

The Staff

The newsletter of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

February 2007

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

The Power and Purpose of Lent



On the dashboards of small airplanes, there is a safety device commonly called a Stall Warning Indicator. The pilot of one such plane described it as follows:

“The Stall Warning Indicator is there to help the pilot avoid big

trouble. In a light plane, if you get below a certain speed you'll fall right out of the sky. On my particular plane, the stall speed is 55 miles per hour. If you get below 55, say your prayers. If your airspeed drops to around 60 miles an hour, you begin to hear a buzzer – the Stall Warning Indicator is doing its thing. When that buzzer begins to squawk and the corresponding red light begins to flash, you know you're close to losing control...thank God for that instrument. It's a built-in device to help you avoid tragedy.”

For the Christian community, the season of Lent is like a Stall Warning Indicator. It's there to help us avoid big trouble in our spiritual lives. It's a time to heed the warning that since we are all sinners to one degree or another, we are always subject to the danger of our life getting out of control; a time to check our spiritual speed and progress in our walk with Christ and his people. It's a time to discover and head off anything in our life that might threaten to stall our efforts to follow the Christ and live in the new life he has given us to live.

A teenager confidently applied for the job of office boy. He presented his credentials to the personnel manager. The manager looked them over and said, “I see you've had some recommendations from your pastor and your Sunday School teacher. That's good. And I must say that you look honest and appear to be of good character. Nevertheless, I'd like to see a recommendation from someone who knows you on the weekdays.”

The season of Lent challenges us to look deeply into the whole of our life in honest humility. Lent is a season of repentance. We may be a little fuzzy on the meaning of repentance, but we can be sure that it involves much more than several small adjustments in our lives. Repentance penetrates the crust of the false piety we wrap around ourselves. Repentance begins inside the heart and turns life upside down for us and right side up for God. Repentance reverses our priorities, upsets our values, and turns our pocket inside out. Repentance shatters our systems of security and hangs us on the thin thread of the “will of God.” Repentance revolts against the sin we have loved and reconciles us to the God who loves us beyond measure.

Lent points out the worst of us and the best of God in Jesus Christ. He refuses to turn his back on us. He refuses to let us fall from the sky into oblivion. Lent reminds us that our God is not passive. He has acted on our behalf. He sent his Son on a mission to save us.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page – Lent

Years ago I came across a painting. It pictured young Jesus working in his father's carpenter shop in Nazareth. Jesus was standing in the doorway and stretching out his arms in the midst of a big yawn. The bright morning sun shone through behind him, and the shadow it formed spoke clearly of why he was here on earth. It formed the shadow of a dark cross.

Martin Luther recorded an imaginary conversation in which the devil said to him, "Martin, you are a great sinner and you will be damned." Luther replied, "But that's not good reasoning. It is true that I am a great sinner, but it is written that Jesus Christ came to save sinners. Therefore, I am saved!"

We too, approach the season of Lent with that same confidence. May God once again bless us all with a lively faith in the greatest story ever told!



First Communion Classes

If you are in 6th grade, your first Communion Classes are beginning this month, starting on Saturday, February 10 and continuing on Feb 17 & 24. First Communion Sunday will be March 4, 2007. Please register for the classes to be sure that we have enough materials (this is a very big class this year!). Registration forms are in the Church office or on the Christian Education Bulletin Board. Completed registration forms may be left in the Church office or in the In-Mail System for Amber Brown. If you have any questions regarding the classes or need to register, you may contact Amber Brown at home (732-730-8623) or in the Church office or by email at amber@lc-goodshepherd.org.

See you at class on the 10th!



Campbell.

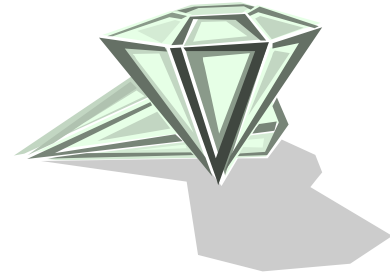
"My whole family's giving up something for Lent. Mom's giving up cookies, Dad's giving up cake, and I'm giving up squash."

YOUTH GROUP SCOOP

Next payment is due for the Orlando trip. Please see Alicia if you don't have the letter regarding the trip. Those traveling to Orlando next summer are:

- Dan Bergfeldt
- Christian Hawley
- Becky Rutan
- Chrissy Sereda
- Bobby Shipley

Please keep us in your prayers as we make our travel plans, participate in Bible studies, and fundraise.



