

The Staff

The newsletter of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

March 2007

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



“The Power of Christ’s Passion”

If there is anything that must strike you in this Lenten season as we focus on the passion of our Lord, it must be the utter determination to

carry out the mission for which he was sent. Nothing can distract him from the cross on Calvary. It’s a part of a plan....a divine plan for the salvation of the entire world.

That kind of commitment and determination is rare in our world today. St. Paul was a man who had it. Remember how he said it in his letter to the Philippians? “But one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind, straining forward to what lies ahead. I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Jesus Christ.”

If you and I were to hire a consultant to look at our lives and advise us on how we can be more successful, the first thing that consultant might say is, “You’re trying to do too many things.” That scatters effort and destroys direction.

In her book, *A Practical Guide to Prayer*, Dorothy Haskins tells about a noted concert violinist who was asked the secret of her mastery of the violin. The woman answered that question with two words: “Planned neglect.” She went on to say, “I deliberately planned to neglect everything until my practice period was complete. That program of planned neglect is the secret to my success.” “But

one thing I do,” writes St. Paul, “Forgetting what lies behind...”

That’s the second key. Paul knew how to let go of the past. Paul understood the completed mission of Christ and its purpose. He remembered that the crucifixion was followed by the glorious resurrection. Christ’s perfect life and obedient death has made the forgiveness of God a living reality. The past is forgotten, our sins are removed, and we are free to actively live for the One to whom we owe our lives, our all.

Some business people are now using the word, “feedforward.” Think about that word for a moment. “Feedforward,” as opposed to the more familiar word “feedback.” If you’re running a business, feedback means when something goes wrong, you pick up the signal that all’s not well, and you do something about it. You yell, you shout, you punish the guilty or whatever. The problem with feedback is that it always comes after the fact. You are being reactive instead of proactive.

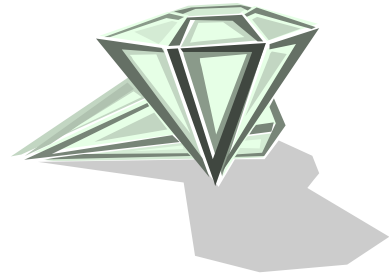
St. Paul was able to focus on the one thing in his life that really mattered – his high calling in Jesus Christ. He was able to let go of excess baggage from the past from which Christ had freed him. He was able to live in anticipation of Christ’s future, complete victory. He was pulled by feedforward, not feedback.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page – Christ’s Passion

Folks, that reality is possible because our Lord willingly suffered and died and rose again for us. It’s the hallmark of the Church when she is at her best. It is the hallmark of dedicated and able Christians when they are at their best, too.

May this Lenten and Easter season empower you to rise above the past to experience in the present the confidence that our future victory is secured by the very One, who is Lord over all.



“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



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.



FROM THE ALLEYS

Submitted by Laurie Burke

UnStopaBowl
Alley Gators
9 & a Wiggle
Holy Rollers
Lane Rovers
Ugly Ducks
Old Goats

As of this writing we're a few days away from our 1st position night of the 2nd half. Who is preparing to meet the 1st half champs? (UnStopaBowl - remember). Following are the standings as we get ready for next Monday - reading from top to bottom:

Shanghai Rollers
Triple Threat
Pretty Lucky Bowlers

If you are interested in learning more about our church bowling league, please ask one of the league officers: Bob and Sandy Shipley, Carol Hahl, or me.

Letter from the Chairperson

We are quickly approaching that time in the 2 year cycle, where we hold elections for the Administrative Board and appoint Chair People to the various standing committees. Therefore, the current Administrative Board is reviewing the Spiritual Gift Data Base for all those who have been given the gift of Administration. We on the Administrative Board understand the commitment it takes to agree to put your name on the ballot. We understand because we have all been there, we are there. We all have busy lives, commitments to family, responsibilities associated with our individual jobs; we even have other commitments at Good Shepherd.

But, each of us at one point in time took the time to pray about the question we were asked to consider – “Would you consider serving as a member of the Administrative Board?” For whatever reason, God came back and said to each of us... “make the time to serve the members of Good Shepherd, I will guide you and support you. For you see I had a reason when I gave you the gift of Administration.”

