

The Staff

The newsletter of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

August 2007

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

THE POWER OF YOUR PRESENCE



All across the nation, there has been a downward turn in regular church attendance. Regular worship it seems has been replaced by optional worship. The thought

seems to be that worship is about me – not God and not others. The Divine directive, “Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy,” carries little weight in the lives of some people. Gone is the spiritual discipline of regular attendance. Gone is the powerful concept of community and ministry through presence with one another. With slipping attendance, morale suffers. Others begin to follow suit.

The writer of Hebrews understood this when the Holy Spirit inspired him to write: “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering...and let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as the Day draws near.” (Hebrews 10:23-25)

If you don't know the power of your presence (or lack thereof) on others consider this little poem I came across:

“Ten little Christians standing in line,
One disliked the preacher, then there were nine.
Nine little Christians stayed up late.

One overslept Sunday, then there were eight.
Eight little Christians on their way to heaven,
One took the low road and then there were seven.
Seven little Christians chirping like chicks,
One disliked the music, then there were six.
Six little Christians seemed very much alive,
But one lost his interest, then there were five.
Five little Christians pulling for Heaven's shore,
But one stopped to rest, then there were four.
Four little Christians each busy as a bee,
One got his feelings hurt, then there were three.
Three little Christians knew not what to do,
One joined the sporting crowd, then there were two.
Two little Christians – our rhyme is nearly done,
Differed with each other, then there was one.”

However, this momentum can be reversed as the power of your presence in the life of another is understood in the terms that God has in mind for us together.

“One little Christian can't do much it's true;
Brought his friend to Bible study, then there were two. Two earnest Christians each won one more,
That doubled the number, now there were four.
Four sincere Christians worked early and late,
Each won another, then there were eight.
Eight splendid Christians if they doubled as before,
In just so many Sundays, we'd have 1,024!
In this little jingle there is a lesson true,

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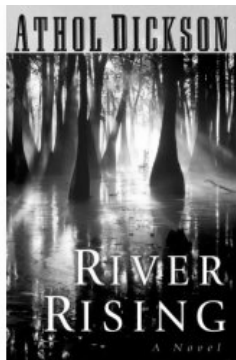
You belong to either the building, or to the wrecking crew!"

My prayer as we move closer to the post-vacation season is that all of us together rededicate ourselves to be regular in worship and in Bible study; that we fill the sanctuary and the classroom, and that we support and encourage each other in the things that make for the real and abundant life as we put first things first in our lives and in the lives of our families and friends.



BOOK CLUB AND DISCUSSION GROUP

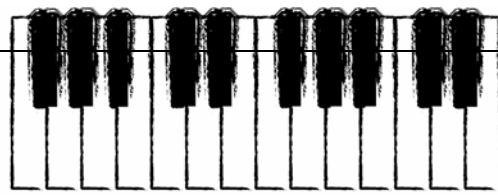
It's that time again!!!



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

*Our first book this year is a novel by Athol Dickson entitled **River Rising**. We will meet on Tuesday, September 11th from 7:30-9:00 pm to discuss it.*

Last year we had a great time discussing six different Christian books and met a number of good



Ed Roynesdal

has been with Good Shepherd as the organist and Senior Choir Director for many many years. He and his family will be moving in August, so we bid you God Speed Ed, Mary, Kristin, and Kari. You will all be missed, and we wish you all the best in your new home. A small reception will be held on August 5th after the 9:00 service.

friends in the process. **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 @ christianbooks.com.
2. Check out the church library (table near entrance) to see if there are discussion questions that go along with the book.
3. ***Take some notes when you are reading*** – things you found interesting or items that might spark conversation. This is a very important step to enhance the experience.
4. Come to the church library on the night that book will be discussed and share your thoughts and insights with the group.

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. Please join us!!!!

June Hullings

Stewardship Report



Living a Stewardship Lifestyle

When we discuss stewardship, we may immediately start to think of giving our time and money. Stewardship certainly involves giving and serving, but, even more, our stewardship is incorporated into a way of life. It does not consist of just isolated events. When God's word and love fill our hearts and minds, our stewardship becomes a lifestyle. As a lifestyle, it defines who we are and what we do. It is our vocation. With transformed hearts, we express our faith in the way we live our lives. Through faith, God provides motivation and power to live the Christian life in a growing awareness of redeeming grace.

In defining stewardship, W. H. Greever wrote, "Christian stewardship is the practice of the Christian religion. It is neither a department of life nor a sphere of activity. It is the Christian conception of life as a whole, manifested in attitudes and actions." Our faithful stewardship,

as it reflects God's love, becomes our approach to life. It is more being than doing. Our deeds of stewardship such as using time wisely or helping the needy arise out of being stewards. Stewards are who we are. Stewardship is a whole life response to God out of gratitude and thanksgiving for all of His love, goodness, and mercy. T. A. Kantonen wrote, "The life of stewardship is nothing less than 'total devotion' to the Christ Who is known as a real, living personal presence in the hearts of believers, a genuine loyalty that is expressed not in mere opinion or sentiment but in character and conduct."

