays. If we purchase 1-249 pies, we make \$1.75 each, 250-499 pies we make \$2.75 each, and 500 or more, we make \$3.75 each. Please stock up on pies for the holidays. You have enough cooking to do, Buy some pies, and save yourself some time. Orders are due by 11/2/06, and pick up is on November 11th from 8:30 - 9:30 am.



Letter from the Chairperson

Transformation & Renewal in Ministry T.R.I.M.

The new buzz word around Good Shepherd is **T.R.I.M.** or at least we hope and pray that it will become the new buzz word. But what is **T.R.I.M.**? What's it all about and what does it have to do with me?

“The Future is always right in front of us, but always out of reach. We tend to worry about it. We pray about it. We hope for it. Often, we feel our future is out of our control, yet much of it we take a hand in creating. When we are clear about our purposes, open to God's leading, and conscientious in our planning, we become co-creators with God.”

That is T.R.I.M in a nutshell. Good Shepherd is entering into an intentional planning process for the future and every member of the congregation needs to be involved. Each individual voice counts in this process. Each individual voice needs to be heard and considered.

What kind of planning and purposes are we talking about? Don't we already plan out our programs, ministries, events? It seems that we are continually planning projects and that there is no end. So how is this any different? Why am **I**, one individual of the congregation, so important to the process? The answers to these questions come in the form of different questions that can only be answered by **YOU**.

- **What is our central purpose?**
- **What is our mission?**
- **What does God call us to be and do in our community, our world?**
- **What vision do we have for how our congregation will respond to God's calling?**

These questions are very different from what we have asked ourselves in the past. Yet they are probably the most important questions we need to answer because:

- Research tells us that having a clear vision, purpose, and sense of direction renews energy and commitment.
- Only about ½ of those who responded to the survey stated that their congregation had a clear vision. Out of that ½, only 2 out of 5 could tell you what it was.

- Clarity about God's mission and shared vision for the future gives focus and context for all the planning we do and the actions we will take as a congregation.
- When mission and vision are clear, people are motivated by seeing how their planning and work contribute to the larger purpose of the congregation.
- Careful, creative planning will strengthen our effectiveness as we attempt to convey and live out the Gospel in a changing world. We need to understand our changing world and community to be effective. If not, the Good News seems irrelevant to our community and our own members.

A good planning process follows a path; a path that we are just beginning to go down at Good Shepherd. On Saturday, **November 4th at 8:30 a.m.** we will begin that path **TOGETHER**. This is not just for the current leadership team of Good Shepherd. This is for **EVERY MEMBER**. We will come together to meet with our representatives from the District office. These representatives will become our Planning Partners. They are trained to work with congregations engaged in planning for the future. They will assist us through the stages of planning in a way that best fits our needs and leads us to the future we believe God desires for Good Shepherd.

By the time you read this, the date will be just around the corner. I pray that you have already planned to attend the first meeting on November 4th. The second meeting will take place on **December 2nd at 8:30 a.m.** Neither of these meetings will go past 12:30 p.m. Child care will be provided at both meetings. If you have not yet made the commitment to be a part of the intentional planning process for Good Shepherd, I hope and pray that you do that now. We need everyone to be involved, every voice must be heard in order for us to do the work of the Lord.

Submitted by 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



Read To Me

“Alphabet Blessings” by God’s blessings go from A to Z! Come learn the alphabet with me.

A is for apple, you know how it looks.
B is for blessings, like bedtime and books.
Cat starts with C, Dog starts with D
Elephant blessings, they all start with E!
F is for fish swimming out in the sea.
Every good goat starts his name with a G.
H is for horse, happy high on a hill.
I is for ice cream, please have some...
I will!
J is for jumping, and K is for kittens.
L is for long legs, and M is for mittens
N is for nap by a beautiful OOOOcean!
Blessings like these call for love and devotion.
P is for pillow and puppy and pray.
Quilt starts with Q and it helps end the day.
R comes in rainbows that follow the rain.
Sun starts with S, let’s all skip down the lane!
T is for tree and a tree house for two,
Where would umbrella be without a U?
Violin starts with a letter called V,
Wiggley old worms start with W. Wheeee!
X is for X ray, and Y is for Yak
Z stands for zebra with stripes on her back.
26 letters from A down to Z
Alphabet blessings,
God made them for ME!

Coming Together

Simple Ways to Make the Most of Busy Days

“Thanksgiving, the Forgotten Holiday” By Candy Arrington

Sandwiched somewhere between Halloween and Christmas is a Thursday holiday that is slowly becoming more miniscule in the minds of millions of Americans. For some, Thanksgiving is a day to get a list together prior to a day of marathon Christmas shopping. Somehow our perception of Thanksgiving Day has gone askew. We've forgotten the reason for celebration that first Thanksgiving. Gratitude for survival!

Historically we think of Thanksgiving as a time of feasting for the Pilgrims and Indians. In the fall of 1621, the Pilgrims had been in America less than a year. During those months, over half their original population died from disease or starvation.

