

The Staff

The newsletter of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

September 2007

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



One of the things I enjoy doing at home is cooking outside. My favorite is meat of every source. I love making rubs, sauces and marinades combined with

special seasonings and ingredients. I love finding new recipes and new combinations to try. Every once in a while I find an interesting recipe and try it out. I was working with a new one once and everything was going well- a half-a-cup of this, a teaspoon of that. Then it happened! The last instruction for the recipe said, "season to taste."

Now I was in trouble. Season what? Season with what? To what taste? How many teaspoons are in a taste? Do I season with salt and pepper or garlic powder? I could follow the recipe well enough. I could add cups and tablespoons. Those are things that I can measure and count. "Season to taste" makes me nervous.

We all like to follow directions. They make us feel safe and confident in what we're doing. They are neat and tidy and don't require any thought, creativity, or risk. How nice it would be if everything were like that in our lives. It would be nice to go on line and look up recipes for parents and children. We could find directions on "How to raise honest and responsible children."

There would also be recipes for friends and co-workers. In these wondrous recipes there would

Cookbook Discipleship

always be clear instruction. Nowhere would we find anything like "season to taste."

Wouldn't it be nice to have a cookbook for our faith, too? We could find lists of specific ingredients and measurements that would tell us how to please God and win his favor. Do this twice each day. Say a kind word to a stranger once a week. Add morning and evening prayer and mix well. We would be sure that we were pleasing God. Plus – I wouldn't have to put more in than what was called for in the recipe. I could save all the rest to use as I please.

As the children of God and disciples of Christ, we must realize that we cannot measure our life of discipleship in a measuring cup. We cannot serve God with part of ourselves and keep the rest for our private use. You see, the Christian life is not, and has never been, a matter of doing something. It is **becoming something!** It began in the gracious waters of our baptism when our old life was drowned and a new life in Christ was born.

Faith and discipleship are not recipes to be followed in order to get God to love and grace us. Faithful lives that are pleasing to God are the ones that are lived caring for and serving others as we love the Lord God with all our hearts, minds, souls, being transformed by the renewing of our minds, have the same mind that was also in Christ.

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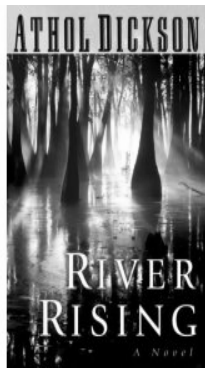
Recipes are good and have their place, but serving God is not following a recipe. It is following and serving a person – Jesus Christ! Lives lived like that season the lives of others. We are to “season to taste” the world around us as we live as “salt”.

I am so grateful to God for so many of you here at Good Shepherd who are eager to live those seasoned lives. As our ministries once again move into high gear, let’s all pray that together we might be empowered by the Holy Spirit to carry out a discipleship that has been “seasoned to taste” by the real and active love of Christ our Lord.



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

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

Transformation and Renewal in Ministry (T.R.I.M.)

Submitted by Beth Meyer

The big question is **WHAT**. **WHAT** kind of purposes and planning are we talking about? **WHAT** is our central purpose? **WHAT** is our mission? **WHAT** does God call us to be and do in our community and the world? **WHAT** vision do we have in how our congregation will respond to God's calling?

Now – **WHY**? **WHY** do we even have to answer these questions at all? Here are a few good reasons:

- ❖ Research and experience demonstrates that having a clear vision, purpose, and sense of direction, renews energy and commitment in congregations.
- ❖ Many congregations have lost a clear notion of purpose. In one denomination surveyed, only about half of those who responded said their congregation has a clear vision of what it is trying to do. And only 2 out of 5 can clearly explain their congregation's purpose or vision.
- ❖ Being clear on God's mission and a shared vision of the future gives a focus and context for all the planning we do and the actions we take in our congregation. When mission and vision are clear, people are motivated by seeing how their planning and their 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. Change is all around us. Every community is different from what it was even 5 years ago. The same goes for every congregation – you can see how Good Shepherd has changed in 5 years. Unless we understand these changes, we risk having Good Shepherd and the Good News seem irrelevant in the lives of the community and even our own congregational members. A good planning process will bring us face to face with the changes we need to address.