I ask that each of you who may be approached by a member of the Board to put your name on the ballot or to accept a Chair position on one of the committees to take the time to prayerfully consider the question. I encourage you to make it a two-way conversation with God and wait to hear His answer for you. Don't go into it thinking you know the answer already.

I too found myself in prayer this past year over the same question. I know that God has clearly spoken to me and told me it's OK to step down from my role of Chair Person. You see He has other plans for me. He has led me to take a leadership role in the TRIM process. I am excited about what this process will do for the ministry programs at Good Shepherd and look forward to the time I can devote all of my attention to it. This is not the first time I had a conversation with God about my role as Chair Person. You see, two years ago He asked me to stay a little while longer. God clearly made me see that Good Shepherd was in transition and it was not a good time to ask the congregation to adjust to a

new Chair Person. But now the time has come for me to pursue other avenues of service and ministry.

I thank each of you for your support and encouragement over the years. I thank each of you for your ministry and service. Many of you stepped up over time and took on new roles or kept old roles as we transitioned to a new Pastor. Many of you agreed to spend time away from family and other commitments to serve the ministry of Good Shepherd. Some of you even agreed to serve with me on the Board. For those who have served on the Board and committees, I am so very grateful for your insight, support and prayers. I thank you for your prayers for Good Shepherd, our ministry, the Board and for me. Most of all I thank God for

giving me the gift of administration and even more for the opportunity to use it. I thank Him for the opportunity to serve you and the ministry of Good Shepherd. I also thank Him for the new opportunities He is providing to me. I know that through these opportunities, I will be able to grow the other gifts He has bestowed upon me. I will continue to keep the Board and their service in my prayers and will support them and this congregation in any way that I can.

Serving Joyfully,
Bethanne Meyer

Co-Creating Good Shepherd's Future

A planned changing process that is based on faith is a long-term commitment and we have just begun the process. It is something that is not entered into lightly. Planning requires much more than just a few congregational and committee meetings. It takes three to four years of energetic dedication. The rewards however are great! Becoming clear about God's calling for Good Shepherd and making practical plans to carry that mission out is a worthy goal and can give Good Shepherd a clear focus and renewed spirit.

We have begun the conversations leading up to the actual planning process. We have begun to open the dialogue, but even though we are approaching the end of the TRIM meeting schedule this month, we have only touched the tip of the iceberg, so to speak. As a congregation, we have seen the need for planning, but now must become united around it.

As you continue to pray about your decision to become part of the process think about the potential of a vision-oriented planning process that focuses on helping people grow into faith maturity – that is growing into their love for God and in service and witness to others. Think about this planning process as an on-going dialogue with God and with God's people about God's hopes and dreams for Good Shepherd. It is a time for us to explore

Scripture, and the traditions of the congregation and the community – all toward discerning a faith-filled future for our congregation. Keep in mind that we will have touchstones to help us stay on track and that God's faithfulness will provide guidance and support.

There are 5 stages to this planning process:

Stage 1: Committing – We have decided that we are ready to make some changes and that there is a definite need for change. Just ask the 50 or so people that have attended the first two TRIM meetings. We have entered into a covenant with our planning partners from the NJ District.

Stage 2: Cultivating – We are currently walking through this process via the TRIM meetings. In doing so, we have entered into prayer and the study of God's Word. We have gathered and are walking through the information on our community and congregation. We have been keeping all of you informed regarding all of this via the TRIM meetings, bulletin boards, Staff articles and availability of the TRIM presentations via the church office.

Stage 3: Coming Together – Following our final TRIM meeting and celebration, we will be looking to hold a Vision to Action planning event. It is during this phase that we begin to study our survey and begin to shape the vision and mission of Good Shepherd.

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Stage 4: Creating – During this stage the Vision is refined, action plans are developed and responsibilities for those plans assigned. Those choosing to be involved with the planning will continue to seek support from all congregational members. Evaluations will be created to test the results of the plans

Stage 5: Claiming – It is here where we mainstream the vision. It is no longer a plan or an experiment; it is a way of life and ministry for Good Shepherd. Along the way we have celebrated our success and milestones. Evaluation and adjustments will be a continual process.

