

# The Staff

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

**March 2008**

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



## **Living in the Aftermath of Easter**

When the Lenten, Holy Week, and Easter focus has come and gone, with all of its intensity and spiritual demands, we often find ourselves wanting to put our feet up, relax, and catch our breath. For all of its drama, for all of its faith inspiring messages, and for its victorious conclusion and celebration, perhaps we feel as though it's enough to carry us through.

We have been touched by the wonder of God's love for us in the sacrifice of his Son. Our faith has been renewed in the mystery of God dying for his world and rising on the third day announcing that the sacrifice was perfect and complete. We were struck by Jesus' words that have come to us down through the centuries, "Do you believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen, yet believe."

To believe is to have faith. Faith is being sure of what we hope for and convinced of what we do not see. (Heb. 11:1) Faith is the sure conviction that God is able to keep his word and accomplish for us the very things he has promised even though we may not be able to completely comprehend the "how?"

The following illustrates this point: "I will not believe in anything that I do not understand," said a man one day. "Neither will I," agreed another. "Nor will I," said a third. "Gentlemen," said one

who sat near by, "on my ride to work the other morning I saw some geese in a field eating grass. Do you believe that?" "Certainly," the three agreed.

"I also saw sheep, pigs, and cows eating grass. Do you believe that?" And they all said they did. "According to the marvelous working of God's creation, the grass was turned to feathers on the backs of the geese; into bristles on the backs of pigs; into white wool on the sheep; and into hair on the cow. Do you believe that, gentlemen?"

"Certainly," they replied. "But do you understand how it happens?" After a pause, they said, "We don't quite understand how it happens, but we believe that it's true." "Gentlemen, that is the nature of faith."

A mother called her son in from playing in the backyard to come and eat dinner with the family. She told him to wash his hands and come to the table. After the prayer, the mother looked and noticed that the back of her son's hands were still dirty. She asked him, "Didn't I ask you to wash your hands before coming to dinner?" The boy answered, "I washed my hands, Mom. Remember? I washed them before I ate lunch."

Just as the boy needed to wash his hands again and again to continue to clean them, we need to continue in our Easter faith. That happens only as we continue to gather around Word and Sacrament, fellowship and worship, Bible study and prayer.

**Continued on next page**

## Continued from previous page: Easter

It happens when we continue to lead lives of repentance and faith, receiving forgiveness and the faith supporting Holy Spirit. Faith in the risen Lord and Savior is as continuing trust, not a one time event. A spirit-filled, faith-filled life is not a point that we reach but a life-long process.

Through this process we are strengthened, supported, and energized as the people of God.

And for those people, there is no “Low Sunday” let down, only the exciting adventure of connecting to Jesus, who has promised “because I live, so shall you live.”

Pastor Bill Qualman



## Freedom Isn't Free



Salvation is free – a gift to us from our Father in Heaven. Paul makes that point so clearly in Ephesians 2:8-9: “*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.*” We neither earned it nor deserved it. “*But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners Christ died for us*” (Romans 5:8).

Free to us, yes, but salvation came at a cost, didn't it? The Apostle Peter tells us, “*It was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed . . . but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect*” (1 Peter 1:18-19). Jesus paid the price for our salvation. “*He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed*” (Isaiah 53:5).

Especially during the Lenten season we ponder these words of Isaiah, prophesied so many, many years before our Lord fulfilled them. Humility, awe, and gratitude fill our hearts as we remember our “*oppressed and afflicted Savior,*” Who carried all our sins in His body on the cross. How do we say thanks for such a great gift as Christ has given us? How can we express our love for Him and His great sacrifice? The same way He expressed His love for us – through His acts of teaching, preaching, healing, forgiving, restoring. We love others as He loves us. We give freely as He gave so freely. We teach what He has taught us. We preach His Word in its truth and purity. We serve in His name and forgive as we have been forgiven – all by His power and through His grace.

Submitted by Pat Pryor, Stewardship Chairman



# Market Day

Helping schools with every bite™

Month	Pick up Date	Paper Orders Due	Internet Orders Due
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

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**Here's the latest on the LYF front:**



What do a missing actress and God's grace have in common? Well, you'll have to come to the LYF play to find out! The cast is hard at work rehearsing to bring you the latest youth group play, *The Case of the Show-Stopping Nun Nabber*. Mark your calendars now so you don't miss a great show. We will have an evening performance Friday, February 29<sup>th</sup>, a dinner theatre Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, and an afternoon matinee Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. We are thrilled that