“The Case of the Kiss-Kiss Diamond”

Cast of characters this year are: Jessica Caban, Diana Langan, Michael Junco, Becky Rutan, Dominick Pate, Chrissy Sereda, Emily Jocus, Kelly Doran, Justin Salzer, Taryne McGrane, and Andrew Junco. We have started rehearsals. If you have a part, please be sure NOT to miss any rehearsals. Dinner theatre is on March 24th. The play is March 23rd, 24th, and 25th. ***Please note the change in the dates.*** If you have any questions, please see me.

Alicia De Sena



FROM THE ALLEYS

Submitted by Laurie Burke

Congratulations to Wayne Krawiec, Beth Krawiec and Vin Stefanelli (aka UnStopaBowl) for becoming the 1st half champs. Yes, it is hard to believe but we are halfway through our bowling season. Monday January 22nd we all start with a clean slate. There has been some very exciting bowling going on, but as of right now all our leaders in high games and high series remain the same. Sorry you're going to have to look at last month's staff if you don't remember who they are. Or ask one of the Monday night bowlers or even better

visit us on a Monday night at Strathmore Lanes Rt. 34, Matawan /Aberdeen at 9:00 PM. We love visitors. See you at the alleys.

Letter from the Chairperson

I don't always spend a lot of time reviewing with you what the Board has accomplished or what is on the upcoming agenda. I usually cover this in the Annual Report; but, I thought it might be a good change for me to do that in The Staff this month.

Quite a bit of what the Administrative Board does is not always seen by the congregation. It's not that we intend to be secretive, because the meetings are always an open forum. It's just that you elected us to do a job and that is what we do each month. We carry out what you have asked us to do and we do not seek recognition for that. But I think we need to share the many varied accomplishments of the Board.

Over the past several years, the Board has taken on some big tasks. Many of them centered on our insurance policies, which fell under the auspices of the Vice Chairman's position. We have reviewed and adjusted our umbrella policy for the congregation to ensure we are completely covered for any type of incident. We have reviewed and updated our workman comp coverage to ensure our staff is adequately covered throughout the week. Finally and most recently we reviewed our Health Care coverage. It has been updated to the Cafeteria Plan, to allow us to offer the plan to all of our Staff members. In each and every case, we included our partners at the Child Care Center. In doing so, we leveraged what each was doing, which assisted both groups in saving some money while providing top notch insurance coverage. They too are also investigating their own health care situation this year.

As you already know, we spent much time evaluating our staff positions. In doing so, we now have a terrific staff in place filling positions that were greatly needed in our ministry. It was exciting to build off the success of past staff positions and continue to grow in our ministry. As we worked through this, our contracts were updated and as stated above, insurances properly reviewed and changed.

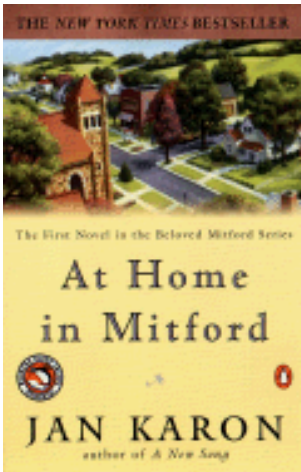
There are always things to discuss regarding the physical building. Much was done over the initial years of my tenure on the Board to get the Educa-

tion Wing opened. How God has blessed us with that wing and the positive impact it has had on the congregation and the Child Care Center. We also ensured the security of the building and have established action plans in conjunction with the Child Care Center in case of any emergency. And of course a huge part of what we did over the past several years surrounded the vacancy and the calling of our new Pastor.

As you can see, the Board is always busy. But we did not call it the Administrative Board just for the sake of a name. The Board will continue to deal with the business of the church as we move forward into 2007. We are currently working on updates to the Constitution and by-laws to be presented over the next several months. The majority of those changes affect how we elect our Board members, providing a staggered approach rather than the current all or nothing approach.

The Board did approve moving ahead with the T.R.I.M. process. But, as you know this Ministry approach is being created and supported by each of you and not under the auspices of the Board. This is an every member ministry and an exciting new venture for all of us. You don't need to commit your time to the Board or any other committee to be a part of this ministry. I strongly encourage each of you to prayerfully consider your involvement in T.R.I.M and what will result from it.

