

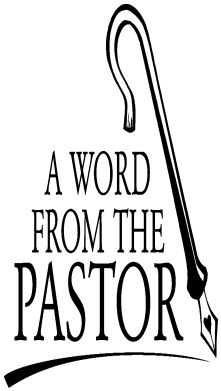
# The Staff

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

**December 2008**

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

## **The Christmas Truth!**



In the tradition of burning a yule log it was important to bury the entire log to the very last ash.. The real enjoyment of Christmas is something like that. A person has to take hold of and celebrate the entire meaning and message Christmas if he is really going to be blessed by it.

Even the external aspects of Christmas are deep in meaning for us Christians. It would be hard for any of us to give up the cookies, the cards, the tree, the lights, the music, or the gifts. We could still celebrate Christmas without any of these, but it would be hard. Even more devastating would a Christmas celebrated with the treasure and the joy of the good news that God broke in on our world through the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ Our Christmas would be like an empty broken ornament. It would be like a yule log only signed not burned.

The Lord Jesus we exalt at Christmas is not just a bay in a manger. He is not a character in a children's story, He is so much more!

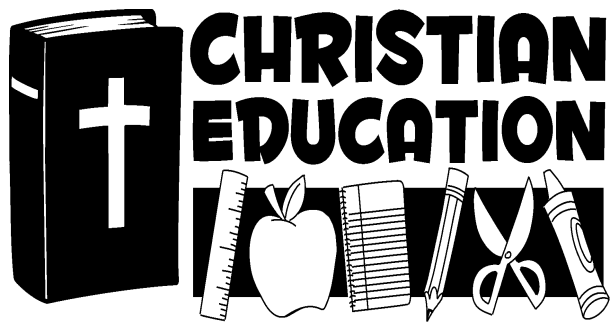
The first time he came, he came hidden in the form of a child. The next time he comes he will come fully unveiled, and it will be immediately clear to all the worked who he really is!

The first time he came a star marked his arrival. The next time he comes, the whole heaven will roll up like a scroll, and all the stars will fall from the sky and he alone be our light!

The first time he came, wise men and shepherds brought him gifts. The next time he comes, eh will bring his gracious gifts to show who are his own! The first time he came, there was not room for him... The next time he comes, the world won't be able to refuse him! The first time he came, only a few only a handful were witnesses to the divine event. The next time he comes, every eye will see him! The first time he came as a baby. The next time he will come as Sovereign Lord and God!

May this year's Christmas enliven your hope, your faith, and your love for Christ, each other, and the world!

*Pastor Bill Qualman*



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*by Amber Brown, Coordinator of Christian Education*



## **Join us for this Book Club Discussion**

**Mark your calendars! Future dates:  
January 20, 2009, March 24, May 19,**

**HEALING STONES, by Nancy Rue and Stephen Arterburn**

Our meeting is: Tuesday, January 20, 2009, 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. in the Church Library

Your leader for this meeting is: Linda Cinquegrana

!!Is there a Christian book you have read and want to recommend? Each Book Club meeting is led by someone else...recommend a book, and lead a session!

Contact Jamie Toth ([jamie.marie.toth@gmail.com](mailto:jamie.marie.toth@gmail.com)) or Marie in the office ([marie@lc-goodshepherd.org](mailto:marie@lc-goodshepherd.org)) if you are interested in leading a future Book Club meeting!



We bring nothing into the world and we take nothing with us when we leave.

With the recent declines in our economy and in the stock market, we are finding out how true this fact of life is. We know that our money will either be taken away from us at death or even before.

Many of us have 401k plans invested in mutual funds, and many have investment accounts which have been affected by the big declines in the financial markets. Our emotional responses to this loss of money reveal some insights into our attitudes regarding the ownership issue of money. Absolutely no one enjoys losing money; however, our perspectives of ownership will affect our attitudes toward money and the loss of money. If we view money as our own rather than belonging to God, we will see it differently than if we acknowledge that it belongs to Him.

