

The Staff

The newsletter of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

December 2007

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



“LET’S FOLLOW THE STAR”

Jane got lost while driving home in a blinding snowstorm. Then she remembered what her father had once advised her, “If you ever get lost in a snowstorm, wait for a snowplow and follow it.” Pretty soon a snowplow came along, so Jane pulled behind it and followed it for almost an

hour. Then the driver stopped got out of his truck, walked back to her car, and asked her what she was doing. She explained that her father had told her to follow a snowplow if she was ever lost in a snowstorm. “Okay,” he said. “I’ve finished plowing the Wal-Mart parking lot. Now you can follow me over to the Kmart.”

In this season of Advent and Christmas, we are reminded again that it’s time to find our way to Bethlehem, where the fullness of God’s love and salvation are cradled in the baby Jesus. It’s a time to remember again all the divine promises and prophecies that God revealed in sending a Savior to rescue and redeem his people forever. It’s time to follow the bright light of God’s Word which leads us to the surest hope and peace we could ever hope to know.

Advent and Christmas are also the perfect time to invite others to come follow and discover the Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord. There are so many people who get swept up and lost in the secular “business” of the holidays. Their joy is so shallow and temporary. Many even suffer from serious

depression during these days. There is little light among the holiday lights.

A young businessman was rushed to the hospital in serious condition, where the doctors who examined him thought he might not survive. He was not a religious man, but prior to his accident he had heard the song, “God Will Take Care of You” on the radio. Ever since then he couldn’t get it out of his mind. Finally, he started to pray, and as he did, he felt a wonderful, hopeful surge of energy. It was Sunday morning, almost Christmas Day. He heard a group of nurses worshiping in a room just down the hall. He struggled out of bed and wheeled himself to the room where he heard the message of Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit understood for the first time ever the meaning of the Savior, and put his faith in him. He recovered from his injuries and remained faithful to Christ for the rest of his life. The young businessman’s name was: J.C. Penny.

At times we still see the bumper sticker or the coffee mug which reads: “Wise men still follow him.” Advent and Christmas send out the same call. As we heed that call ourselves, we, like the shepherds, go out and tell others the great Good News and invite them to follow as well.

I pray that this awe-filled and joyous season will bring you to a new and lasting walk with the “Word made flesh,” Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world!

Pastor Bill Qualman

Thank You notes received

Dear Friends,

The parents, brothers and sisters, and nieces and nephews of Bobby Pate would like to thank you for your kindness and support at a very sad and difficult time in our lives.

The meal that you provided us after the church service was wonderful. We do appreciate it very much.

How comforting it is to know that Bobby had so many friends that cared for him.

Thank you again and God Bless You.

Respectfully,

M. Pate

Dear Friends,

Paulette Hacker came yesterday with the results of your diaper drive and I was so happy that thanks to your generosity and thoughtfulness, our little ones will be well taken care of diaper-wise for a while!

She said that you had collected more than 500 diapers. I stacked the boxes and the packages in the diaper closet and it sure feels like a lot more. And the wipes, and baby bottles too will be very helpful and much appreciated.

We only give a supplementary supply to our young mothers, but they really rely on these donations to help them at the end of the month or provide what is required for daytime use by the childcare program.

You did a great job for our kids and we thank you for the blessing of your generosity.

Jill Millerand
Donations/Volunteer Coordinator

Amanda Crossing

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger.

Luke 2:7



HAVE A BLESSED
CHRISTMAS, AND
A HAPPY
HEALTHY NEW
YEAR.

Where Can I Serve?

Submitted by Jamie Toth

Each one should use whatever gift that has been received to serve others faithfully, administering God's grace in its various forms.--1 Peter 4:10

At Good Shepherd, opportunities for service come in a wide range of interests and specialties. We have been blessed with the talents and gifts of many members who lend their abilities to serve on committees, and we thank all of them for their hard work, dedication, and commitment.

We firmly believe every person is blessed with a unique capacity to serve. We welcome you to take an active role in the ministry we call Good Shepherd - your talents and gifts are valued by us in service to our Lord.

If you are interested in more information or would like to join a particular committee, please contact the Committee Chair as designated by ** in the lists below.