As we move closer to our elections in May, you may be approached and asked if you would consider adding your name to the election ballot. I know I struggled with that question several years back myself. But, I knew I possessed the gift of administration. I knew I could do the job. More importantly, I also knew that this was definitely part of my own ministry. Just like others in the Bible, God kicked me a little and said, "Beth step up and do what you do best." You may not think of it in such a way, but those on the Administrative Board do in fact have a strong ministry as they serve on the Board. Taking care of the day-to-day functions of the church is a true gift of ministry. I thank each of them for what they do and I ask each of you to prayerfully consider stepping up and doing the same. Beth Meyer



BOOK CLUB AND DISCUSSION GROUP

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

Please join our Book Discussion Group. We meet in the church library on the second Tuesday of the month from 7:30-9:00 pm (unless otherwise noted). We discuss a different Christian fiction or non-fiction book each time we get together.

**We are meeting again on Tuesday,
March 13th @ 7:30 pm to discuss
At Home in Mitford
by Jan Karon.**

Would you like to join us??? It's very easy to get involved:

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, Borders or online.
2. Take one of the bookmarks for that book from the display in the church 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.

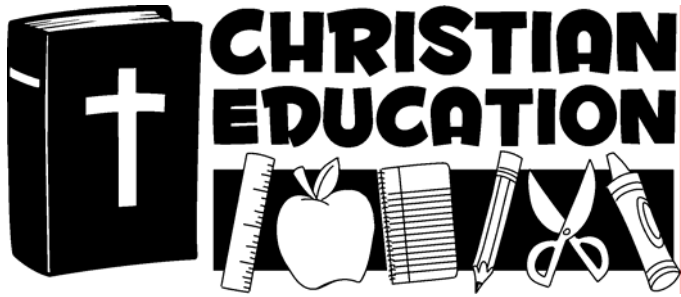
4. Come to the church library on the night that book will be discussed and share your thoughts and insights with the group.
5. Remember, you can come for one book or all of them – it's up to you!!

Introduction from the book: Come away to Mitford, the small town that takes care of its own. Nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Mitford is a crazy quilt of saints and sinners - lovable eccentrics all. Seen through the eyes of Father Tim, the long-suffering village rector, Mitford abounds in both mysteries and miracles, compelling readers to return again and again to this beloved series. In At Home in Mitford, Father Tim finds himself running on empty. Even after twelve years of shepherding his flock, he finds that Emma, his secretary, persists in treating him like a ten-year-old. Barnabas, a huge black dog, adopts him, and a hostile mountain boy, Dooley, is thrust into his care. To add to his confusion, a growing friendship with Cynthia Coppersmith, his new neighbor, stirs emotions he hasn't felt in years.

Future meeting dates: May 8 – Title to be announced

If you have **any** questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact 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 and **always** learn something new. Please join us!!!!

June Hullings



How Do You Witness?

~by Amber Brown, Coordinator of Christian Education

Sometimes, our first thought of the word *witness* conjures up images of carrying our Bibles door to door throughout the neighborhood to bring others to Christ. But witnessing also happens in our daily words and actions. As Christians, we are in the spotlight a lot...people are curious about what our faith is about and they want to see how we live life for Jesus. But when they see us responding in ways that are not so Christian, they see that the life we're leading is not much different than their own. When we don't walk the walk and talk the talk, others may view Christianity as something that's not worth trying, because, "after all, he's just as angry/sad/irritated/agitated/frustrated/mad/foul-mouthed/crude as me!" But aren't our lives with Jesus so much more than that?!

Often it is so difficult for us to share the joyful news of Jesus with others. We are so happy with the results we see in our lives when we walk with Him, yet sometimes we are so unwilling to step outside of our comfort zones to tell others what He has done in our life. Maybe we're not sure what to say. Maybe we're afraid we'll be rejected or laughed at. Maybe it's because we live in such a "PC" society and so political correctness tells us not to "offend" others by imposing our beliefs on them. From the removal of prayer in our schools to battles on Capital Hill to remove God's name from the Pledge of Allegiance, we are quickly learning to keep our mouths shut in the name of someone else's beliefs. But what about our beliefs? And what about others that we could be winning for Christ...our family, our friends, our neighbors, our coworkers?