God's Word clearly states that He is the sole owner of all things. *"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world and all who live in it"* (Psalm 24:1). We must remember that we are stewards, entrusted by God, in charge of the money He has given us to use.

Through faith, we are able to understand and accept the words of Deuteronomy 8:17-18: *"You*

## Whose Money is it anyway?

*Submitted by Pat Pryor*

*may say to yourself, 'My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.' But remember the Lord your God, for it is He Who gives you the ability to produce wealth . . ."* God is not only the owner of everything, but even the desire and ability to work and make money are His gifts.

How you answer the question regarding the ownership of your money is a pivotal question. Will you acknowledge God's ownership and control? Do you see yourself as a manager, not an owner? Even though you may verbalize the right answers to these questions, your life may not give evidence of what you say. Because money and material things are so attractive, you can easily come to believe that you are in control, so you follow the ways of the world and your own selfish desires.

Having money and possessions can deceive you into believing that nothing is more important than owning things and enjoying the things money can buy. If the love of money controls your heart, God is pushed aside, and you will endanger your eternity with Him. In the end, God will disprove the bumper sticker that reads, "The one with the most toys wins."

Yes, losing money in the stock market is painful, but let's use these events as reminders that God is in control and that money truly is of secondary importance.

# FROM THE ALLEYS



We are a week away from our 2nd position night as I write the report. At this moment we have 2 teams tied for 1st place- Bowling Stones (Bob and Carol Hahl and Sean McGovern) and Spare Us (Jim Hatcliffe, Brigitte Meitzner, and Steve Humiston. Men's high game is still held by Brian Burniston with a 262 and Carol Hahl leads the Women with a high game of 204.

Join us for our annual Christmas Party at the alleys on Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at Strathmore Lanes. We'd love to have you cheer us on. And from all of us at the alleys -- **Have A Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!** *Submitted by Laurie Burke*



**Memorial Funds** are established to provide a venue for financial donations to be made for designated purposes for the further support of church related activities. Donations are often made in memory of an individual or to honor a special life event like a birthday, the birth of a child, a marriage or an anniversary. Donations to these funds need not be limited to commemorating such events, and may be made at any time and for any reason. Donations may be directed toward a specific purchase (e.g. "candles for the altar") or activity (e.g. "field trips for Good Shepherd Children's Center students").

*The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (LCGS) has five Memorial Funds, each designated for a specific purpose. If you are thinking about making a donation, please review the descriptions and consider which most touches your heart.*

**Building Fund:** This fund supports the preservation of the church buildings and grounds through planned renovations. These activities preserve the integrity of our church home and help ensure adequate facility size and design to meet our Congregational needs.


**Church Improvement Fund:** This fund supports the continual improvements to the church's interior and exterior that are not part of planned renovation. These include things such as flowers and trees on the grounds, vestments for acolytes and deacons, draperies or other interior design features and altar linens, paraments and candles to enhance our worship environment.

**School Endowment Fund:** The Endowment Fund is used to support the Good Shepherd Christian Education activities. These funds are used for the purchase of library books, art supplies, musical instruments, wall art and playground equipment to enrich student experiences.

**Family Relief Fund:** The Family Relief Fund provides financial support to families in need. Donations are used to defray the costs of food, housing and other routine expenses to families in financial crisis.

**Church Scholarship Fund:** This fund provides college-bound applicants with support to help defray the costs of tuition, textbooks, calculators, computers, and other scholastic supplies.

*Fund pamphlets with the form and envelopes attached available in the Narthex.*

From the   
*Sunday School  
Superintendent*

December is a very busy time, but we should not forget to step back from all the activity and think

about the real reason for the season. On Sunday December 14<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30 service. Our Sunday School classes will help you to do just that, with their Christmas presentation: *A Candy Cane Christmas.*

We do have Sunday School on December 21<sup>st</sup>. The video, "A King is Born" will be shown for grades Pre-K through 4<sup>th</sup>.