Linda Cinquegrana will be our dinner theatre chef once again. Keep your eyes open for sign ups!

~~~~~  
**revolve reunion!**

Join in the fun as we talk, share, laugh, watch Chad Eastham videos and of course, eat pizza bagels!

Bring your friends so they can sign up for next year!

MARCH 7, 2008

7:30 PM

Call Amber to RSVP ASAP @ 732-730-8623



**HOSPITAL STAY:** If you or a family member is anticipating a hospital stay, or a stay in a nursing home or a rehab facility, or you know of someone from

the congregation who is hospitalized, please contact the church office @ 732-679-8883, or e-mail the church at [office@lc-goodshepherd.org](mailto:office@lc-goodshepherd.org).



# SPRING TEA



The Family Life/Fellowship Committee will be holding a Spring Tea on Sunday April 20<sup>th</sup> starting at 2:00 until 4:00. We need volunteers to help make sandwiches and cakes. We will also need help with

working the tables. How this works is that whoever volunteers to help with a table will bring in china and silverware to share with 8 people. They will also be responsible for setting the table and cleaning up the table at the end. We may also need to borrow some

tea pots. The Committee is in need of one of our men to volunteer help carry pots of hot water and pour into the individual tea pots.

This Tea is open to all women, so bring in friends and neighbors. We will also be providing babysitting services for those who have small children and would still like to participate. There is a small charge of \$10.00 per person to help cover the cost of the food and beverages.

If you have any questions, please see Kathy Hogan, Pat Brietweiser or Elizabeth Pedersen.



## God's Path to a Mission

*By Paulette Hacker, Chairman Mission Committee*

Many of you know that I was out of work for 8 months. I had said when I first lost my job "When God closes a door, somewhere He opens a window" and I truly believed it in my heart.

The first window opened one month later when I learned our secretary, Marie needed to have surgery. I said to myself "This is God's plan" and I volunteered to fill in while Marie was on disability.

The next window was a grant from unemployment to attend Brookdale Community College. I enrolled in the BOSS (Business Office Support Specialist) program and Quick Books.

After that, the window seemed to close. Unemployment ended and my savings were gone. I had sent out countless resumes and went on several interviews, to no avail.

Just when I thought that God was not hearing my prayers, He reminded me what a wonderful church family I had. I would come to church and cry on many shoulders. My wonderful friends all offered their support and loving prayers. It seems when

things seem the darkest, God shows us we are truly not alone. I would come to church and look in my mailbox and find Shop Rite gift cards and envelopes with money.

Suddenly, I received a call from Kelly Services asking if I was interested in a position at Ortho Biotech (a Johnson & Johnson subsidiary) that would last at least months. The job would start December 26 (talk about a Christmas present!)

Then, a wonderful thing happened. I was talking to Stephanie Pate, offering her my support and love and she said "Bobby had wanted to do something for me." Even when he was facing his own illness, he thought of others. Stephanie sent me a generous gift from Bobby. This was when God's plan became very clear to me. I had received so much from Him, that I felt Him move me to create "My Brother's Keeper". I wanted to repay all that was given to me through His grace, and this became a real vision for me. I truly believe this is why it took so long for things to work out. He truly does things "in HIS time"! I hope you all will join me in helping our church family who are also going through some difficult times.



Submitted by Laurie Burke

March 9<sup>th</sup> is First Communion Sunday, because of this we will not have opening in Church in March. March is also Mission Month and the Sunday School is collecting items to fill Mission Bags that have been made by our Church group, Crafters for

Christ. You should have gotten a flyer with information about what your child's class can bring to help fill these bags. If you have any questions you can see Amber Brown or myself, Laurie Burke.

Bible Stories in Sunday school class this month:

- Jesus Heals a Blind Man**
- Jesus Raises Lazarus**
- The Passion of Jesus**
- The Ressurrection of Jesus**

**PALM SUNDAY - DVD PRESENTATION "HE IS RISEN" GRADES PRE K THROUGH 4<sup>th</sup>**

**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL MARCH 23RD  
EASTER SUNDAY**



## FROM THE ALLEYS

The second half is officially underway- we just bowled our first position night of this half. How do the teams stack up?

- Discreet Indians
- Pin Heads
- Lucky Strikes
- Outlaws
- Split Decision
- Salty Crabs
- Triple X
- Old Goats
- Holy Rollers
- Beer Frame



Wayne Krawiec has set the bar for Men's high game very high with a 289. Carol Hahl is leading in the Women's high game with a 224.

If you want more up-to-the-minute info please join us Monday nights at 8:30 pm at Strathmore Lanes on Rt.34 in Matawan.