Building & Grounds: *Administers any necessary repairs required on the Church or Parsonage buildings, including property renovations and emergency repairs. In addition, oversees the regular custodial care of the building and grounds of both the Church and the Parsonage, including janitorial service, grounds keeping, and painting.*

Members: Tony Hansen **, Lyman Laub, (Member Emeritus), Tim O'Connor, Maureen Puricelli, Tom Rutan, Dave Schulmeister, Bob Shipley, Sandy Shipley, Ed Siclari

Family Life & Fellowship: *Initiates the planning of special fellowship events, such as the annual Mother-Daughter and Father-Son events, coffee hours, potluck dinners, bus trips, etc. Responsible for enhancing the work of the Parish Education/Youth committee by developing and executing programs, both educational and social, with a Christian emphasis that will address the contemporary issues and concerns facing all types of family units today.*

Members: Pat Breitweiser, Kathy Hogan **, Elizabeth Pedersen

Missions: *Develops programs to educate the congregation in the areas of the mission work of the*

Lutheran Church, establishes mission programs within the congregation, and encourages individual support of mission projects. Some of our partners are: LCMS World Missions, and LCMS World Relief.

Members: Lillie Battle, Alexis Dill, Paulette Hacker **, Annette Olson

Outreach: *Oversees the welcoming of new members to the congregation, and ministers to congregational members in time of need. In addition, conceives and implements programs for the systematic visitation in the area for the purpose of sharing the ministry and programs of Good Shepherd with our neighbors.*

Members: Nancy Drews, Leslie Green, Linda Gustafson, Pat Pryor, Toni Pryor **, Adrianna Salzer, Jamie Toth, Maryann Turk

Parish Education & Youth: *Supervises, in conjunction with a talented staff of volunteer teachers and assistants, all areas pertaining to Christian education, including the Sunday School, Confirmation program, Vacation Bible School and Youth Groups.*

Members: Amber Brown **, Laurie Burke, Alicia DeSena, Jill O'Connor, Lara Pudwell, Pastor Qualman

Stewardship: *Educates the members of Good Shepherd on the concepts of Christian Stewardship and encourages them to live out those principles in their everyday lives. Focuses the majority of their attention on Stewardship within the Good Shepherd community, with an emphasis on stewardship as part of the whole life experience.*

Members: Abby Eaton, Bob Hahl, Eileen Loughman-Sabino, Pat Pryor **, Tony Puricelli Bob Shipley

Worship & Music: *Plans special worship services and worship formats during the church year. Such special services in the past have included gospel and contemporary music, and drama productions.*

Members: Mary Artache, Marie Bergfeldt, Christine Borkowski, Amber Brown, Laurie Burke, Pastor Qualman **, Tom Rutan



Submitted by Lara Pudwell

What's Happening in the Youth Group:

We had FOURTEEN people attend our November movie night, and we plan for December to include even more exciting fellowship opportunities.



On Friday, December 7th from 8pm-8am we will hold a lock-in at the church. This will include our December youth meeting, plus an entire night of movies, games, snacks, and other fun.

On Saturday, December 15th we will make a trip to NYC to enjoy the Christmas decorations and “hang out.”

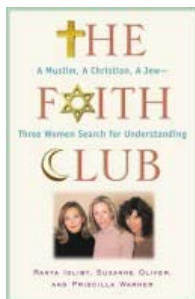
You can keep up with what the group is doing and see pictures at our webpage: <http://youth.lc-goodshepherd.info/>. We also have a MySpace page at http://www.myspace.com/lcgs_youth.

Looking forward to seeing you December 7th

BOOK CLUB AND DISCUSSION GROUP

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

Please join our Book Discussion Group. We're already in our third year together and have read many interesting and inspirational books. We have some members who come every time but some others pick and choose which books they would like to read. Either way is fine! It's a great opportunity to meet people and share thoughts about what you read in a comfortable setting. We meet the **second Tuesday of every other month, from 7:30-9:00pm (unless otherwise noted). January 8, 2008.** We discuss a different Christian fiction or non-fiction book each time we get together.