So what does this all mean? It's pretty simple when you get down to it. We participate in Worship each week, we attend Bible Studies and Sunday School, we become enriched via our music program, we offer a strong foundation to our children, etc... But **WHAT** about our community and world?

- ❖ **CAN** we allow ourselves to sit in our warm comfortable seats every Sunday and let so many people die without knowing Christ?
- ❖ **WHAT** kind of effort will it require from us to spread the Good News of salvation?
- ❖ **WHY** would we want to keep it to ourselves?
- ❖ **HOW** could we miss this opportunity and let people continue die unsaved?
- ❖ **WHEN** will we respond to God's calling?

These are the questions you need to ask of yourself. Forget the statistics and research. We can quote numbers all day. When it comes down to it, are **YOU** willing and able to do God's work, to carry out His mission, to answer His call, to serve His people? If you answered yes to any or all of these questions take the time out – just a few hours, to help us plan the purpose and vision for Good Shepherd.

Please make these dates on your calendars:

September 22nd 10 AM
October 26th & 27th (Time to be determined)

We need YOUR opinions, suggestions, and insight into God's plan for Good Shepherd. **Don't miss this opportunity to be heard!**

Stewardship Report



Our Vocation as Stewards

A steward is someone who oversees the affairs for someone else. That person is a caretaker, an administrator, and a manager for an owner. In the time of Jesus, the steward represented a trusted overseer of a household. Jesus said in Luke 12:42: *“Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time?”*

As God’s stewards, we realize that we have been gifted with much. As recipients of God’s blessings, we are managers, not owners. As Paul said in 1 Corinthians 4:7: *“What do you have that you did not receive?”* Everything we are, have, and will be are gifts from God. We have been blessed so we can be a blessing to others. Each of us receives varying amounts of talents and treasures, but all of us are called to be faithful in the stewardship of what we receive. In the words of Jesus, *“From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked”* (Luke 12:48).

We are all stewards. Some of us are faithful stewards who manage God’s blessings in God-pleasing ways, while others mismanage them. Others have chosen to be self-centered stewards who only serve themselves. Some of us may want to be good stewards but lack wisdom. To illustrate this point Paul Lindholm, in his book *First Fruits*, told the story about a man who on a hot summer day decided to stretch out with his pet monkey under the shade of a large tree. When a fly disturbed him, he ordered his pet monkey which was beside him to keep the fly away. The fly landed on the man’s nose and the monkey killed it with a stone, badly bruising his master’s nose. The monkey was faithful but not wise. We can be stewards who at times will do foolish things, but because of His faithfulness, God will forgive us and give us the wisdom we need to be fruitful and God-pleasing stewards.

As God’s stewards, we understand that we are on a journey with Jesus Christ to serve God’s world wherever we are placed. As God sent Jesus, we are sent. We have a high vocation that requires us to have hearts filled with God’s love and minds focused on God’s will. As the Apostle Peter wrote in 1 Peter 4:10: *“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”*

Pat Pryor
Stewardship Committee



The Groth Report – August 2007

From the Word: *One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!! John 9:25*

In Cambodia vision is an extremely loaded issue. During the time of the Pol Pot Regime anyone who wore glasses was in danger of death. The reasoning was that if you wore glasses you were able to read and the plan was to exterminate the educated class in order to dominate the country. Other vision issues here are the environment itself. The dust and dirt in the air provide a catalyst for trachoma and cataracts. Many people have clouded or diminished vision.

But even more serious than the detriments to physical vision is the spiritual blindness that is so much a part of this country. So many people have never heard of the saving love of Jesus. So many people are blind to the love, joy, peace and forgiveness that he brings. So many are searching for the way, the truth and the life that Jesus has to offer them.

Current Events

Much of this month's newsletter will focus on the "vision and sight" that Jesus comes to bring to those who are BLIND.