**THERE IS NO SUNDAY SCHOOL  
DECEMBER 28<sup>th</sup>**

This month we do not have a special parent visitation day, but I would still like to tell you about 2 of our Sunday School teachers. Mr. Julio Artache (7<sup>th</sup> grade) and Mr. Don Van Handel (8<sup>th</sup> grade).

Mr. Artache began teaching in 1990 as a 1<sup>st</sup> grade assistant to Wayne Borkowski, becoming the 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher in 1991 when Mr. Borkowski moved to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Julio gives Wayne a big Thank You for all his encouragement, patience and friendship. Mr. Artache switched to 7<sup>th</sup> grade in 1999. Julio retired from the New York Stock Exchange, works as a Home Depot Warehouse Associate. He enjoys golf, bowling, ping-pong, singing in the choir, getting together with friends as well as teaching Sunday School (almost as much as he enjoys being Grandpa to almost 2 year old grandson, Derek.)

Mr. Van Handel started teaching Sunday School in the Spring of 2003. He has always taught 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and in 2004 also became involved in teaching Confirmation Classes. During the week Don is a Director of Business Applications for

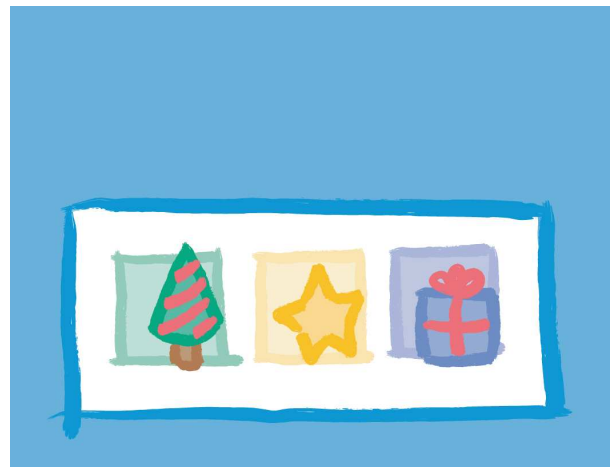
Par Pharmaceutical. He enjoys computers, History and Music.

The whole staff of our Sunday School would like to wish all our families here at Good Shepherd a Very Merry Christmas.

*Submitted by Laurie Burke*

When you are writing your Christmas Cards this year, take one card and send it to the address below. This is a wonderful way of saying Thank You to those who sacrifice so much for our freedom.

**A Recovering American Soldier  
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center  
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW  
Washington DC 20307-5001**





***Those Recovering***

**Greg O'Connor**  
**Jamie Toth**  
**Alma Meyer**

***Those in Nursing Homes***

**Tom Qualman**  
**Dorothy Palmer**  
**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***

**Marie Bergfeldt**  
**Olivia Rae Vargas** – niece of Sue Hawley  
**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  
**Margaret Wrigley** –suffering with arthritis

**Trudy Conway**

***Those Struggling with Cancer***

**Laurie Burke**  
**Kathy Hogan**  
**Laurie Troutman** – daughter of Child Care  
 Teacher  
**Marie Giacomini** – mother of Bill Burke  
**Peggy DeMarco** – friend of the Kotora  
 Family  
**Joseph Spinelli** – friend of Toni & Pat Pryor  
**Debbie Pryor** – cousin to Toni & Pat Pryor  
**Kathy Hill** – friend of Pryors  
**Ruth Cousens** – mother of Don Cousens  
**Patch Rose** – brother-in-law of Marie Bergfeldt

***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  
**David Haczyk** –friend of Siclari's  
**Elizabeth Roslak** –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...