Following Step 5, we will probably look to start the process all over again. Several years will have passed and we will have experienced change within the congregation and community. It will be time to gather new information, evaluate it and change our vision and mission accordingly.

Discerning God's mission for the congregation is a task for all the "saints," not just a handful of leaders and members. When lots of people are involved, more gifts and insights surface, we have a broad ownership of the process and the vision, and a greater success rate is assured. The importance of involving each of you is as follows:

- † The "Priesthood of All Believers," reminds us that each Christian listens to God's calling and contributes to the vision.
- † In the church the clergy are not and can not be the only "experts." Rather, the entire congregation should be empowered to participate in the planning of the vision and mission of the church.
- † Our planning will likely have a more lasting, positive impact when it integrates the most widely and consistently held priorities of the congregation as a whole.

The planning has only just begun. Become part of the open dialogues between God and God's people. Become part of the commitment to create a vision and mission for Good Shepherd. Become part of helping others grow into faith maturity – that is growing into their love for God and in service and witness to others. Help yourself grow into that same faith maturity. Help us bring our children and young adults into that faith maturity. Help us make a love for God and service and witness to others a way of life for Good Shepherd and for those within our community. We have been sent to sew the seeds, so lets do it!

**We look forward to seeing you and dialoguing with you at the next two TRIM events:
March 3rd 8:30 AM and March 31st 8:30AM.**

Submitted by Beth Meyer

Good Shepherd Children's Center

WHAT'S NEW AT SCHOOL



The school is starting its last leg of the year. Before I know it we will be welcoming spring and gearing up for graduation ceremonies. I really do not know where the time goes sometimes. When I look around at their faces, it still amazes me

year after year the transformation that they all go through. By February they all seem so grown up compared to the kids they were when they started

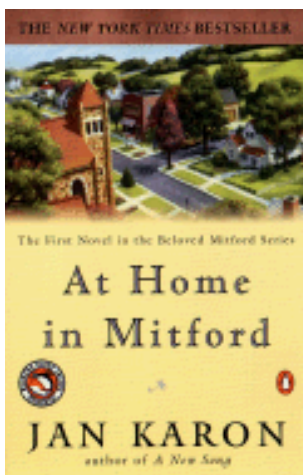
in September. With the winter still very much here, make time for family activities, indoors and out. Take the kids ice skating, go bowling, rent a movie, make dinner together, bake cookies, read a book, play a game, anything to bring your family closer together even if just for a little while.

With everyone going in so many different directions, it's nice to put all of that aside even for an hour. I will always feel that children are our best natural resource, never to be taken for granted, the more positive experiences they are

exposed to as children, the more family morals, values and traditions we instill in them while they are young, the more likely they will grow up to share those experiences with their kids. So, share yourself with that important child in your life.

Lorraine Campo
Director
GSCC

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 from 7:30-9:00 pm We discuss a different Christian fiction or non-fiction book each time we

get together.

****Date Change****

We are meeting on Tuesday, March 20th @7:30pm, in the church library, to discuss, At Home in Mitford by Jan Karon

Please pick up your list of questions that go along with the book. They are in the church library. You can also visit www.mitfordbooks.com, go under reading group guides and get the list there.

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

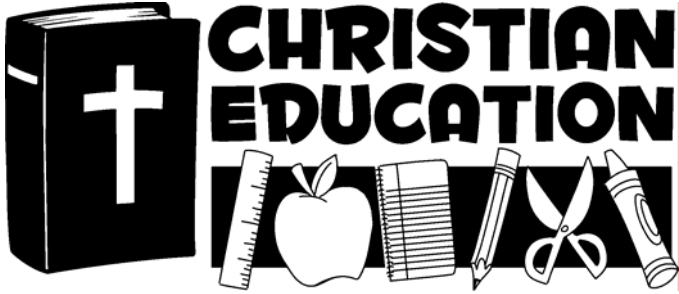
1. Get the book and read it. Some of the books are in the church or public library or you can purchase them at Barnes & Noble, Borders or online.

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!!