July saw our first team from M.O.S.T. ministries arrive. They were here to bring physical and spiritual sight. Their first job was to build a basketball court at Trinity Lutheran Church in Battambang. Now, you know the weather here is hot, but this did not stop them. They were out and busy and quickly connected to the youth of the congregation. They worked together, and the youth quickly SAW that Christians cared for them and wanted them to have a place to enjoy and learn about a game and learn about eternal life. Youth and team members prayed together, worked together, and enjoyed the VISION of what Christian fellowship is really all about. By Monday morning anyone could SEE the finished basketball court. What could never be SEEN was the Christian love, the sharing and caring that developed with this project.

Monday started as a bit of a rainy day. We wondered what we would SEE when we arrived at the church for the beginning of the eyeglass clinic and the basketball camp. What we SAW was a

welcome banner and people waiting to be examined. We SAW that Pastor Kosal had done wonderful advance planning with his team. The tents were set up, the rooms were ready, the tickets were handed out and congregation members were there to share the message of Jesus and assist in numerous ways in the running of the clinic. The spirit that was there and developed over the next days was clearly VISIBLE. The response to this work of love was overwhelming. The team saw 750 patients in the three days of the clinic and gave out 970 pairs of glasses (reading and distance glasses are two separate prescriptions). The look on the face of people as they could SEE was a spine tingling, indescribable experience.

At the same time this was happening some team members were teaching the basics of basketball. You should SEE the excitement of the youth as they learned a new game and formed new friendships. They played together and they prayed together. What a wonderful clear VISION of what Christians do together in the Body of Christ.

Both of these activities helped CLEAR the VISION in spiritual ways. The support and sharing of fellow Christians from the US was awesome. The sharing of the Trinity Congregation with fellow Cambodians was moving. Their witness was strong and their invitation CLEAR. They had a real VISION of this week's goal to share the love of Jesus and the message of salvation with the people in their village.

Also this month we were privileged to share the VISION with Darin Storkson, the Asia director of Lutheran Church Missouri Synod World Relief and Human Care. It is clearly a privilege to understand the ways that we can partner and bring the message of salvation through projects and ministries that point to our Savior Jesus Christ. Keep WATCHING for more of what is happening with this partnering ministry.

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Groth Report Continued from previous page

This month we also SEE our move to Sihanoukville. We really feel that God is directing us there and that we have much work to do in helping Christian leaders there learn more about the faith and to help them improve their English. Also we will be working with the school that has been waiting for a teacher, as now one will be provided. We want to be sure that we SEE quality education and strong emphasis on learning faith in Jesus in this classroom.

How is your VISION? Who have you helped to SEE that Jesus is Savior and Lord? Perhaps this month someone will say because of your witness – “I was blind but now I see.” After all, isn’t a clear vision of salvation and heaven the best eyesight of all!!!!

Focused on Him,

Chuck and Jeanette Groth



Mini Workday Parties



Thanks go to Linda Cinquegrana, Abby Eaton, Emily Jocus, Joanne Jocus, Kevin Carlson, Alma Meyer, Bethanne Meyer, Alyssa Sardone, and Bill Sardone, for their help in putting in the flower garden between the fellowship hall and the parking lot and next to the dumpster across from the education wing. And thanks go to Morganville Flower Farm for their donations.

Thanks also go to Bill Bleistein, Tom Rutan, Ed Siclari, Randi Rutan and Pat Pryor for their help in moving our mailbox and painting lines for the fire lane.



Why go to Church?

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

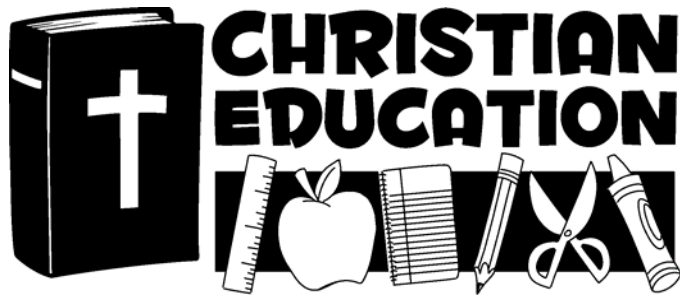
"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these

meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!" When you are DOWN to nothing.... God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!