As Christians, we know that the death of our earthly bodies is not permanent- there is eternal life for us

and it will be a joyous day when we meet our Lord and the others who have gone before us in faith. But what about those who don't believe? There are no second chances for them-their death is an eternal one, and who wants to take that chance with our loved ones? Everyone loves a great party, so imagine our eternal fiesta with Jesus and the hosts of heaven...who wants to miss out on that? Sharing our faith with others is not something we should "wait and do 'till I know more about the Bible" or "wait 'till I know them better"...**you may be the only Jesus that others will get to meet.** There is no time to wait, my friends, for we do not know when Jesus will come again. But we do know that the Bible tells us to "shine our light before men" and we want to be that beacon to others so they can see the way to Christ. If you struggle with sharing the Good News with others and what you should say, start with these few baby steps...here are "10 Easy Ways to Witness Without Saying a Word":

1. Wear a cross
2. Use Christian personal or business checks (www.promisechecks.com)
3. Put a Christian bumper sticker on your car
4. Read the Bible in public (at the beach, soccer practice, lunch break, on the train)
5. Pray in public (saying grace in a restaurant or before you begin work)
6. Listen to a Christian radio station at work or when friends are in the car (*Star 99.1 FM*)
7. Send Christian greeting cards or e-cards (www.dayspring.com)
8. Send a Christian magazine subscription to a friend (www.christianitytoday.com)
9. Place your Bible on the coffee table, or hang a Bible-verse-inscribed picture or painting in your home
10. SMILE!

What is amazing about the process of witnessing is that you start to see a change in your self, as well as others. As we become aware of showing others what life in Christ is like, we find that our attitude and approach to life is calmer and more at peace. We are able to help others who are struggling as we extend an extra measure of patience...we're able to wait on line at the store just a little longer without the sighing and toe tapping. Imagine how we would curb our behavior if we remembered that we had a

Christian bumper sticker on our car? Would we be so quick to flash particular gestures or yell certain phrases in the heat of traffic? Maybe starting a meal by saying grace with your family in public is a great way to witness, not only to others, but to your children as well. They see and learn from you that there is nothing to be ashamed about in our faith when we revel in the glory of Jesus. Our demeanors change as our focus changes and we find it easier to live the joy of Jesus.

This is not to say that our witness will wipe away the difficulties of life. The hard times are still hard, but maybe they're not as rocky...the sad times are still sad, but maybe not as devastating. It's also not to say that we need to go through life "faking it" all

the time so that others think that the life of a Christian is perfect. Part of witnessing is showing others that there are still tough times in our life, but Jesus is the one who rescues us from those dark moments. Ponder this list of wordless witness...choose something that you can accomplish and watch the world around you change. That change can make a difference for others *forever*.



Good Shepherd Children's Center

WHAT'S NEW AT SCHOOL



Now that the Christmas trees, decorations, holiday parties and family gatherings have come to an end, the New Year has started off on a positive note.

The kids have adjusted to coming back to school from their holiday break and we had a wonderful response to our open house this past weekend.

Many new faces came to visit the school as well as parents who already had children graduate in the past and are now ready for the siblings of former graduates to begin their educational journey at GSCC. Registration is open now for all classes and summer camp, so if you or anyone you know need preschool, kindergarten or summer camp feel free to pass along our number and have them set up an appointment to come and visit us.

Remember to read to your kids and grandkids every chance you get!

Lorraine Campo
Director - GSCC

For Your Information



The Staff is published monthly for members and friends of The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

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Happy Birthday to...

Alma Meyer	2/01	Kimberly Conover	2/23
Carol Norberg	2/01	Aida Verello	2/23
Margaret Wrigley	2/01	Donald Cousens	2/24
Robin Schmitz	2/01	Leah Svot	2/24
Keith Stevens, Jr.	2/03	Daniel Simicich	2/25
Kyle Charles Myers	2/03	Samantha Wong	2/27
Kyle Stevens	2/04	Colleen Cistone	2/27
Janine Grana	2/06		
Marianne Krawiec	2/06		
Dorothy Palmer	2/06		
Robert Hode	2/06		
Leslie Green	2/08		
Ian MacLean	2/09		
Frans van Riemsdyk	2/12		
Jill Langone	2/12		
Lauren Donaghue	2/13		
Andrew Holmes	2/14		
Grace Wong	2/14		
Wynn Hansen	2/15		
Rebecca Marcinczyk	2/15		
Kate Ann Brace	2/15		
Carol Sereda	2/17		
Grace Blakey	2/17		
Mark Weintraub	2/18		
Christopher Butterwick	2/19		
Cynthia McGrane	2/19		
Robert Schmitz	2/20		
David Bergfeldt, Jr.	2/21		
Marie Bergfeldt	2/22		
Franklin Fry	2/22		

Happy Anniversary to.....