The Pilgrims hosted the first feast not to try out their latest recipes, but to celebrate life with their Indian friends and give thanks to God for His provision in difficult circumstances.

Perhaps you'd like to redirect your family toward gratitude this year. Just as many enlist the help of an advent wreath to prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth in December, focus on thanks-giving this November by doing the following:

- **Week 1** – Write things that you are thankful for on leaf-shaped cut-outs. Place them in a basket and during family devotions or at a meal, have each family member select a leaf from the basket and read it aloud.
- **Week 2** – Think about reasons for ingratitude. Most of us are incredibly blessed, yet we find reasons to complain. This week, any time family members complain about something, have them place money in a jar. (Your family can decide the amount.) Then at the end of the week, donate the money to a soup kitchen to help with Thanksgiving meals.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page – Coming Together

- **Week 3** – Think of someone you love and appreciate, but rarely see. Make plans to call, send a card, or visit that person. Find out if there is a special need, then pray for the person, and provide materially or with an act of service.
- **Week 4** – Focus on praising God. Let each family member select a favorite hymn or praise song. Sing a different one at each meal instead of saying a blessing. Thank God for material provision, physical health, spiritual blessings, our country, our church, and family.

Teens Think...

Would you rather have X-ray vision or the ability to save lives?

Would you rather fly a kite or play jump rope?

Would you rather sleep on flannel sheets or satin sheets?

Would you rather be the parent of a rebellious teen or the parent of a deaf child?

Would you rather meet Jesus for four hours or travel with the Apostle Paul for three years?

A Family That Prays Together, Stays Together

Dear God, Thank you for being so good to our family. Even when it seems things are difficult, we thank you for the strength to get through those times. Thank you, especially, that we have the freedom to celebrate our faith in you. Help us to remember all of our blessings and to share your love with others. Amen.



Percussion
Workshop

FUN WITH RHYTHM

*"Percussive
Praise" Workshop*

On November 5th, 12th, and 19th, after the 10:30 a.m. service, for about ½ hour, Steve Brown will be working with any youth in grades 6 through 8 to show them how to use percussion instruments. This will be a hands-on workshop, and will give the kids a chance to bang, whack and learn some fun rhythms. Amber will then use "rhythmists" from this group as accompanists to the Little Sheep and Bell choirs. We'll start small and if there is a lot of interest we'll consider a quarterly workshop schedule.

If anyone is interested, please see Amber Brown.

JOSHUA'S TRUMPET

will be singing *every* Sunday!
8:00 a.m. service first and third Sundays. 10:30
a.m. service second and fourth Sundays.



On Sunday, October 22nd, we sang at the Haven Assisted Living facility in Toms River from 2 – 3:30 p.m.. Then it was back to church to sing for Pastor Qualman's Appreciation Dinner. I hope all who attended enjoyed the food and the fellowship.



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

Good Shepherd Children's Center

WHAT'S NEW AT SCHOOL



October is a wonderful month at GSCC. The kids are in their daily routine; they have made friends and actually look forward to coming to school.

On October 18th and 19th, we welcomed the firemen from the Cheesequake Fire House; they came to talk to the children about fire safety, which is an annual

favorite for everyone. The children got to watch a video, see and hear the fire trucks, and they got to touch a real fireman's hat and feel how heavy they really are. The amount of equipment firemen have to wear and the total weight of that equipment never stops amazing me.

It is important for all children to learn what to do in an emergency. Don't let your child's age stop you from teaching them the basics of what to do in an emergency. It can be as simple as calling 9-1-1, or another favorite is Stop, Drop and Roll, fun for the kids, but a life-saving technique none-the-less.

So, sit down and talk to your children today, visit a local firehouse, rent a video on fire safety, or go to your local library and checkout a couple of books on what to do in case of an emergency in the children's section. Sometimes if your child has a favorite character they have books or videos with those characters teaching very valuable lessons.

Director, Lorraine Campo

FROM THE ALLEYS



It's kind of nice going to bowling each week knowing who you will be bowling that night. However, that is not the case on POSITION NIGHT. These occur

every couple of weeks. What is POSITION NIGHT you ask? It is when the 1st place bowls the 2nd place (3rd bowling 4th, you get the idea), to determine ranking. So let's take a look at the standings after our 1st POSITION NIGHT. We will start with the 10th ranked team, since they are holding up the rest of the teams and end with the team currently on top.