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



“When Peace Like a River”

By Amber Brown, Coordinator of Christian Education

You may be familiar with the hymn, “When Peace Like a River” or more often referred to as “It Is Well With My Soul” but as I contemplate this Lenten season, I have heard these words and the poetic strains of this hymn in a new and very profound light. What an amazing thing Christ has done for us...the whole Gospel message is summed up in these few verses...

*When peace like a river attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot
Thou hast taught me to say
It is well
It is well with my soul*

We are blessed with peace and joy, sorrow and pain in our lives, but whatever the Lord gives us, we know that he has taught us in His Word to be thankful for it all. One of my favorite verses is from 1 Thessalonians 5 that reminds us to be thankful in everything. While this is a difficult thing to do, especially when our burdens are too heavy to bear, we know that the things of this world are not permanent...and so it is all “well with my soul.”

*Though Satan should profit
Though trials should come
Let this blessed assurance control
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate
And has shed his own blood for my soul*

There is an ever present battle that is waged around us...a battle that is unseen by us, but very much real. Satan, in some desperate attempts, tries to destroy us with lies, deception and corruption...he may even profit in some of these battles in the

course of our lives- but the truest assurance is that Christ knows our pain and our weakness and that we are powerless against sin. He, therefore, has done the great deed: dying for our helpless souls to rescue us from the wages of sin, which is death.

*My sin- oh, the bliss
of this glorious thought-
My sin, not in part, but the whole
Was nailed to the cross
And I bear it no more
Praise the Lord
Praise the Lord, O my soul*

Oh the incredible and glorious thought that my sin...*all* of my sin was taken to the Cross on my behalf and left there- yes, left there- so that I will never have to suffer for it! Christ has done it *all* for me and I praise Him for it. There are some things in our lives that are just too much to handle, but there is no pain that you or I suffer that can out do the pain Christ suffered on the cross. He bore the sin of the *entire world* on Him. Some days we may feel like we have the “weight of the world on our shoulders,” but there is only One who accomplished that, and He did it all because He loves us.

*And Lord, haste the day
When my faith shall be sight
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll
The trump shall resound
And the Lord shall descend
Even so, it is well with my soul*

Lord, quickly bring the day when my faith and hope become a reality- when I see You in all the glory of the angels and Heaven...at last it is well with my soul. And all of it- all the pain of my life, all the joy of my life- it was worth it all, knowing that no matter what happens this side of Heaven, the blood You shed for me is my every portion. It is that all sustaining grace that releases me from my suffering.

Let us reflect the true sacrifice of this season, knowing the ultimate victory is Easter. Let us sear it into our lives and on our hearts that the greatest achievement of the entire world was victory over death, and it was all done for love!

For Your Information



Happy Birthday to...

Jessica Caban	03/01
Joe Previte	03/01
Jenifer Van Fossen	03/01
Kristi Petersen	03/01
Christine Borkowski	03/03
Charley Breitweiser	03/04
Reanna Hellriegel	03/04
Lisa Qualman	03/04
Nora Schmitz	03/05
Randi Rutan	03/06
Keyvon Green	03/07
Eric Hughes	03/07
Laura Grana	03/08
Brian Furlong	03/08
Garrett MacLean	03/08
Megan Dunne	03/08
Heidi Griswold	03/09
Drew Larkin	03/09
Andrew Cocklin	03/09
Lois Furlong	03/10
Eric Brown	03/10
Rich Holmes	03/11
Alison Schulmeister	03/11
James Coletti	03/12
Bonnie Toth	03/12
Joan Scanlon	03/12

Timothy Siclari	03/14
Mark Conway	03/16
Emily Durando	03/16
Barbara Scanlon	03/16
Kathleen Hogan	03/17
Matthew Schulmeister	03/17
Patricia Logan	03/19
James Toth	03/19
Teresa Figueiras	03/19
Nicolette Craig	03/21
Kathryn Oliva	03/21
Erin Cole	03/21
Rose Parker	03/23
Patrick Coletti	03/25
Nancy Drews	03/25
Timothy Farrell	03/26
Justin Gryszka	03/26
Dale Petersen	03/26
Robert Hahl	03/27
Kaitlyn Wait	03/27
Stephanie Pate	03/27
Rose Teepe	03/28
Siobhan Sabino	03/28
Troy Allen	03/29
William Wait	03/30
Beth Oliva	03/30
Tamara Donaghue	03/31

Happy Anniversary to.....