It does not take talented people to be faithful stewards, but it takes all there is of us. It takes our total commitment. Stewardship is our response to God's abundant grace in all aspects of life. This faithful stewardship is only possible when we acknowledge our sinfulness and our forgiveness through faith in Christ. God gives us faith so He can use us to carry out His plan, which is to save all people. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, we acknowledge God in all things and in all places. As faithful stewards, we know that all we have belongs to Him so we can give generously of our time, talents, and money.

Pat Pryor
Stewardship Committee



Please take the time to look at the beautiful new garden created along side the church. Members of the "planting crew" were: Alma & Bethanne Meyer, Joanne & Emily Jocus, Maureen Puricelli, Bill & Alyssa Sardone, Linda Cinquegrana, Kevin Carlson, and

Abby Eaton, with special thanks to Bill Sardone for bringing in his heavy digging equipment. We would **still** be digging if it wasn't for him.

We would also like to thank the Morganville Flower Farm. They donated all the plants for us to use.

For Your Information



Happy Birthday to...

Kaitlyn Cuisinier	8/01
Katerina Pate	8/01
Paulette Hacker	8/02
Amber Brown	8/03
Timothy Arnold	8/05
Jessica Norberg	8/05
Theodore III Mottola	8/06
Ian Hoehl	8/06
Barbara Wittig	8/07
Shari Turk	8/07
Nicholas Tucci	8/08
Joseph Guy Kotora Sr	8/09
Matthew Steenweg	8/09
Alexus Medina	8/09
Douglas Raba	8/10
Robert Shipley	8/10
Joseph Galaro	8/11
Connor Hullings	8/11
Ryan Kuzma	8/11
Parker Thomas McKenna	8/12
Matthew Donaghue	8/13
Linda Galaro	8/13
Millie Junco	8/13
David Petersen	8/13
Shane Palmer	8/14
Garrett Eaton	8/15
Michelle Carlson	8/16
Bonnie Lo	8/16
Lori Gonzalez	8/17
Michael Svat	8/17
Jovina Donaghue	8/18
Faith Caban	8/19
Scott Wolven	8/19
Eugene Clapsis	8/20
Sydney Wolven	8/20
Carolyn Meitzner	8/21
Martha Dubin	8/21

Anne Deschenes	8/22
Dorothea Link	8/22
Lisa Gergasko	8/23
Michael Donaghue	8/23
Jessica Dlugosz	8/24
Jeff Campbell	8/25
Jonathan Eaton	8/26
Kellyanne Prenderville	8/26
Laurie Burke	8/29
Kelsey Butterwick	8/29
Lester Ebersole	8/29
Chris Parker	8/29
Sydney Gouamba	8/29
Terri Campbell	8/30
Sheryl Kotora	8/30
Lyman Laub	8/30
Kyle DeMarco	8/30
Jean Deschenes	8/31
AJ Porbansky	8/31

Happy Anniversary to.....

Abby & Geoff Eaton	8/04
Brian & Tara Burniston	8/05
Lester & Adelaide Ebersole	8/10
Robert & Susan Frank	8/11
Jennifer & Robert Scarpa	8/14
Rich & Arleen Holmes	8/15
Wayne & Christine Borkowski	8/17
Jeffrey & Mary Ellen Brace	8/17
Linda & Jim Butterwick	8/19
Pat & Toni Pryor	8/20
Ebenezer & Sujata Mallepalle	8/22
Laurie & Thomas Coletti	8/25
Cynthia & Gordon McGrane	8/25
Joseph Guy & Sheryl Kotora	8/28
Tony & Sonya Hansen	8/29
Micah & Dawn Margolis	8/31

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

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Mr. Ed Roynesdal

Music Director
Mrs. Amber Brown

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Director
Mrs. Lorraine Campo
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Those Recovering

Rob Maggazu

Those in Nursing Homes

Emmy Moore –sister of Katrina Clapsis

Leela Mallepalle

Jean Reynolds

Those who are Shut-in

Marion Morgan

Joan Brenner

Irene Inneo

Josie Schubert –mother of Mary Artache

Those with Other Needs

Gunhild Nelson –mother of Carol Hahl

Bobby Pate

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 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

Mino DeMaglie – Brother-in-law of Laurie and Bill Burke

Jean Tjornhom -sister of Marie Bergfeldt
Laurie Burke

Kathy Hogan

Alexander Toth – father-in-law of Jamie Toth

Gary Kellogg - father of Kyle Kellogg

Laurie Troutman – daughter of Child Care Teacher

Marie Giacomini – mother of Bill Burke

Patch Rose – brother-in-law of Dave and Marie Bergfeldt

Peggy DeMarco – friend of the Kotora Family

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

Kathi Farrell

Ruth Cousens – mother of Don Cousens

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

Guy 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

From the 
**Sunday School
 Superintendent**

RALLY DAY

Sunday School starts its 2007/08 year on September 9th with Rally Day. This year everyone is asked to fill out a registration form so we can update our records. Rally Day will be a bit different this year. We hope everyone comes to experience it.