When Satan is knocking at your door, simply say, "Jesus, could you get that for me?"

Happy moments, Praise GOD!
Difficult moments, Seek GOD!
Quiet moments, Worship GOD!
Every moment, Thank GOD!

Author Unknown



“Get Low and Go”

by Amber Brown, Coordinator of Christian Education

Recently, I had the thrilling and unexpected experience of being at the church when the fire alarm went off. You may have been in a situation similar to this; ho-humming your way through mindless tasks, when all of a sudden you are jolted back to your senses by loud, blaring, screaming, wailing, ear-piercing, blood-curdling noise overhead. I remember my school-day fire drills and rehearsals of “stop, drop, and roll,” but since it has been (you fill in the blank) years since my school-day drills, it took me a few seconds to snap out of my dumbfounded stupor and spring into action. It was quite ridiculous, in retrospect, that I just stood there, not sure what to do, when my first instinct should have been to respond to my remedial fire drill training and get out of the building- of course this did occur to me, after about 30 seconds when the initial shock wore off--I also needed to get away from the noise (there is a reason why fire alarms are so loud and obnoxious--who would want to stick around and listen to all that racket?!) As far as I could tell, I was not in immediate danger. I did not see or smell smoke, but the kids were with me, as well as my trusty-super-side-kick babysitter, Danielle Stacy, and so out of the building we went. After some confusion and the sense of “where am I?” we were treated to the fanfare and exhibition of the fire trucks and police arriving, in full pomp and splendor, with lights blazing and sirens blaring. As police are asking me questions and the firemen are securing the building, my children are staring wide-eyed at the flurry of activity and I, stupefied, am still trying to unravel what has just occurred in the past 6 ½ minutes of my life.

When all was said and done, no one knew why the alarm went off, but the building was determined safe to re-enter, so I took a deep breath and then took assessment of what had just happened. As a home schooling mom, I am always looking for educational opportunities for my kids, albeit, I would have preferred this learning experience without all of the regalia of a fire truck light parade, but nonetheless, I thrust into a full review of fire safety with AJ (as Eric and Emily participate with bedazzled confusion) and remind him “If you see smoke, get low and go; if you think you are in trouble, get on your knees and go...”

Now, as a mom, I can be practical and sensible in this regard, but as the Coordinator of Christian Education (knowing I have a *Staff* article deadline and a wondering sense of ‘what am I gonna write about this month?’) I am spurred into a whole theological inner monologue and I begin to contemplate that as Christians, what do we do when we get into trouble? We need to remember, just as in the situation of a fire, to ‘get low and go’- go to God in prayer, that is. So often our first reaction when we are in trouble or lost is exactly what I did: stand around and say “Duh- what do I do now?” But our evacuation plan is right there in front of us- the saving grace of Christ--and He is waiting for us to go to Him in that troubled time, low and on our knees, humble and in need, and pray. It is so easy to get disconnected in times of trial and crisis, just as I was detached from my childhood fire safety instruction, but that is the time when we need to go to Him the most. It must be remembered that we are the ones who stray and forget our evacuation plan, not God. He is still there, never moving, unchanging, waiting to soothe, calm, relieve and quiet our pain, and this sure and secure fact brings peace to me and my troubled soul. Just as a firefighter is there to rescue from the fire, so is Jesus, and He has done all of the hard work already- we simply need to trust and believe.

I am becoming aware of a sad, but true, fact that as I get older and “grow up,” I am actually encountered with real life issues- death, illness, financial crisis,