Our first book of 2008 will be:
The Faith Club:
A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew –
Three Women Search for
Understanding by Ranya Idliby,
Suzanne Oliver and Priscilla
Warner.

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 display in the library to see if there are any questions that go along with the book that we will use to help us in our discussion.
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.
5. Remember, you can come for one book or all of them – it's up to you!!

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at Junedh1@aol.com or call me at (732)995-3613. 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



We are Accountable

work and effort. It conveys our responsibilities, not to take our tasks lightly.

However, we know that God is always with us, and, with His help and strength, we can accomplish much.

We are accountable to God because He is the creator and owner of all. We become His stewards because He has chosen to entrust us with His love, grace, and mercy for which we are to render faithful and wise service. As the Apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 4:2, *“Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.”* Jesus’ words, recorded in Luke 12:48 are, *“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.”*

God, Who loves us and calls us each by name, will enable us to be faithful and accountable stewards.

The need for us to be accountable is well illustrated in the Parable of the Talents found in Matthew 25:14-30. Three servants were entrusted with a lot of money before their master went on a journey. One servant was given five talents, one two, and one one. They were given a period of time to put their funds to work. In Matthew 25:19 we read, *“After a long time the Master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them.”* The servants knew the Master would return from his trip, and they would have to give an account of the money given to them. There would be a Day of Judgment, an accounting of their responsibilities. Two servants were very faithful and went out and invested their talents wisely, and they heard the words we all want to hear, *“Well done, good and faithful servant”* For those who do well, the accounting is a time for rejoicing. If a man is able to turn his talents from five into ten, he is praised for doing good work.

The parable is truly a picture of life itself. We are born into the world with certain talents and abilities which we do not choose. They are gifts from outside us, talents from God. Each of us is given a period of time in which to use these talents—our life span. Then at the end, beyond death, comes judgment, an accounting to render of our days upon earth.

As stewards, we understand our need to be responsible in our stewardship because we know that we at some time we will be held accountable. Our accountability provides an encouragement for us to use our time, talents, and treasures faithfully and properly. Accountability does imply hard

Submitted by Pat Pryor



From the 
**Sunday School
 Superintendent**

As Advent begins, we prepare for the

celebration of the birth of Jesus. The students are also preparing for the Sunday School Program, which will be on December 16th at the 10:30 service. There will be a special practice on Saturday December 15th. Grades 1 – 4 will meet at 9:00 AM, practice will end by 10:00 AM. 5th and 6th grades will meet from 11:00 to 12:00. The teachers will meet between the practices.

Remember the 2nd Sunday of the month (December 9th) is Opening in Church. There is no Parent Visitation Sunday in December. The 3rd & 4th grades will have their Parent Visitation on January 13th.

DECEMBER CALENDAR

December 2nd – The birth of John foretold, Mary visits Elizabeth.

December 9th – The Birth of John

Saturday, December 15th, Practice for the Christmas Program

9:00AM -10:00AM Grades 1, 2, 3, 4

11:00AM -12:00AM Grades 5, 6

December 16th -- (whole group practice during Sunday School.)

10:30AM Service -- CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

December 23rd -- DVD Presentation - "He Is Born", Grades Pre-K through 4th

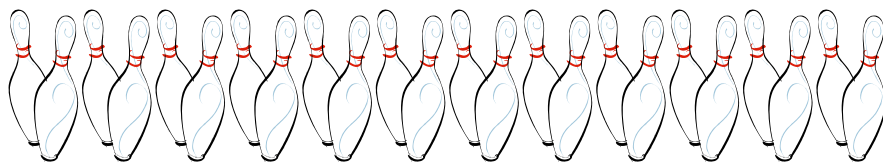
5th – 7th Grades "The Birth of Jesus"

December 30th - NO CLASS

(classes will resume January 6th)

Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

Submitted by Laurie Burk



FROM THE ALLEYS



BOWLING

With only the Lucky Strikes holding their position, the teams are moving all around. At the moment the Old Goats

hold 1st place followed by Split Decision, Discreet Indians, Pin Heads, Triple X, Salty Crabs, The Outlaws, Beer Frame, Holy Rollers, and Lucky Strikes.