Priscilla & Randy Seesman	03/09
Charles & Paulette Wilmot	03/17
William & Patricia Wait	03/18
Heidi & Brandon Griswold	03/22
Ken & Michelle Magazzu	03/27
Dani & Kevin Sloan, Jr.	03/29

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Those Recovering

Gunhild Nelson –mother of Carol Hahl

Those in Nursing Homes

Emmy Moore –sister of Katrina Clapsis

Those who are Shut-in

Joan Brenner

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

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 Hatchiffes

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

Gary Kellogg - father of Kyle Kellogg

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

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



Crafter's for Christ!



A new program will begin as an extension of the Women's Ministry. Join the *Crafter's for Christ* on Friday, March 30th, at 7:00 PM. 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. Any questions, donations, or ideas for charities can be directed to Amber Brown.



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. If you attended the "Princess Retreat", you were treated to many Market Day items. If you liked them, order some for your own freezer. They are fast and easy.

Month	Pick up Date	Pick up Time	Paper Orders Due	Internet Orders Due
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 **March** Note



I would like to share some trends in giving over the past year. Our Financial Secretary, Tony Puricelli produced the following summary list that is fairly disturbing:

2006 Annual Giving		
Contribution Range \$	# of Contributors	Total Given \$
0	186	0
1 – 100	57	2,269
101 – 200	24	3,394
201 – 300	16	4,095
301 – 400	9	3,147
401 – 500	12	5,527
501 – 750	13	8,315
751 – 1,000	12	10,850
1,001 – 1,500	24	30,268
1,501 – 2,500	18	34,839
2,501 – 5,000	23	82,417
5,001 – 10,000	14	90,224
10,001 +	5	61,601
Total	413	\$336,948

I wanted everyone to see the patterns of giving and ask themselves one question. Where am I in my giving to the Lord? Let's not look at where we are in relation to any other group or category. We're not going to be judged on where we stand on a relative basis. We will all be judged individually.

We all know that the Lord asks for a tithe as the minimum level of giving. Yet if we take a hypothetical family income of \$50,000, the level of giving should be \$5,000. We all know that most families are earning more than \$50,000, yet our giving does not reflect the gifts and income which are being provided by the Lord. I am asking each family to review their giving levels. What percent of your total annual income is going to the Lord? Could you make a personal commitment to

increase your giving by 1%? A 1% increase across the board will result in a total increase of about \$37,000 this year.

As everyone can see from the Sunday bulletins, we are usually coming up short each week in our contributions and we've had to borrow other funds to cover operating expenses. One percent isn't going to get us out of the hole, but it will get us moving in the right direction. And next year, if you take another step forward in faith, you can increase your giving by another one percent, or more. These steps of faith will get you to the full measure of giving steadily, and as you take each step you will see the additional rewards coming to you from the Lord. Please join in taking that next Step of Faith.

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The second item to discuss relates to the large number of zero contributions. We believe that many, if not most of these are envelopes given to high school and college students who have no income or are away at college or in the service. If you are a parent with several sets of envelopes for children who are away, please bring them into the office and we will remove them from the rolls until such time as the child returns or is in a position to

We will also begin an effort to determine how many of the other families are no longer members of Good Shepherd and remove them from the rolls so we can have a more accurate picture of how many families are really in the Good Shepherd congregation.

Pat Pryor
Stewardship Committee



Monthly
Prayer
Gathering

The next Prayer Meeting will be Tuesday, March 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.

begin making his/her own contributions.



SPECIAL DATES TO REMEMBER

Lenten Services Wednesday

7:30 PM

March 7
March 14
March 21
March 28

Holy Week Services,
Maundy Thursday, April 5
Good Friday, April 6
7:30 PM

The Case of the Kiss- Kiss Diamond

March 23rd, 24th, and 25th, 2007
Dinner Theater 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
March 17th, 2007
6:30 – 10:00 PM
“Breaking the Bondage”



What is a volunteer?