- 10- 9 and a Wiggle
- 9- Shanghai Rollers

- 8- Lane Rovers
- 7- Alley Gators
- 6- Holly Rollers
- 5- Pretty Lucky Bowlers
- 4- Ugly Ducks
- 3- UnStopaBowl
- 2- Triple Threat
- 1- Old Goats

And if you don't remember who the members of these teams are, you can visit www.bowl.com, click on Standing Sheets, enter 3132 and keep current on all our thrilling weekly activity. Such as the fact that the High Games so far this year are held by Rob Magazzu with a 258, and Carol Hahl with a 222. Or you can come and cheer us on, Monday nights, 9:00 pm Strathmore Lanes, Route 34, Matawan /Aberdeen. See you at the Alleys,
Laurie Burke

Women's Ministry



Calling All Ladies! *Princess Retreat 2007*



Leave behind the secular world of Cinderella with its fictional mentality and fairytale endings, and learn what it means to be a real princess as you begin to fulfill your royal destiny. At this overnight retreat for adult women, you will discover who you are as a Princess of the King of

Kings! Come for refreshment, renewal, fun, fellowship and chocolate! What a wonderful time to join God's royal court as you grow and learn with your Princess Sisters.

What will we do?

Eat, pray, play, share, learn, grow, laugh, cry... There will be DVD presentations, learning sessions, and small group discussions, as well as group game time and free time to read, meditate, craft or take a nap! (*yes, napping is built into the schedule!*)

Who should come?

All grown up Princesses...that means you! Because Jesus is our Heavenly King, we are all His Princesses. Bring a friend and join us in learning how to live the life of royalty. Invite friends, neighbors, co-workers, fellow sports-moms, sisters, adult daughters, mothers and mother-in-laws, (yes, they are princesses too!) ☺

When is it? February 9 & 10, 2007

Where is it? Crossroads Retreat Center, Port Murray, NJ - www.crossroadsretreat.com

How much is it? \$49.00 per person...this includes, meals, beverages and snacks

Can the kids come?

With the exception of nursing infants, we ask that toddlers, children and teens stay home...this is a time of renewal and refreshment for moms and adult women, so let the kids stay home and have fun with Daddy! ☺

What should I bring?

Your Bible, warm outdoor clothing, bedding, a favorite book, personal crafts, camera and tissues! There is also an optional Christian Aerobics time too, so bring work-out gear if you want to participate in this activity.

Where do I sign up?

After services at the "counter" or on the new Christian Education bulletin board (opposite the Youth Group boards). Amber Brown has further information if you have any questions.

COMING SOON!

A 'Girls' Night Out' in January for adult women. Come out for games, door prizes, prayer, devotion and food! This is a great way to recover from the holiday hubbub and get away for a few hours with your friends. This will serve as the official "kick-off" for our new "Women's Ministry," so you won't want to miss the fun and surprises that wait for you. Working in conjunction with the Family Life and Fellowship Committee, there is sure to be fun had by all! Watch for details!

Thanksgiving Baskets



IT'S TURKEY AND ANGEL TREE TIME AGAIN!

by Paulette Hacker,
Chairperson,
Mission Committee

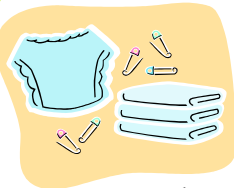
It's hard to believe, but Thanksgiving and Christmas are just around the corner.

As is our custom, we will provide a complete Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner to our neighbors who are in need. If you, or someone you know, is in need of help this holiday season, please call the Church office and tell them how many members there are in the family (number of adults and children).

If you are able to donate some of the fixings for these dinners, please contact Paulette Hacker at 732-264-5110. Please don't buy anything until we know how many families we will be feeding.



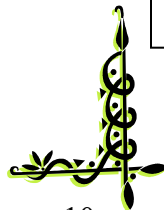
DIAPER DERBY COLLECTS 7216 DIAPERS!



This year the Diaper Derby collected a total of 7216 diapers. The "in-gathering" was held at Luther Memorial in Tinton Falls. The winner of

the "Diaper Wipes" Trophy was Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Point Pleasant with a total of 2819. The 2nd place trophy went to Fellowship Chapel with 1304 diapers; we finished in 3rd place with 1281 diapers (only 23 diapers out of 2nd place!); Luther Memorial of Tinton Falls had 1091 diapers, Colts Neck Baptist collected 543 diapers and Village LC brought 178 diapers.

The benefactors are the women who come to Open Solutions in Red Bank, Open Door Pregnancy Center in Toms River, and Gateway Pregnancy Center in Elizabeth. They get the diapers they need—thus allowing them to use their limited funds on other necessities.



Our Angel Tree will be going up November 20th. This year, our Angels will include the Sayreville Group Home, the mothers and children of Amandala Crossings, Old Bridge, and local needy families. If you know of someone needing assistance, please contact Paulette Hacker.



Have you noticed the beautiful fall decorations around the church? The pots of flowers on our walkway, and the nice corn stalks on our main entry way were donated by the Schulmeister family. They have made many donations in the past, and we would like to extend a very big **Thank You** to them for always helping to make the church more beautiful. If anyone is interested in "sprucing up" around their own house, visit the farm on Spring Hill Road, and thank them in person.

Family Life Fellowship

Will be hosting the following events



Grandparents Day
Social on Sunday,
November 5th, 2006
from 2:00 – 4:30 p.m.
(This was postponed
from October.)