We would like to welcome Nicole Onorato who is now a Discreet Indian replacing Tara

Lange. She joins her brother Tony and Jon Artache. And on Monday November 12th bowled a 175. Good addition to the team. On December 17th we will have our Christmas Party at the alleys. Please come and visit with us and cheer us on. Remember you can find us Monday nights at Strathmore Lanes on Route 34 in Matawan. We start bowling at 8:40 pm.

Blessed Christmas!

Submitted by Laurie Burke

GIRLS nite Out



We couldn't pass up this hip, swell chance
To get you all over here to swing and to dance
We'll sing, eat and laugh- it'll be so cool
Don't be square all you chickies
Havin' fun is the rule!

Women's Ministry Sock Hop

Come for retro eats
And good ol' fashioned rock and roll beats!
Saturday, December 1, 2007
7:00 PM
\$8.00 per retro chick!



Those Recovering

Rose Sydor
Rob Maggazu

Those in Nursing Homes

Emmy Moore –sister of Katrina Clapsis
Leela Mallepalle

Those who are Shut-in

Marion Morgan
Joan Brenner
Irene Inneo
Josie Schubert –mother of Mary Artache

Those with Other Needs

Gloria Carias
Les Ebersole
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

Mino DeMaglie – Brother-in-law of Laurie and Bill Burke
Jean Tjornhom -sister of Marie Bergfeldt
Laurie Burke
Kathy Hogan
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
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
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
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

For Your Information



Happy Birthday to...

Jeffrey Craig	12/1
Patrick Bowen	12/1
Carlene Weiss	12/1
Kaitlin Jordan	12/2
Tyler Salzer	12/3
Demetrius Pate	12/4
Katherine Bowen	12/7
Joseph Grana	12/8
Cara DiMaggio	12/8
Susannah Rutan	12/8
Kelly Doran	12/9
Ed Siclari	12/11
Joseph D'Esposito	12/11
Allison van Riemsdyk	12/12
David Blakey	12/12
Richard Toth	12/13
Alexis Dill	12/14
Brigitte Meitzner	12/14
Kimberly Hullings	12/14
Nicole Onorato	12/15
Priscilla Seesman	12/15
Joan Gibson	12/15
Rose Marie Cline	12/16
Angela Evegán	12/16
Joseph Vazza	12/16
Rebecca Vazza	12/16
Danielle Nathanson	12/17
Lori Donaghue	12/18

Daniel Onorato	12/18
Deborah Logan	12/19
Cathy Hoehl	12/19
Rodger Wilmot	12/20
Joseph Furlong	12/20
William Ahrberg	12/21
Joseph Guy Kotora, Jr.	12/21
Robert Weiss III	12/22
Dorothy Hatcliff	12/23
Patrick Cole	12/23
Christine McGrade	12/24
Miriam Nieves	12/24
Natalie Hoehl	12/25
Valerie Tietchen	12/26
Christian Hawley	12/26
Joan Habinowski	12/27
Thomas Conover	12/27
Tom Jocus	12/29
Matthew Van Fossen	12/30
Anthony Onorato	12/31

Happy Anniversary to.....

Laurie & Bill Burke 12/19

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

3139 County Road 516
Old Bridge, NJ 08857
Phone (732) 679-8883
Fax (732) 679-8996

office@lc-goodshepherd.org
Visit us on the web @
www.lc-goodshepherd.org

Pastor

Rev. William A. Qualman
PastorQ@
lc-goodshepherd.org

Coordinator of Christian
Education
Mrs. Amber Brown
Amber@
lc-goodshepherd.org

Admin. Assistant
Mrs. Marie Bergfeldt
marie@lc-goodshepherd.org

Organist Mr. Ed Roynesdal

Music Director
Mrs. Amber Brown

GS Children's Center
Director
Mrs. Lorraine Campo
(732) 679-8887
gsc@lc-goodshepherd.org

Sexton
Frank Lylo

Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Dr. Norman L. Johnson
pastorj1121@peoplepc.com

Women's Ministry



Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study would like to invite all women to join us in our 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 me at (732) 547-7612. We meet on Monday evenings at 7:00 PM. *Submitted by Jill O'Connor*

Crafters for Christ will meet the last Friday of each month. Amber is trying to get a Women's Ministry team to come up with ideas of what to do for the upcoming year. If you have any ideas, and

would like to be involved, or help coordinate a project, let Amber know.

~~~~~  
"Fit Him In" is the aerobics class that is the same Saturday as Market Day pick up. If you are interested in joining this group, we will start to meet again in January. This is a light aerobics class. We follow a DVD program which is very easy and fun to work out to.