If you are interested in helping out in Sunday School, it is a wonderful and rewarding experience. You can contact Lorraine Morrison, Amber Brown or Laurie Burke.



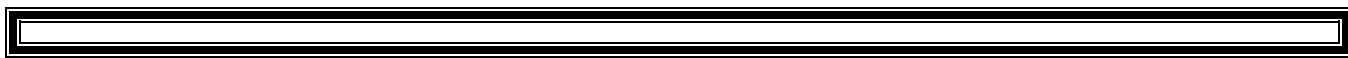
FROM THE ALLEYS

Get ready to dust off those bowling balls! Monday, September 10, is the first night of the 2007/08 bowling year. The night will begin with a meeting at 8:30. We bowl at Strathmore Lanes in Matawan/Aberdeen on Route 34. If you are interested in joining us next




year, please see Carol or Bob Hahl, Sandy or Bob Shipley, or Laurie Burke.

Submitted by Laurie Burke



Alicia DeSena, Becky Rutan, Chrissy Sereda, Dan Bergfeldt, Christian Hawley, and Bobby Shipley are in Orlando, and will report back for the September Staff.



Women's Bible Study News

The Women's Bible Study would like to invite all women to join us in September when we start a new Bible study. We have a very diverse group who attend each week and they are a very lovely group to be around. Besides growing together in our faith walk, they have been a wonderful support to each other. If you are interested in attending the Bible Study or just want to ask questions, please feel free to contact Jill O'Connor at (732) 547-7612.



Women's Ministry Schedule of Events

By Amber Brown,
Coordinator of Christian Education


“Women of Faith” – September 14–15 – Tickets have been ordered! We are so excited to be going with a group of 30 women this year! Hotel arrangements are being made and you will be advised as to the costs for an overnight. If you missed out on the sign-ups, see Amber ASAP as we have a few tickets available. If you have not yet paid for your ticket, please see Amber. The cost of the tickets are \$109.00. This includes lunch for both days.

“Fit Him In” – Good Shepherd’s Christian Aerobics class will recess for the summer as it is difficult to schedule classes with vacation plans and such. Keep working on your DVDs at home, though, and get that choreography down! We’re looking into some new DVDs for the Fall as well as Christian Pilates. See you in September!

August 31st: “Crafters for Christ” – What projects do you want to do this month? Want to run a class? Also looking to start a scrapbooking club over the summer. Interested? See Amber Brown.

“REVOLVE TOUR” November 2–3 – Were you one of the 15 teen girls that joined us for this amazing event last November? Well the REVOLVE TOUR is back again and it’s better than ever! With speakers, music and an all star line-up (yes that includes Chad Eastham) this is a trip you don’t want to miss! The REVOLVE TOUR is a weekend event for teen girls — a fun, fast-paced, action-packed time when thousands of teens pile into an arena to hear about how much God loves them. We will need some adults to guide us through the city of Philly, so if you feel you can take on a group of teen girls in the city, see Amber Brown for more information. Sign-ups for the REVOLVE TOUR will start soon so watch for details!

Please save your soda pop tops and bring them to church. One of the confirmation small groups are collecting these to “buy” time on dialysis and other life-saving machines for young patients. There is a container in the kitchen (a milk jug) by the soda machine and recycling container.



Thank you for your support.



Amandla Crossings Need Diapers

Submitted by Paulette Hacker, Chairman
Missions Committee

The mothers of Amandla Crossings are moms who were homeless. They are learning to become better moms, to manage their finances and are getting the skills they need to get a job. They are on a limited income and are in need of diapers, sizes 4–6 for their babies. Please deposit the diapers (partially used packages are welcome) in the playpen in the Fellowship Hall.

**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

Worship Services

Sunday Communion Service

Summer Hours

July 1 – September 2, 2007

9:00 AM

Sunday School starts September 9, 9:15 AM

Adult Bible Classes – 9:30 AM

Youth Fellowship Meetings

2nd and 4th Sunday - 6:00 – 8:00 PM

GS Children's Center

732-679-8887

Mrs. Lorraine Campo, Director

gsc@lc-goodshepherd.org

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God's love at work here!