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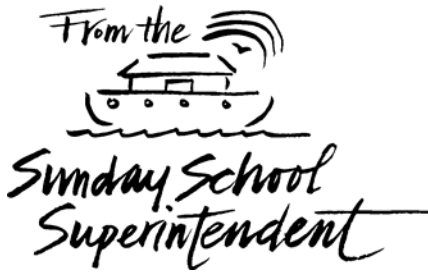
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turmoil, mayhem...I think I always knew of these things, either by default or in minor situations, but now I really *know* them and I see dear ones around me dealing with the same thing- too many of my friends, it seems, are sick or are barely making ends meet or are dealing with a drama or trauma or situation or crisis that almost seems too great to bear. And as I sit and mourn over losses and stew in my own pain and the pain of others, I realize that I am not making it a priority to go to the Great Rescuer, yet He is always there to call me out of my reverie. He draws me close as I weep on His shoulder and blubber on and on about how things are going...What a comfort to know that His shoulders are so vast that He can bear, not only all of my sorrow and pain, but that of the whole world. He did that for us on the tree and carried the burden for *everyone*. No matter what I am going through, Jesus already suffered it for me on the cross and He

is waiting for me to lay it on Him again. Nothing surprises Him, nothing is too much for Him to handle and nothing will keep His love from us. There is such peace in that...

I believe this church fire alarm occurrence has been a wake up call to me (and the Lord gently chuckles at how ridiculous I have been as it should take a blaring fire alarm to wake me up) and I will now keep in the forefront of my mind that familiar phrase “get low and go!” Going to God in prayer is the first plan of action for me, knowing there is nothing but safety, security and sanctuary in His presence.

P.S.- The end result of this whole incident in our family produced a humorous proclamation from my quick-witted-almost-six-year-old-son: “Hey Mommie, when I saw those fire trucks, I sure was *alarmed!*”



SEPTEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

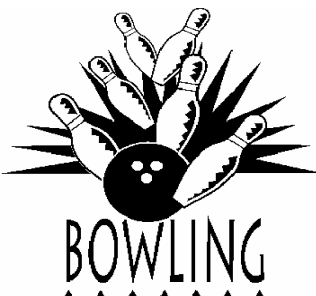
- 9th – Rally Day
- 16th – Jacob’s Family
- 23rd – Esau Forgives Jacob
- 30th – Joseph & his brothers

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.

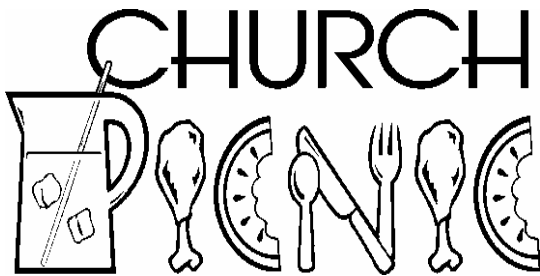
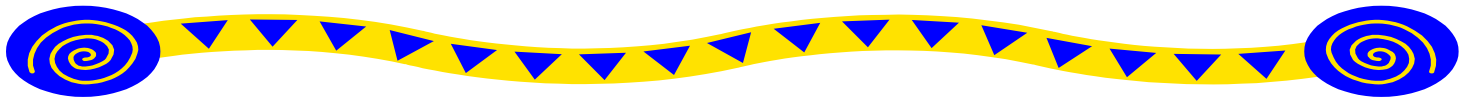


FROM THE ALLEYS

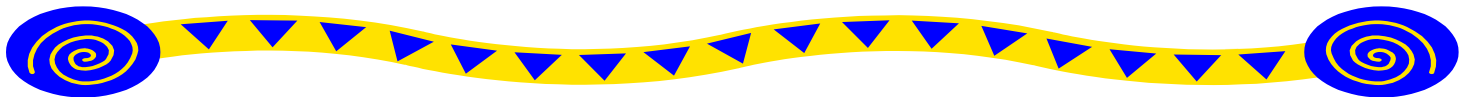


Get ready to dust off those bowling balls! Monday, September 10, is the first night of the 2007/08 bowling year. The night will begin with a meeting at 8:30 pm. We bowl at Strathmore Lanes in Matawan/Aberdeen on Route 34. If you are interested in joining us next year, please see Carol or Bob Hahl, Sandy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

Submitted by Laurie Burke



Please join us on Sunday, September 23rd, immediately following the 10:30 service. We will be meeting at Geick Park again this year. Bring your outdoor play equipment, i.e. baseball bat, gloves, ball, volleyballs, basketballs etc. Join in the fun. We will be having our annual pie eating contest. Who will be the winner this year? Bring snacks to share with the group. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided. Hope to see you all there.