Honoring Grandparents

We have invited some of the residents from the Old Bridge Manor, so if your children do not have Grandparents that are able to make it, please come out and “adopt” a Grandparent for the afternoon.



Christmas

Around the World

December 2nd, 5:30 – 7:30 PM

We supply the soup, you bring the sandwiches. If you have a traditional dessert that has been handed down through the years, please bring it to share with others. If you have a holiday tradition you and your family do, we would love for you to tell us about it. Please let one of us know.

Come share your holiday traditions with others.

Anyone interested in attending any of these, please contact any one on the committee:

Kathy Hogan, Pat Breitweiser, or Elizabeth Pedersen.



**Sunday,
December 17th** –

Meet at church at 2:00 PM. We plan on visiting some of our home-bound members in the area, nursing homes, and hospitals.



Christmas Caroling

After we are done, come back to church for something hot to drink and eat.

COMING SOON!!!

We are working on our Annual Ski Trip – Hopefully some time in January or February. Details and date to be coming in the next issue of “The Staff”

For Your Information



Happy Birthday to...

Mardell Bonfiglio	11/15
Daniel Hullings	11/15
Kyle Eaton	11/15
Courtney Jo Grana	11/16
Alisa Guzman	11/16
Don Van Handel	11/17
Autumn DeMarco	11/17
Paul Oliva	11/17
Bernadette Margolis	11/17
Sophia Weiss	11/18
Beth Krawiec	11/19
Richard Toth	11/20
Anna Christ	11/21
Norman Johnson	11/21
Steven Sommer	11/21
Margaret George	11/22
William Qualman	11/22
Scott Smith	11/23
Maureen Puricelli	11/23
Mary Artache	11/24
Debbie Meyer	11/24
Paul Parisi	11/24
Micah Margolis	11/24
Michele Casey	11/27
Linda Cinquegrana	11/28
Jill Furlong	11/29
Joseph Frank Massa	11/30
Nicole Drews	11/30

Happy Anniversary to.....

Laura & Alfred Grana	11/05
David & Marie Bergfeldt	11/06
Robert & Sandra Shipley	11/07
Cathy & Richard Hoehl	11/09
Melissa & Ramone Pineiro	11/11
Paul & Beth Oliva	11/14
Claire & Michael Johnson	11/17
Robert & Carol Hahl	11/21
Rudy & Karen Tucci	11/21
Eileen (Loughman)& Bill Sabino	11/27

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We (the congregation) have been helping Jean Reynolds in many different ways. Some people have been going to help her with grocery shopping, cleaning, laundry, etc. We have also been taking donations to help her out. There will be a basket under the Shepherds Window until she can get her benefits straightened out. She has written a card which is posted on the bulletin board for all to see. She writes:

"Pastor is right, I am overwhelmed by the tremendous generosity of my church family. I am deeply touched by all the care and concern. Please accept my endless gratitude."

*In God's Love,
Jean Reynolds*



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

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



Monthly Prayer Gathering

In Scripture we are encouraged to have an active prayer life. "Jesus told His disciples...that they should pray always and not give up" (Luke 18:1). "Come to me all of you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). "For where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them" (Matthew 18:20). Every 1st Tuesday of the month there is an opportunity at Good Shepherd to grow in our prayer life. At 7:15 pm Pastor Qualman leads a service where you can bring your cares and burdens, pray for your families, our community, and our church and learn more about prayer. The next Prayer Meeting will be Tuesday November 7th, at 7:15 PM. – **Laurie Burke**

We met on a Tuesday evening. We were a small group. We brought our cares and concerns with us. Pastor talked about the role of prayer in our lives. Then we prayed for each other and our cares, concerns and needs. We knelt at the altar and thanked God for the opportunity to come to His house and pray. We left uplifted and eager for the next opportunity to come together in prayer. Please join us for the next Prayer Meeting. - **Chris Borkowski**



BOOK CLUB & DISCUSSION GROUP

Please join us on Tuesday, November 14th at 7:30 PM in the library to discuss the book **A Light to My Path** by Lynn Austin.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to e-mail me at 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.

COFFEE HOUSE

Featuring

Joshua's Trumpet



\$5.00 admission, 10 and under free

Saturday, November 18th, 2006

6:30 – 10:00 p.m.

Great food, fellowship and music.

www.lc-goodshepherd.org
e-mail: theshepherdsplace@yahoo.com

OR

office@lc-goodshepherd.org



“PODCAST?”

What is a podcast?

A podcast is a recorded, portable audio file, similar to a radio show. The word comes from combining the words *iPod* (a popular MP3 player from Apple) with *broadcast*. You can listen to podcasts online, through your favorite media player, or download them to computers and portable devices. You can also subscribe to podcasts using an RSS feed for the podcast with a music program like iTunes or AT&T Yahoo! Music Engine. Subscribing allows the latest podcasts to be automatically downloaded to your portable device, like an MP3 player.

Good Shepherd currently provides podcasts of its services and sermons.