Michele & John Casey	2/02
Miriam & Juan Nieves	2/20
Amy & AJ Ford	2/22

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Senior Choir Director
Mr. Ed Roynesdal

Little Sheep &
Hand bell Director
Mrs. Amber Brown

GS Children's Center
Director
Mrs. Lorraine Campo
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gscc@lc-goodshepherd.org



Those Recovering

Gunhild Nelson –mother of Carol Hahl

Those in Nursing Homes

Emmy Moore –sister of Katrina Clapsis

Those who are Shut-in

Joan Brenner

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

Christine Olewine –granddaughter of Lyman
& Deloris Laub

Trudy Conway

Those Struggling with Cancer

Laurie Troutman – daughter of Child Care Teacher

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

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

If you have someone on the prayer chain, please remember to give the office updates, i.e., no longer sick, no longer in the military. If they need to be removed, etc.

Thanks, Marie

Women's Ministry



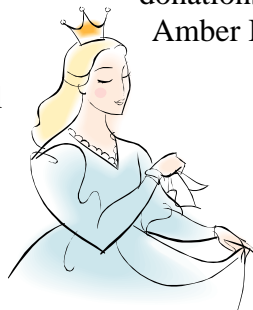
Ladies' Luau

On Friday night, January 12, 2007 thirty women celebrated a wonderful evening of fun and festivities at the *Ladies' Luau*. Serving as the official Kickoff to our Women's Ministry, the *Luau* served not only as an opportunity to fellowship, but to exercise as well. (*My abs still hurt from all the laughing we did! Yes, you exercise when you laugh because you burn 20% more calories! What a great way to burn the calories from the chocolate we ate!*) ☺ Geez, did we laugh it up for Jesus! We played silly games like the "Tacky Tourist Relay" and "Body Charades" (*you spelled pineapple with what part of your body?*) To the favorite standard: Pass the Orange Under the Chin game...what a rowdy bunch of women we have at Good Shepherd! And what a great way to kickoff a New Year!

A very special Thank You to Linda Cinquegrana for making the tasty authentic Hawaiian cuisine and to Sonya Hansen, Pat Breitweiser and Becky Rutan for helping to set up and decorate! It's never too late to join us in the upcoming Women's Ministry festivities...you are sure to laugh off some calories!

Princess Retreat

The deadline has been met for signups for the Princess Retreat! If you missed signups or will not be able to go with us this year, we'll catch up with you next year, as the Women's Retreat will become an annual event!



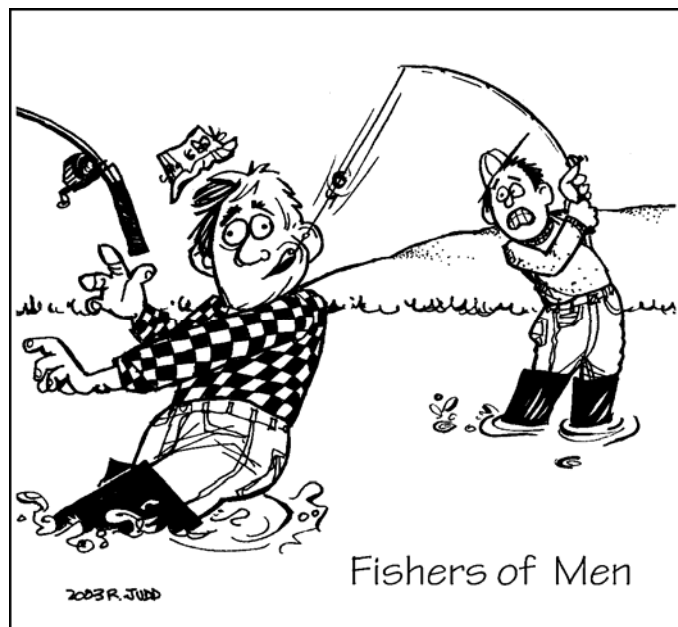
Crafter's for Christ!