See you at the alleys.



Submitted by Laurie Burke





*Those Recovering*

*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*

**Cookie Rose** – Sister of Marie Bergfeldt  
**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  
**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  
**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  
**Jeff Borkowski**  
**Brian Farrell**  
**Rob Farrell**  
**Dustin Brown**  
**Jeff Kotora**  
**Guy Kotora**  
**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

*And our Missionaries :*

**Rev. Chuck and Jeanette Groth in Cambodia**  
**LINC – NJ**

# For Your Information



## Happy Birthday to...

Jessica Caban	3/01
Joe Previte	3/01
Jenifer Guzman	3/01
Kristi Petersen	3/01
Christine Borkowski	3/03
Charles Breitweiser	3/04
Reanna Hellriegel	3/04
Lisa Qualman	3/04
Nora Schmitz	3/05
Randi Rutan	3/06
Keyvon Green	3/07
Eric Hughes	3/07
Laura Grana	3/08
Brian Furlong	3/08
Megan Dunne	3/08
Heidi Griswold	3/09
Drew Larkin	3/09
Andrew Cocklin	3/09
Lois Furlong	3/10
Eric Brown	3/10
Rich Holmes	3/11
Alison Schulmeister	3/11
James Coletti	3/12
Joan Scanlon	3/12
Timothy Siclari	3/14
Mark Conway	3/16
Emily Durando	3/16
Barbara Scanlon	3/16
Kathleen Hogan	3/17
Matthew Schulmeister	3/17
Patricia Logan	3/19
Teresa Figueiras	3/19
Nicolette Craig	3/21
Kathryn Oliva	3/21

Erin Cole	3/21
Rose Parker	3/23
Patrick Coletti	3/25
Nancy Drews	3/25
Timothy Farrell	3/26
Justin Gryszka	3/26
Dale Petersen	3/26
Robert Hahl	3/27
Kaitlyn Wait	3/27
Steve Weiss	3/27
Stephanie Pate	3/27
Siobhan Sabino	3/28
Troy Allen	3/29
William Wait	3/30
Beth Oliva	3/30
Tamara Donaghue	3/31

## Happy Anniversary to.....

Charles & Paulette Wilmot	3/17
William & Patricia Wait	3/18
Heidi & Brandon Griswold	3/22
Ken & Michelle Magazzu	3/27
Dani & Kevin Sloan, Jr.	3/29



*Taylor Marie Bliven  
Born February 11, 2008  
Congratulations to  
Jennifer Bergfeldt & Jon Bliven*

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

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Organist & Sr Choir Director  
Mrs. Mary Zeffiro

Bell & Youth Choir Director  
Mrs. Amber Brown

GS Children's Center  
Director  
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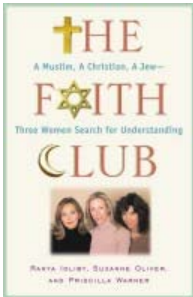
Sexton  
Frank Lylo

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

# Book Club

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)**. We discuss a different Christian fiction or non-fiction book each time we get together.



We will meet on **March 11<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30**. We are reading: **The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew – Three Women Search for Understanding by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver and Priscilla Warner.**

- 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](mailto: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*

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



## Family Life & Fellowship Dates for 2008 Coffeehouse

Saturdays: March 15, April 19, May 17, June 21.

### Upcoming Fellowship Events:

**April 20** – Spring Tea & Fashion Show 2 – 4:30 pm

**July 19** – Strawberry & Ice Cream Festival-starting at 1 pm

Please call Kathy Hogan @ 732-888-2760 for more details.

# Women's Ministry



Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study would like to invite all women to join us. If you are interested in attending the Bible Study or just want to ask questions, please feel free to contact Jill@ 732-547-7612. We meet on Mon. nights at 7 pm.



**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. This is a light aerobics class. We follow a DVD program which is very easy and fun to work out to.



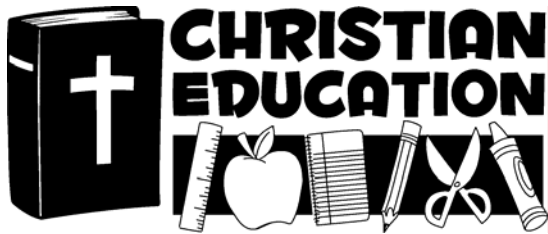
## Princess Retreat

There is still time to sign up for the Princess Retreat! This year's theme is THE BLOOMERY- where women blossom in faith and friendship. This is a wonderful getaway weekend that you will not want to miss. We will be gathering at Crossroads Retreat Center in Port Murray, NJ which is seated on 250 sprawling acres of the Lord's peace and quiet! Join us on Saturday morning, March 29 for praise and worship, laughter, group time, crafts, naps (yes, you can take a nap!) and of course, chocolate! Stay overnight in the rustic dormitories and join us for Sunday morning communion worship and more fun activities. Meals are included as well as lodging for the one low price of \$64.00 per person.



Already signed up? You can purchase a weekend T shirt in advance at the BLOOMERY display for only \$15.00. You will receive a weekend itinerary in the mail approximately two weeks prior to the event, as well as directions and a packing list.

Don't forget to invite your mom, sisters, girlfriends, co-workers, neighbors, hairdressers... This is a wonderful time for spiritual reflection, reconnection, relaxation and rejuvenation. There is still time to sign up, but don't delay! Registration closes on March 16, 2008. Still need to know more? Contact Amber Brown at 732-730-8623 or [amber@lc-goodshepherd.org](mailto:amber@lc-goodshepherd.org).