What is Syndication? What is RSS? Like many people, you probably have various web sites that you visit regularly. However, there may be sites that you find interesting, but you don't visit them very often because they don't change very often. What if you could be notified automatically when such changes *do* occur? What if, instead of *you* visiting the site to see what's changed, the site

could *tell* you when something has changed? What if you could tell, at a glance, which of the 30 sites on your bookmark list have had any changes?

Syndication is the act of selling an article for publication in many magazines or newspapers at the same time. The comics you read in the newspaper are syndicated. The news articles that come from the Associated Press or Reuters are syndicated. Web syndication works in a similar fashion, but instead of comics or news articles being offered, a variety of media objects can be made available.

RSS stands for *Real Simple Syndication*. Using RSS has been described as having "an inbox for the Internet," and using an RSS feed is similar to using email. However, instead of an email reader you need an RSS reader. Subscribe once to one of our RSS feeds, and you will automatically receive those news items from Good Shepherd.

More information on these topics can be found on our web site at www.lc-goodshepherd.org/podcasts

Your friendly web servant, Tony Hansen



ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday **November 12th**. In order for everyone to attend the T.R.I.M. meeting on November 4th, the Admin. Board has decided that the vote for the budget will be after each service on November 12th. Please stay and vote for the budget. This is very important, and should not take to long.

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 e-mail on the 15th of the month. If you need something included in the bulletin announcements, 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.

I would also ask that if you have requested someone be put on our prayer list in "The Staff", and in the weekly bulletin, please let me know if anyone needs to be deleted.

Thanks for your help!



Marianne Krawiec - Once again, nine women from Good Shepherd traveled to Philadelphia to attend the 2006 Women of Faith Conference in September. The conference is held annually in various cities across the United States, and features guest speakers, a Friday Intensive Bible Study, and lots of Praise Music and Worship. This year's event showcased Sandi Patti, Nicole C. Mullin, and Avalon.

I attended my first WOF conference over ten years ago. At that first event, the music started, the stadium of women rose to their feet and started to sing and dance in praise and worship.

I thought we sounded like a choir of angels, and that this is what heaven must be like...except that there will not be a line for the bathroom! Seriously, I am still moved at each event to hear the voices rise up and see so many women proclaim Jesus to be their Lord and Savior. The events are so spiritually fulfilling.

But even more than that, it is a time for women from Good Shepherd to gather together. We have formed a bond that has lasted for over a decade. Each year, the conference is better than the last. Time is built in for Praise, song, bible study, laughter, and, of course, chocolate. What women's conference would be complete without it? I wouldn't miss the next conference and you shouldn't, either.

Marie Bergfeldt – For me, it was a time to get to know other women from the congregation in a different light. The “Contagious Joy” conference was attended by over 15,000 women from all walks of life: women who are not sure where their faith is taking them and women who are just going to “re-charge” the spiritual battery. It is great to be able to spend time with these “friends” outside of the church. This is a time to laugh, cry (but it's a good cry), sing, and dance. We share our emotions, and our goodies. Some speakers touch you in ways that you never dreamed of. You may

not relate to one, but the next speaker you think is talking right to you, and for you. The music gets you energized. Try to imagine over 15,000 women singing “How Great Thou Art”, it is something you cannot imagine.

Laurie Burke - What I enjoyed most at the Women of Faith conference was the journey of discovering different sides of my friends, making new friends and learning a bit more about my own faith walk. Going to a Women of Faith Conference is an adventure (even if you don't get lost.)

Sonya Hansen - The Women of Faith conference weekend is filled with learning about God's Word and living our lives as Christian women. We learn from the speakers, singers and each other. The weekend is also about sharing. We share hugs, tears, and laughter; as well as stories, hair dryers, and snacks. The conference is filled with prayer and song (Thousands of women singing all at once, what a choir!). There are opportunities for shopping and for quiet times. The arena is filled with wall-to-wall women; the nicest, most polite crowd imaginable. Every minute of the weekend is filled with fun!

Lisa Qualman - I was so grateful to be given the opportunity to go to the Women of Faith conference, even though I wasn't exactly sure what I was getting myself in for! All I really knew was that several of the women of Good Shepherd whom I had come to admire were going to attend, and that they were excited as they anticipated a spiritually rewarding weekend together. It turns out to have been just that type of experience (and more) for me too. The conference presenters were at alternating times laugh-out-loud funny and deeply personal as they spoke of how Christ met them in their times of need and through those experiences brought them into a deeper relationship with Him. Spending time getting to really know the women in our group was the other highlight for me since they are the funniest, most welcoming and caring bunch you could ever hope to be included in.

Cheering the Best of the Best

Submitted by Amber Brown, Coordinator of Christian Education

How many of you have had the intense experience of cheering your favorite sports team in an arena full of thousands of fans? Be it basketball, baseball, football or even your favorite music group, there is something so exhilarating about hollering for the best of the best with a stadium full of others that feel the same way you do!