A new program will begin as an extension of the Women's Ministry. Join the *Crafter's for Christ* on the last Friday of every month to make crafts for yourselves and the community. Do you sew, knit, crochet, stamp, scrapbook, arrange flowers, needlepoint? Then this group is for you! Starting this month, we will begin this new ministry and blend our creative outlets to honor our Lord. You can bring your own supplies and craft projects to work on for your self or work on items that you may want to donate to community causes like local hospitals, nursing homes, group homes, Ronald McDonald houses etc.

This is a self-supporting ministry, so if you would like to donate craft supplies, they will be greatly received. If you have extra yarn, knitting needles, craft glue, glue guns, scissors, paper etc, that can be donated, we will keep them at the church for general purpose use of this ministry. We welcome any crafty Christian to join us this month on Friday, February 23 at 7:00 PM. Any questions, donations, or ideas for charities can be directed to Amber Brown.



Now, as for the guys ... yes, you are important too! We understand that you may be feeling a tad left out as the women around you are whooping it up for Christ. Never fear! You will not be alone for long! Already in the works are plans for a Men's Ministry, but in the mean time consider the many blessings of the women around you as they learn and grow in Christ. With this growth, we become better moms and wives...we might even bring you your slippers at the end of your hard day at work (did any one ever really do this?) And with this growth we become better coworkers...we might just treat you to your fourth cup of coffee for the day. All of these will be done, not to our glory, but to God's, knowing that we are being nurtured and loved by other women. Nobody knows a woman better than another woman! Through the nurturing of other women we are comfortable and confident in whom God created us to be. And with that confidence and peace comes a joyful service to others. So hang in there guys- your turn for a Ministry is coming.



For the month of February Market Day will be having their **Cookie Dough Bonus Days!** What does this mean for us you ask? Well... For every box of cookie dough we sell, Good Shepherd gets extra profit! Take a look at this:

From 0-249 boxes of Cookie Dough sold = **\$2.20** per box
 From 250 -499 boxes of Cookie Dough sold = **\$3.30** per box
 500+ boxes of Cookie Dough sold = **\$4.40** per box

If we sell 500 boxes of cookie dough we receive an extra profit of \$2,200.00!! That is in addition to the profit we receive from regular sales. **WOW!!** We only get this great profit opportunity once a year from the Cookie Dough Sales so we should take advantage of this.

The packaging is great – very convenient – the cookie dough is portioned in 1 oz. pieces and separated into two bags. For the Church and School as a whole I would like to aim for 500 boxes sold – talk to your co-workers, neighbors, friends – this is a fantastic opportunity!!! Who doesn't love cookies!!! Take a look at these mouth watering varieties!

- *Triple Chocolate NEW!*
- *Sugar Free Chocolate Chip NEW!*
- *Chocolate Chunk*
- *M & M Milk Chocolate Candies*
- *Oatmeal Raisin*
- *Peanut Butter*
- *Snickerdoodle*
- *White Chocolate Macadamia*
- *Monster*

Please call Dani Sloan with any questions – 732.886.2014



Monthly
Prayer
Gathering

The next Prayer Meeting will be Tuesday, February 6th, 2007 at 7:15 PM.

This is a small group. We bring our cares and concerns, and then we pray for each other. Please join us for the next Prayer Meeting.



SPECIAL DATES TO REMEMBER

Ash Wednesday



Ash
Wednesday
Service

February 21st, 2007
7:30 PM
Lenten Services will be every
Wednesday evening at 7:30

The Case of the Kiss- Kiss Diamond

March 23rd, 24th, and 25th, 2007
Dinner Theatre is on the 24th
Come see the youth in this interactive drama,
hot on the heels of the stolen diamond and
the guilty party may be YOU!

Coffee House
February 17th, 2007
6:30 – 10:00 PM

MARK ADAMY

Mark Adamy is originally from New
England. He is an experienced performing
artist (keyboardist/ vocalist), producer,
composer and conductor/director.
www.markadamy.com

CONFIRMATION LEARNING EVENT

There is a change in February for the
Learning Events. Please note that we
will NOT meet on the 18th as this is
Presidents weekend. We WILL meet
on February 11th from 6-8.



GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER

Submitted by Paulette Hacker, Mission Committee



The Lord tells us in 2 Corinthians 9:7 “Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

Our parishioners never fail to live up to God’s message and come forward whenever there is a need. Our first need came with our Thanksgiving baskets. We had 5 families to provide for and as always, the baskets went out filled to the brim. I would like to thank Sandy Shipley and Linda Cinquegrana and her Confirmation group Carly Ferreira, Jessica Shipley, Caity Polomba, Joseph Devito and Alyxa Dill for their wonderful help in filling all the baskets and helping to take them to our families’ cars.

I would like to thank also Cynthia McGrane and her Confirmation group in cutting out 200 Angels for our Angel Tree. They were Taryn McGrane, Kaitlyn Svat, Erin Cole, Nicole Stacy, Charlie Breitweiser, and also helping was Stephanie McGrane. Their help was greatly appreciated!

This year, our Angel tree had 132 Angels representing the Sayreville Group Home, the mothers and children of Amandla Housing, and

Old Bridge Welfare. When you came into the Narthex on Sunday, December 10, you couldn’t believe your eyes. There were gifts piled everywhere and more in the sanctuary! Every Angel was taken from the tree and all gifts were brought in on time and for this we thank you. We also had 14 Angels on the tree representing the graduates of Amandla Crossing requesting Shop Rite gift cards. I would like to thank everyone for their generosity; the amount was far more than even we had anticipated.

An additional 32 Angels were put on the tree December 10 representing 32 families in Louisiana still feeling the effects of Hurricane Katrina. These Angels were gone by the next Sunday and I’m sure the families appreciate all of your generosity.

This year, instead of sending individual Christmas cards, 34 families shared \$632.00 with Atonement Lutheran Church, located near New Orleans, Louisiana.

Our last need of the season was for 8 Christmas baskets. These, too, were filled to capacity and I would like to thank everyone who truly lives by God’s teachings.





Here is the schedule for the next few months for market day. We usually take off for the summer months, and then reconvene in September.

Month	Pick up Date	Pick up Time	Paper Orders Due	Internet Orders Due
February	2/17/2007	8:30-9:30:00 AM	2/10/2007	2/12/2007
March	3/17/2007	8:30-9:30:00 AM	3/6/2007	3/10/2007
April	4/14/2007	8:30-9:30:00 AM	4/3/2007	4/7/2007
May	5/19/2007	8:30-9:30:00 AM	5/8/2007	5/12/2007
June	6/16/2007	8:30-9:30:00 AM	6/5/2007	6/9/2007



Stewardship Committee



"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!" Joshua 24:15

Let me wish a Happy New Year to all. As we start 2007, I would ask each of us to renew our commitment to the Lord. We made some significant Stewardship strides in 2006 even though we fell short of our overall financial goals. Some 71 pledges were returned to the Altar during services in November. The preceding two years only saw 32 pledges returned. Also, our Christmas offerings were truly wonderful.

However, our weekly giving exceeded the budget only 9 times out of 52 weeks last year. We were blessed by a major contribution of almost \$70,000 from the Child Care Center which held us over, but we must strive to do better in 2007. As part of our Christian duty, we need to give of our treasure to

support the Mission and Ministries here at Good Shepherd. Let me offer the following suggestion:

We have a program called Simply Giving which allows you to make automatic deductions from your bank account to Good Shepherd. These can be made weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly. Thrivent for Lutherans administers this program at no cost to either you or Good Shepherd. If you have taken the time to make a pledge, put your offerings into the automatic offering program. It is simple and will ensure that your donation is made on a consistent basis. Please contact either Tony Puricelli or myself for information and forms to join this program.

And on a year-end tax note, Tony Puricelli will be sending statements out soon. Please realize that only contributions made through the envelope system are recorded. We cannot guarantee that checks or cash put directly into the offering can properly be credited to your giving statement. If you need information for the IRS, we can only substantiate what is received via envelopes.

Have a happy and Blessed New Year.

Pat Pryor
Stewardship Committee



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 AM

Sunday School 9:15 AM

Adult Bible Classes – 9:30 AM.

Youth Fellowship Meetings

2nd and 4th Sunday - 6:00 – 8:00 PM

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of the Good Shepherd***

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God's love at work here!