NEW PHOTO DIRECTORY

Olan Mills will be taking individual and family pictures for our **NEW** photo directory. The sign-up sheets will be in the fellowship hall from Saturday, September 8th through Sunday, September 16th. Photos will be taken Tuesday, October 16 (3:00 – 9:30 PM), Wednesday, October 17th (3:00 – 9:30 PM), Thursday, October 18th (3:00 – 9:30 PM), Friday, October 19th (3:00 – 9:30 PM), and Saturday, October 20th (10:00 – 5:00 PM).

If you have any questions, please give Marie a call in the office.

For Your Information



Happy Birthday

to...

Joan Hullings	9/01
Brian Puricelli	9/01
Ebenezer Mallepalle	9/01
Leah Craig	9/01
Jennifer Scarpa	9/01
Brian Farrell	9/02
Ryan Hall	9/02
Jamie Toth	9/02
Rosemarie Staudinger	9/03
Nicholas Massa	9/04
Adam Toth	9/04
Ryan Flynn-Stead	9/04
Kenneth Lisk	9/05
Randy Seesman	9/05
Katherine Galaro	9/07
Kayla Breitweiser	9/08
Bill Gryszka	9/08
David Palmer	9/09
Bianca Medina	9/09
Eileen Arzberger	9/10
Pauline Skrok	9/10
Gail Previte	9/11
Jim Hatcliffe	9/11
Justin Gonzalez	9/13
Robert Allen	9/15
Dean Olson	9/16
Annette Hansen	9/16
Robert Shipley	9/19
Emily Jocus	9/20
Ryan McGrade	9/21
Jessica Waite	9/22
John Coluzzi	9/24
Silvia Herbert	9/25
Laura Allen	9/25
AJ Brown	9/25
Gloria Carias	9/27
Joseph DeVito III	9/27

Steven Humiston	9/28
Anthony Massa	9/28
John Casey	9/29
Robert Kotora	9/30
Kristen Raba	9/30
Kaitlyn Svat	9/30

Happy Anniversary

to.....

Brian & Bonnie Lo	9/01
Jeffrey & TerriLynne Shear	9/04
Jill & Timothy O'Connor	9/06
Lois & Douglas Raba	9/07
John & Sherri Cocklin	9/07
Gail & Joe Previte	9/09
Tom & Joanne Jocus	9/10
Bill & Christine Bleistein	9/12
Ed & Yvonne Siclari	9/13
Charles & Lori Myers	9/16
Jung & Christine Kim	9/17
Enrique & Millie Junco	9/17
Thomas & Randi Rutan	9/17
Bill & Marlene Gryszka	9/19
Jovina & Michael Donaghue	9/20
Wayne & Marianne Krawiec	9/23
Arthur & Rosemarie Staudinger	9/25
David & Alexis Dill	9/27
Alan & Rose Marie Cline	9/29
Susan & Robert Ryan	9/29
Thomas & Deborah Conover	9/29

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

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Director
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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

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

Bobby Pate

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

Rob Farrell

Dustin 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

Darrin 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

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 have been made and you will be advised as to the costs for an overnight. 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. Please check the Christian Education board for room sign-ups and rides.

“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 on September 8th!

“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!



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.



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. The book we will be working on is: Focus on the Family – Balanced Living. 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.

WE ARE A CHOSEN PEOPLE

Submitted by: Alicia DeSena

After waiting three years, we were finally at the National Youth Gathering. Returning to Orlando was bittersweet. We were supposed to be in New Orleans. There was sadness that the beautiful city was still hurting. Yet, there was incredible joy that Orlando welcomed us back with open arms.



The excitement was electrifying as everyone gathered for the first Mass Event. Trying to get the attention of 25,000 teens and youth workers is not easy. So, how does one do it? As we sat impatiently waiting for the Gathering to start we heard a voice sing:

“WE’RE A CHOSEN PEOPLE!
A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD!
A HOLY NATION!”

With those three statements, a hush fell over the convention center and the Gathering started. For the next five days, we knew when we heard that chant, good things were to come.