Now, multiply that by 16,000...16,000 women, that is, as they all cheer, sing, praise, laugh, cry and proclaim the name of Jesus Christ. This was the experience nine women from our church family had in September as we attended the annual *Women of Faith Conference* in Philadelphia. Spending an all day session with renowned and wacky Bible teacher, *Patsy Clairmoint* and popular Christian recording artist, *Sandi Patty*, our weekend was off to a great start! But then add *Luci Swindoll*, *Sheila Walsh*, *Thelma Wells*, *Marilyn Meberg*, *Nicole Johnson*, *Robin McGraw* (with a surprise guest appearance by her husband, *Dr. Phil*) *Avalon* and *Nicole C. Mullen*, the weekend was spectacular! Just like at a sporting event when you cheer on the best of the best, 16,000 women came from over seven surrounding states and cheered on *the Best of the Best*, Jesus Christ!

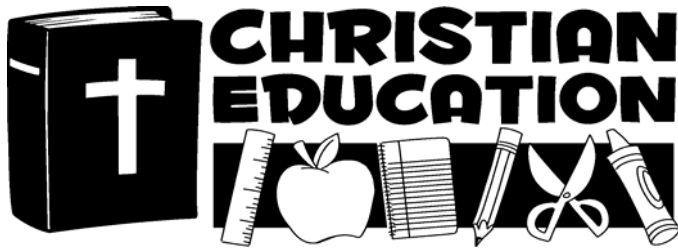


Pictured: Bottom: Linda Panarella, Amber Brown, Mary Artache, Marianne Krawiec, Top: Randi Rutan, Marie Bergfeldt, Lisa Qualman, Sonya Hansen, Laurie Burke

This has been an annual excursion for the women in our congregation since 1998 and we plan on keeping up the tradition. Won't you consider joining us in September 2007? Check out details at www.womenoffaith.com and watch for details for next years' event.

(Oh, and we cannot forget "Dr. Phil". If you're curious, ask one of us who attended, and we will tell you about it.)





“Giving Thanks”

submitted by Amber Brown, Coordinator of Christian Education

How often have we had “one of those days”...the kind of day when nothing ever seems to go right...it’s all going to pot and we wish we could climb back into bed, pull the covers over our head and cry ourselves to sleep? I think our modern culture intensifies this feeling and the frequency of those days and often we seem to be counting more about what has gone wrong in our day than counting our blessings. If you sat down right now and made a list, how many things could you come up with that have gone awry in your life...how many would be blessings? Which list would outweigh the other? So often we get bogged down in our sorrows and the “Woe is Me” syndrome that we forget to lift our eyes to the Maker of All Things, yes, *all* things, be they good or bad. What can we do when we have days like this...when we seem to be concentrating more on the negative than the positive? Following is an excerpt from a devotion by Bible teacher Luci Swindoll, and I think this advice is helpful. When we are struggling with the difficulties of our days, she suggests:

“First, stop asking, ‘Why Me?’ We’ll never know the answer to that so let’s not waste our energy on the question. God designed this day for you and me with its tests, frustrations, human frailties and opportunities to trust...apply *1 Thess 5:16-18*: “Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances.” Second, look for what we might *learn*. Spiritual education is like any other form of learning; how do we know it works until we’re tested? The more we rely on the grace and mercy of God in our testing time, the more we’re apt to

pass [the test] and move on to something bigger to make us even stronger in our faith and in time, we may be able to teach others that giving thanks is more than a command from our Lord, it’s a way of life...so give thanks. Third, realize that there are others worse off than we are...God’s sovereign design for our lives is so far beyond our comprehension.

The best thing we can do is take Him at His Word knowing that thankfulness makes our days go better no matter what we face.

He never said that being grateful for something would be understandable or convenient or without heartache, He just said it is His will for us to do it.”

Giving thanks is not something that should only be done at Thanksgiving or when we get what we want.

Thanks should be a constant phrase on our lips every day, especially when things are tough or when we don’t get what we want. Giving thanks in the tough times is difficult. God never said it would be easy. That’s when we turn to Him for the comfort, peace and grace He so freely gives. Knowing that God is in control is such a comfort, for as humans, all we would do is louse things up. The motto “Let Go and Let God” is a phrase that is so hard, yet, so easy to abide by. Our sinfulness and desire to control all the good or bad in our life makes it difficult to “Let Go and Let God,” yet when we muss things up or we can’t handle the pressure or the stress or the pain or the consequences of life, what a relief to know that all we have to do is let go...and let God. Because God is Love, He keeps no record of wrongs (1 Corinthians 13:5) and he knew you before He formed you in the womb (Jeremiah 1:5)...so nothing you do will surprise Him, but it will please Him when we take our struggles in stride and give thanks. As we enter this Thanksgiving season, let us examine all the blessings in our life, knowing that they are so great in number we will lose count. Giving thanks in *everything* is certainly a good place to start, for in His Sovereignty, God never makes a mistake.