## “My Cross”

by Amber Brown, Coordinator of Christian Education

For me, Lent is such a deep, meditative time where I experience a lot of spiritual growth. There is something so contemplative about the preparation of that celebrated Easter Day and I find myself reflecting on the true sacrifice Christ made for me...for me. But what is so amazing about His sacrifice is that it goes so much deeper than the surrender of Jesus' life. What is so profound is that I didn't deserve it, but He did it for me anyway. That, my friends, is grace.

No doubt, you are familiar with the hymn, *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*. For me, the most striking verse in this hymn and never fails to bring tears to my eyes reads,

*Upon the cross of Jesus, my eye at times can see  
The very dying form of one who suffered there  
for me.*

*And from my contrite heart with tears, two  
wonders I confess*

*The wonder of His glorious love, and my  
unworthiness.*

His glorious love...my unworthiness. This is almost incomprehensible to me. Jesus, who was perfect in every way, *chose* to take on my sin- *all* of my sin, so that I would not have to pay for it myself. It should have been me on that tree. I recently came across a beautiful song that puts these thoughts together so eloquently, entitled *My Cross*. The chorus of the song sings these emotional words...

*I don't know why you went where I was meant  
to go*

*I don't know why You loved me so  
Those were my nails, that was my crown  
That pierced Your hands and Your brow  
Those were my thorns, those were my scorns  
Those were my tears that fell down  
And just as you said it would be  
You did it all for me  
And after You counted the cost  
You took my shame, my blame  
On my cross.*

After Jesus counted the cost of what it would mean for me to pay for my sin, He did it for me anyway. How can I ever repay this undeserved gift of salvation? I often ask myself this question, because, I must admit, I actually mourn during this Lenten season. I grieve, and weep and try to rationalize what Jesus did for me, and I still can't make sense of it. After everything I have done...it has all been wiped clean because of the blood He shed for me.

And then I sing praises to my Savior on that glorious Easter morn, when death has been swallowed up in victory! Oh, the joy of that day when

*Love's redeeming work is done  
Fought the fight, the battle won  
Death in vain forbids his rise  
Christ has opened paradise.*

# Good Shepherd Children's Center

## WHAT'S NEW AT SCHOOL

Hi Everyone, I hope you all enjoyed Valentines Day in your own unique way. The kids at GSCC had parties, and exchanged cards and candy, made valentines for their family, and they wore red and pink clothing to get in the spirit of the day. Some of the children even went on to say they had special dinner plans, or they had baked something special to enjoy on this day of love. Some might say that Valentine's Day was a created holiday by Hallmark, jewelers and florists everywhere... (owning a florist myself I would have to say they are wrong...) I think that a day set aside one day a year to make sure you go out of your way to let those special people in your life know you love them is well worth the celebration. We have holidays for so many things, why not have a holiday for love. With that being said, do I think you have to spend \$200.00 on someone because it says it's Valentines Day on the calendar. No I don't. There are so many ways to let your kids or significant others or parents know that they are at the top of your list. You can go out to dinner to spend some quality time with each other, but even better would be to cook dinner with your kids or significant other, and then enjoy it quietly at home with them. Baking is fun



especially when you involve the kids, making your own valentine cards at home can be interesting to say the least, because kids are so unpredictable you never know what they are going to say or write. Some of the best gifts I have ever received are the ones my kids made all by themselves. I guess the point of my article this month would be to say, its the little things you can do on Valentines Day and every day to

make your family feel special and loved. Don't wait for a holiday to tell someone you love them, don't wait for Christmas to give a needy child a toy, don't wait for Thanksgiving to help out at a soup kitchen or donate food for the hungry. These are things we can do all throughout the year, and usually when we do, it makes us feel good inside. These are also things we can definitely involve our children in doing that they may carry with them for the rest of their lives and maybe even the lives of their children.

Remember the smallest gesture, or a kind word can make a world of difference to someone.

Lorraine Campo, Director  
GSCC



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**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 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each  
month

**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!**