~~~~~  
"PRINCESS RETREAT" – For those of you who attended last year, you know what a great time we all had. Amber still has a few DVD's, and mugs left over. If you ordered these items and did not receive them, please let Amber know. Date for the 2008 Princess Retreat will be released soon.

Good Shepherd Children's Center

WHAT'S NEW AT SCHOOL



Can't believe its that time of year again, the holiday season is once again upon us. Time is flying....as I sit here, the fact that I will be setting my

Thanksgiving table next week is truly amazing to me. Then I have the pleasure of transforming my home into a winter wonderland filled with lights and decorations. Something I truly enjoy doing, however I don't like taking it all down. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, GSCC is proud to be taking part of a collection of monies for families in need. The children from the school, have been collecting money to provide Thanksgiving dinner to six families in our community. We will total the money and split it six ways, purchasing gift cards to ShopRite so that each individual family can purchase holiday dinner and all the trimmings. We take great pleasure in knowing we were able to

give six families this wonderful gift. Everyone can get in the spirit of the holiday season, by giving to those in need. You can donate canned goods and other food to a soup kitchen, you can donate your time or supplies to a local animal shelter, you can do something nice for a neighbor and get your kids involved, let them experience first hand the feeling that comes along with helping someone without getting paid for it or expecting something in return. Get them off the couch and away from the video games to do something nice for someone and really make a difference.

I would also like you to take a moment to stop by the school, the mural is just about finished, at this time I would like to thank Arletta Tell and Mark Romanoski from Artistic Alternatives for all their hard work, they did an absolutely wonderful job .

Enjoy your Thanksgiving holiday!!
Lorraine Campo, Director GSCC



Dates for 2007 & 2008 Coffeehouse

2007 – Saturday, Dec 15th

2008 – Saturday, Jan 19, Feb 16,
March 15, April 19, May 17, June 21.

Family Life/Fellowship

Dec 2—Family Advent Pot luck lunch from 2 - 4

Jan 26, 2008 – Ski Trip-meet at the church @ 7:00 am.

April 6, 2008—Spring Tea & Fashion Show 2 – 4:30

July 19, 2008—Strawberry & Ice Cream Festival - starting at 1:00

Special Services:

December 2, Loyalty Sunday & Blessing of the Advent Wreaths

December 16, Sunday School Christmas Pageant @ 10:30 service

December 24, Christmas Eve Worship Services @ 7:30 and 11:00 PM

December 25, Christmas Day Worship Service @ 10:30 AM

December 31, New Years Eve Worship Service @ 7:30 PM

If you have a young adult away at college, please either e-mail or call the church office with their address. We are going to have cards sent to them every month, just to cheer them and let them know that Good Shepherd is thinking about them.



Month	Pick up Date	Paper Orders Due	Internet Orders Due
December	12/8	11/27	12/3
2008			
January	1/19/08	1/8/08	1/14/08
February	2/16/08	2/5/08	2/11/08
March	3/15/08	3/4/08	3/10/08
April	4/19/08	3/28/08	4/14/08
May	5/17/08	5/6/08	5/12/08
June	6/4/08	6/3/08	6/9/08

Pick up time is always 8:30 – 9:30 AM

**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

8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Sunday School 9:15 AM

Adult & Teen Bible Classes – 9:15 AM

Youth Fellowship Meetings 2nd Sunday of each
month

GS Children's Center

732-679-8887

Mrs. Lorraine Campo, Director

gsc@lc-goodshepherd.org

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

3139 County Road 516

Old Bridge NJ 08857

God's love at work here!