For five days we lived at the convention center. Each morning started with Bible Study as we dug into 1 Peter and were reminded that we are CHOSEN TO THE WORLD, CHOSEN IN CHRIST and CHOSEN WITH OTHERS. Tied to each of these three tracks were Hear It and Live It areas for us to explore and expand on what we learned in Bible Study.

The *Hear It* sessions gave everyone an opportunity to see speakers who discussed something that interested them. From learning what the true definition of addiction is to discovering that the love of green beans is different than loving your grandma, each speaker reminded us that we are CHOSEN. God chose us! The *Live It* areas allowed us to live our Bible Study lessons. Meeting with organizations that serve children in other countries, painting a school bus that will be sharing the Chosen message this school year and building a shed that will be in the yard of a Habitat for

Humanity house, were all ways we were able to put God’s message into action.

There was also the ChoZone. This area was filled with district booths, activities and other informational areas. One afternoon, we worked the NJ District Booth and we had a blast. There were two areas, the ball toss game and the prayer nails. During our shift, Bobby owned the ball toss zone! He ran that area on his own as Becky, Chrissy, Dan and Christian were busy painting nails. Our guys not only got their nails done but they also had a line of people waiting for them to do their nails! Other churches worked the booth during the Gathering but there was never a bigger crowd than when Good Shepherd was there! How could anyone argue with our crew as we yelled in our best Jersey Shore boardwalk voice,

“JESUS DIED FOR YOUR SINS. THE LEAST YOU CAN DO IS GET YOUR NAILS DONE FOR HIM!”

I was happy that another generation of LCGS youth could see Bob Lenz, Lost and Found, Fusebox and Echelon. Bob is an amazingly gifted speaker who is passionate about bringing young people to Christ. He tied his message of BGTF (By Grace Through Faith) into the Chosen theme with a handy saying, “I am not a loser when God is the chooser!” Lost and Found, Fusebox and Echelon entertained and shared God’s message through great music and good times.

For the first time, the next Gathering location was not announced at the end! Although we don’t know where we’ll be, I know Good Shepherd will have another amazing group of young people going home transformed by God’s love.

Being Chosen Changes Everything

Submitted by *Chrissy Sereida*

What self-respecting teenager wants to wake up at four-o'clock in the morning (in the middle of summer vacation!) to drive to the airport? This question is easy to answer. Lutheran ones, of course, especially when the plane they're getting on is headed straight towards the 2007 National Youth Gathering in Orlando, FL. Who doesn't want a vacation without parents?!

That was the first thought that crossed all of our minds, but what we didn't realize, was that we were going to experience so much more than that. Originally, I was only going because I wanted to have a good time with four of my best friends. We were going to make jokes, play games, and just be teenagers. After the first day of the Gathering, my perspective on the trip completely changed. In only one Hear-It session, a small group workshop, the way I saw my own life was flip-flopped. When the Gathering guides told us that "being chosen changes everything," they weren't lying.

Chap Clark, a Hear-It speaker at the Gathering and the author of *Hurt*, influenced me the most. Not only was he funny, he was honest and memorable. The way he spoke cut straight through to my heart. Right away he had me thinking about how much Christ had already changed my life. I was surprised to see myself learning so much from something I thought would just be fun.

Then he asked us a question. "Who, in this room, has been used as an instrument of Christ to save another person?" There were only a few handfuls of people who raised their hands confidently. For the rest of the week, during other Hear-It sessions, Mass Events and concerts, I found more incredible aspects of myself that I never knew before. My outlook on everything in my life had changed. I was the same old Chrissy, but I had a new attitude and lease on life. But in the back of my mind, Chap's question was tearing at me. I still questioned myself. How did I even make it this far? What made me even come back to Bible Study and youth group in the first place? Who helped save me?

I continued to think about who could have been Christ's hands. I knew I was chosen in Christ. Out of all the lost sheep in the world, Christ chose to save me. He is the reason I regained my faith. And then it came to me. I knew who Christ's helper had been. The night the Gathering ended I told Becky Rutan that she should have raised her hand when Chap Clark asked his question. When she asked me why, I could only tell her one thing. "Because Christ worked through you... to save me." It's true: Being chosen changes everything, but...realizing you are, changes even more.