Some common definitions of a volunteer are “*someone who performs or offers to perform a service out of his own free will, often without payment*” or the one I prefer is “*to volunteer is to choose to*

act in recognition of a need, with an attitude of social responsibility without concern for monetary profit, going beyond what is necessary to one’s physical well-being.”

Volunteering is really about giving your time and sharing your talents in activities that benefit others. Often times we don’t even realize we are volunteering – whether that is being part of a committee, helping out in Sunday school or being the secretary of club.

Some people think that volunteering is work but often people enjoy themselves in the volunteer work they are involved in.

What are some of the reasons people volunteer?

It may be simply to help others, but it could also be to overcome boredom or even just to learn about an organization or activity that is of interest. Everyone has a different reason for volunteering but no matter the reason you can get so much out of volunteering. Not only can you learn about yourself but also it offers a great opportunity to meet lots of fun and interesting people. Volunteering is really helping others as we help ourselves!

When we think about our teens there are many ways they volunteer. It can be as simple as baby-sitting for a sibling or neighbor’s children to working outside the home visiting an elderly neighbor, participating in a food drive or acting as a role model to younger children at school or in a club they belong to.

The amazing thing about volunteering is it is not only good for the community but it is also provides a personal gain. Volunteer work can be placed on a resume and reflect well on you when you apply to College or University. Volunteering is easy and doesn’t take that much time.

Who are the Good Shepherd Volunteers?

Volunteers include our Sunday school teachers, student aids, Deacons, Committee chairs and members, the altar guild and each person who does a special thing for the church or another member by contributing your time and talents!

Submitted by Lorraine Morrison





Holy Communion is one of two sacraments in the Lutheran Church.

Lutherans believe a sacrament is a visible way - such as bread and wine - for God to give to us his grace and love. At Holy Communion we remember the meal that Christ shared with his disciples the night before he died. At this meal the bread and wine are the spiritual food needed for our life's journey.

Scriptures Say - As Pastor consecrates the bread and wine, like Matthew, Mark, Luke, and Paul, Pastor says: "Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the night in which he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take eat, this is my body, which is given for you; this do in remembrance of me.'

After the same manner also he took the cup after supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins; this do, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me.'

Benefits of Communion -- The words, "given and shed for you for the remission of sins" point out the benefit of communion for each of us. Through these words we are assured that in the sacrament we receive forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.

This raised the question of how can eating and drinking do all this? -- We know that the physical eating and drinking does not provide the benefit. The words: "Given for you" and "Shed for you to forgive sins," tell us that the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation are given to us through these words in the sacrament. We learn that along with eating and drinking, the main thing in the

sacrament, our belief in these words provide *forgiveness of sins*. We learn that, where and because sins are forgiven, there is life and salvation as well.

How do we prepare to receive this sacrament? -- A person is well prepared and worthy who believes the words, "given and shed for you for the remission of sins." Jesus called us to celebrate Holy Communion until He returns so that each of us may have forgiveness of sins, strengthening of faith, and the power to live God-pleasing lives.

Remember - Jesus calls us to examine ourselves before partaking in communion (1 Corinthians 11:28) each of us ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.

Thank You from The Christo's Family:

Good Shepherd: I want to thank you so much for everything for Christmas. I especially want to thank everyone for caring so much about making my children's holiday special. It touched my heart to have everyone call to see exactly what my children wanted. They all loved each and every thing you gave them!. My son loved his cloths, my other son loved his lego's and even worked on them with his brother. My daughter loved he bear, crafts and build a bear (we will go do it soon!) The gift certificates were wonderful and will come in handy to this single mom!

God Bless You and Your families and I hop you al lhave a wonderful New Year!

Love Genevive, Nicholas, Brandon & Jacqueline
Christo

The Lutheran Church of the Good
Shepherd

www.lc-goodshepherd.org

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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.

Lenten Services – Wednesday 7:30 PM

Youth Fellowship Meetings

2nd and 4th Sunday - 6:00 – 8:00 PM

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God's love at work here!