“The Perfect Gift”

Submitted by Amber Brown,
Coordinator of Christian
Education



Even though Christmas is still over a month away, some of you- the more ambitious ones- have already started your Christmas shopping. Even

in competition with the recent Halloween decorations, we see a touch of red and green here, or a flash of Santa there...Christmas is just around the corner. And with the warm fuzzy feelings of the season approaching and the spirit of blessings surrounding us during Thanksgiving, I ask you to take a step back and truly examine the many material blessings that are around us. Even those of us who are financially struggling are still able to have a roof over our heads, clothes on our backs and food on the table...and even if we struggle doing that, we have the assistance of government programs, loving neighbors and our congregation family. It's easy to lose sight of our abundance, in the hubbub and stress of our lives.

Because we want to always keep our blessings in the forefront of our minds, Steve and I are proud to announce a new addition to our family- our sponsored “daughter” Joyce, from Africa. We have always had a heart for those with special needs...that's probably why we were blessed with our son, Eric. Even though his disabilities have been a constant struggle and stress, he is such a bright and shining gift in our lives and we are blessed to have the privilege to care for him. For years, I've seen the ads on TV about children suffering in Africa or Thailand or some far off remote land where I could not possibly envision the poverty that strikes the very core of a family...a community...a country- yet I never did anything. I would sometimes sit and cry as I'd watch a commercial showing a little boy or girl, half naked and emaciated, then I'd shake my head,

turn off the TV and move on with my life. But when I had an opportunity to sponsor a child at a recent *Women of Faith* conference, the Lord really placed it on my heart that now is the time to act. I called Steve to tell him what the Lord wanted us to do (Steve wasn't there to hear the Lord shouting in my ear) and he said, “Let's help a little girl.” Now we have two boys and two girls! And even though Joyce does not have a place at our dinner table or in our church pew, she has a truly special place in our hearts.

It seemed so natural to us that we would invite Joyce into our lives, especially since her birthday is on September 11. How powerful it is that when we remember the tragedy that struck our nation on that devastating day, we can now give a beautiful little girl hope.

I recently received a catalog from *World Vision* (the organization through which we sponsor Joyce) and it offers a neat opportunity to help families and communities in the Third World and in America that have been stricken by disease and poverty. Are you looking for the “perfect gift” for that special someone on your Christmas list?

Or maybe you have no clue what to get your father-in-law or your brother. This catalog offers gift opportunities that can provide things like a fish farm, school supplies or clean water. Have you ever considered giving a cow as a gift for Christmas? What about fertilizer or a grinding mill? Maybe vaccinations and medication? As Americans, these seem like odd gifts, but to those who are living in the Third World, these are not only Christmas gifts, they are gifts of life! There are opportunities to help others who are so destitute that they cannot even help themselves. You can clothe children in 31 countries for only \$15.00, which we easily spend on a T shirt or CD. Maybe your daughter or son is on a soccer team...how neat it would be for them to open up one of their gifts on Christmas and know that you were able to buy soccer balls for kids in Africa to provide and stimulate healthy play. A gift like this is only \$16.00...far less than what we spend on sports registrations and equipment. How about a

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page – The Perfect Gift

goat for a family to provide nourishment and income? For only \$50.00, you can do just that...don't we easily spend that on a steak dinner with a business client?

Or maybe \$14.00 to provide a makeshift wheelchair for someone in need? Can you believe it costs only \$14.00 for a wheelchair? Eric's wheelchair cost \$5,000.00! Oh, how we all need to be reminded of our bounty.

These thoughts are not intended to make you feel awful or guilty, but rather to have you contemplate and relish in the many blessings we do have. Jesus tells us that "whatever you do for the least of these...you have done for me." Wouldn't a gift from *World Vision* also be a gift, of sorts, to Jesus? What better gift to give Him on His birthday, when He has given us the gift of Salvation.

Catalogs can be found throughout the church and in the library, or you may see me about information on the "perfect gift" for that "it's-impossible-to-buy-something-for-this-person" situation. You may also log onto www.worldvisiongifts.org. I pray that as you ponder your perfect gift from God, His precious Son Jesus, that you would share that gift with others, knowing that what we do for them, we do for Him!

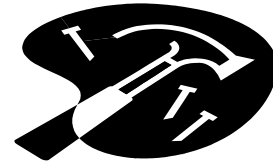


There is a "NEW" lost and found box in the kitchen with a few items in it. Please take a look and see if you have "lost" anything. Items will be thrown away after a months.

Thanks for your help! Marie

Another Successful Work Day

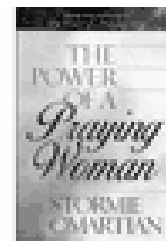
Thanks go to Jeff Campbell, Gene Clapsis, Dave and Alyxa Dill, John Fink, Leslie Green, Frank Lylo, Juan Nieves, Tim O'Connor, Dean Olson, Joe Previte, Lara Pudwell, Tom Rutan, Dave Schulmeister, Bob, Sandy, Bobby and Jessica Shipley, and Ed Siclari, for all of your help at our work day on October 14th. A few major ticket items were finished that required a group of workers and couldn't be handled by a small team. Thanks to you, *ALL* of our outside projects got accomplished, plus many of our indoor projects. Your help is greatly appreciated! – Tony Hansen, B&G Chair



Women's Bible Study

Wednesday evenings at 8:00

"The Power of a Praying Women" by Stormie Omartian



Please join us, or for more information, please contact Jill O'Connor.