Good Shepherd Children's Center



WHAT'S NEW AT SCHOOL

The summer is coming to a very quick end at Good Shepherd Children's Center. Summer Camp is enjoying its last few days of water fun, sunscreen, bathing suits, and ice pops for treats. The teachers are due back next week to get their classrooms decorated for "Back

To School," to get organized, and to count down to the day the kids start school. Orientation Day for all parents will be held on Wednesday, August 29 throughout the day. Orientation Day is designed for the children to meet other children they will be in class with, introduce teachers to parents and the

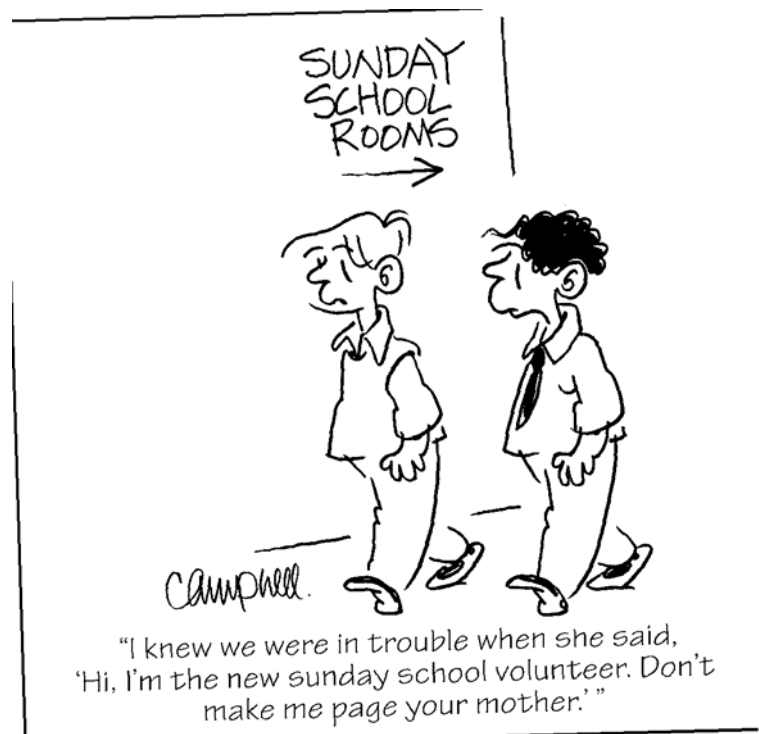
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children, and introduce morning care staff, kitchen staff and all administrative staff. There will be a question and answer session, and I go over the rules and regulations of the school covering illnesses and snow days and anything else that may come up. As all kids go back to school, toward the end of August, it's a good idea to get them back on a normal schedule. Bedtimes and meal times should slowly get back to normal, to ease them back into a school year schedule. Start the kids reading again if they have slacked off a bit, and maybe print out some worksheets from the internet to get their little wheels turning before the first day of school. Snacks and lunches should consist of low sugar juice boxes and snacks. Kool Aid came out with a 10 calorie juice pouch that I personally buy. Pack snacks high in protein instead of sugar like cheese sticks, yogurts, sandwiches on whole grain breads, and 100 calorie packs. These are great ways to curb the sweet tooth, and those foods tend to keep bellies fuller longer, therefore the kids have better attention spans as they sit and play in school.

Lastly, I must close with the fact that Sayreville Pet Adoption Center is overflowing with cats and kittens, and has a nice selection of dogs waiting for their permanent homes. If you are considering adding a family member, consider going to the Sayreville Adoption Center. The people there are really dedicated to the animals they care for. If you cannot adopt at this time, consider making a donation of food, towels, laundry detergent, collars, toys etc. Thanks,

Lorraine Campo
Director, Good Shepherd Children's Center



**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 Service

8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Sunday School starts September 9, 9:15 AM

Adult & Teen Bible Classes – 9:15 AM

Youth Fellowship Meetings

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

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Old Bridge NJ 08857

God's love at work here!