SPECIAL DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday, November 4th, 2006
8:30 – 12:30

T.R.I.M.

Dynamics of the future

Breakfast will be served,
Child care will be provided.

Your voice counts, we want to
hear what *everyone* thinks about
the future of the church.

ANNUAL MEETING – Sunday,
November 12th, 2006. Meetings
after both services.

Coffee House,
November 18th 6:30-10:00
featuring
Joshua's Trumpet.

If you enjoyed Pastor's appreciation dinner,
you will love the coffee house.

Linda's always got something good cooking
in the kitchen

T.R.I.M.

Demographics Meeting
December 2nd, 2006 8:30–12:30



Thanksgiving
Service

On Wednesday, November 22nd, we will
be having a Thanksgiving Eve Service
at 7:30 p.m. Please mark your
calendars and take time out of your
busy "cooking" schedule to Praise God
for all the blessings he has given you.



Family Picture Update

As many of you can see, some of the family
pictures on our board are a little outdated, or
we are missing some families all together.
Marianne Krawiec will be trying to update
the family board. There will be a sign-up
sheet on the kitchen counter. She hopes to
take pictures on November 12th, from 9:15 –
10:30 a.m.

If you have any questions, please see
Marianne.
(Say Cheese)

THE NEW PURPOSED BUDGET FORMAT

You will notice that the purposed 2007 budget is being presented in a simplified format consisting of nine ministry categories. This new format allows us to have a more accurate picture of the full nature of our church activity, responsibility, and efforts.

The simplified budget is commonly used by congregations across the United States in the LCMS. It is not an effort to “hide” anything or to keep the congregational members in the dark. Anyone who would like to see the line item budget may do so by contacting Bob Hahl, our treasurer, a Board member, or Pastor Qualman. They will be happy to sit down with you and answer and explain anything that you find necessary.

One other note as you look over the purposed budget for 2007. Please remember that the column to the far right, “Last 12 Months, 9/1/05-8/31/06” will appear to reflect far less amounts spent in each category. Please keep in mind that during this period we did not have a pastor during much of that time so expenses were less.

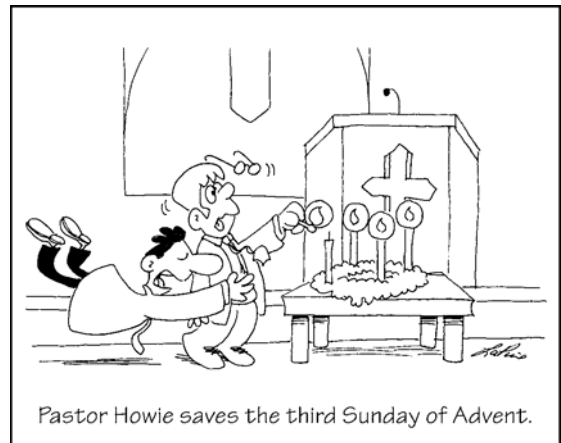
You will also note that in the category “Care of God’s House & Property” the 2007 budget shows a significant increase. The reason for this increase is the congregation’s decision earlier this year to hire a part-time Sexton.

The 2007 budget will be presented to the congregation for approval at our congregational meetings following each service on **November 12th**.



Choir Members

The choir is always looking for new members. Anyone interested in joining, please stay after the 10:30 service and join us.



THANK YOU SO MUCH!

My family and I were so honored and had so much fun on Sunday evening, Oct. 22nd when I was given a "Pastor Appreciation Dinner" sponsored by the youth group. The pot-luck food was a fabulous array of special dishes, the skit by the youth was fun (and funny), and the beautiful praise music performed by "Joshua's Trumpet" all came together to make it a most special evening for us. Thanks to all who attended and/or had a part in contributing to the wonderful evening!

Acolytes – Pastor Qualman will be holding a training session on November 5th, 2006 during the Sunday School hour. If you have signed up to be an acolyte, please be sure to attend the training session. This is for *old and new* acolytes. If you have any questions, please call Pastor or Marie in the church office.



The Lutheran Church of the Good
Shepherd

www.lc-goodshepherd.org

3139 County Road 516

Old Bridge, NJ 08857

732-679-8883

The Rev. William A. Qualman, Pastor

GS Children's Center

732-679-8887

Mrs. Lorraine Campo, Director

gsc@lc-goodshepherd.org

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

2nd and 4th Sunday - 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

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

3139 County Road 516

Old Bridge NJ 08857

God's love at work here!