Connor Jordan	11/03
Riley Wolven	11/04
Cathy Jordan	11/06
Joe Dimaggio	11/06
Matthew Ebersole	11/06
Stephanie Dlugosz	11/08
Ian Palmer	11/10
Gregory O'Connor	11/12
Audrey Ford	11/12
Debra Onorato	11/13
Steve Weiss Jr.	11/13
Meg Palmer	11/14
Andrew Arzberger	11/14
Mardell Bonfiglio	11/15
Daniel Hullings	11/15
Kyle Eaton	11/15
Jenna Geyer	11/15
Alisa Guzman	11/16
Don Van Handel	11/17
Paul Oliva	11/17
Bernadette Margolis	11/17
Sophia Weiss	11/18
Richard Toth	11/20
Steven Sommer	11/21
Margaret George	11/22

William Qualman	11/22
Maureen Puricelli	11/23
Mary Artache	11/24
Michele Casey	11/27
Linda Cinquegrana	11/28
Joseph Frank Massa	11/30
Nicole Drews	11/30

## Happy Anniversary to.....

David & Marie Bergfeldt	11/06
Robert & Sandra Shipley	11/07
Cathy & Richard Hoehl	11/9
Paul & Beth Oliva	11/14
Robert & Carol Hahl	11/21
Rudy & Karen Tucci	11/21
Eileen (Loughman) & Bill Sabino	11/27

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

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marie@lc-goodshepherd.org

Organist & Sr Choir Director  
Mrs. Mary Zeffiro

Bell & Youth Choir Director  
Mrs. Amber Brown

GS Children's Center  
Director  
Mrs. Lorraine Campo  
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gsc@lc-goodshepherd.org

Sexton  
Frank Lylo

Pastor Emeritus  
Rev. Dr. Norman L. Johnson  
pastorjl121@peoplepc.com

## **FUTURE EVENTS - Mark Your Calendars Now**

### **December**

- December 7<sup>th</sup>**            **Installation & Ordination of Ben Mallepalle @ 4:00 PM**  
**December 13<sup>th</sup>**        **Care Center Christmas Program**  
**December 14<sup>th</sup>**        **Sunday School Christmas Program**  
**December 24<sup>th</sup>**        **Office Closed till December 29<sup>th</sup>**  
**December 24<sup>th</sup>**        **Christmas Eve Service @ 7:30 PM Family Service &  
11:00 PM Candlelight Service**  
**December 25<sup>th</sup>**        **Christmas Day Service @ 10:30 AM**

### **January 2009**

- January 1<sup>st</sup>**            **Wedding 11:00 AM – Office Closed**  
**January 10<sup>th</sup>**        **Couples Bible Study @ 6:00 PM**  
**January 17<sup>th</sup>**        **LYF New Year's Eve Party**  
**January 20<sup>th</sup>**        **Book Club**

# Good Shepherd Children's Center

## WHAT'S NEW AT SCHOOL

December is an exciting time here at GSCC, so much is going on. The kids have been practicing very hard for their Christmas Show, which will be on Saturday, the 13<sup>th</sup>. We would like to extend and invitation to anyone who would like to join us for this very special occasion to get the holiday season started. There will be refreshments served after each performance, feel free to stop by and listen to all the wonderful songs that will be performed.

Christmas is such an amazing time of year, it is my favorite holiday, there is just something about the chill in the air, and maybe a light snow on the ground, and the twinkle of the lights, a decorated tree and a cup of hot something in your hand by a fire that makes the season so incredibly magical. There really is nothing quite like it, for me anyway. Unfortunately, the season does not come without a few problems, and that is the gift buying, the sales, the crowded parking lots, waiting on lines, and mounting bills and the need of extra cash, that kind of pressure that we put on ourselves each year, can almost dampen the entire joy the season should bring. Everyone loves getting a gift, but to me, Christmas is so much more, I look forward to my family coming over and spending time with them, a nice dinner and the chatter that goes along with a full, busy house. Keeping up with family traditions and making sure my kids follow through with them for years to come, is more important than any gift that could be under a tree, and it is very important to me that they understand why we celebrate Christmas in the first place. Not only during the holidays, but there are so many people in need every day, but it gets especially harder during the holidays because some people cannot provide a holiday meal for their families or a gift



for their children, contact you local charities and donate gifts or food gift cards for people who may be in need of an extra hand. Also, food banks are short on donations, instead of buying gifts , maybe you can make a donation in someone's name and then let them know, it just may start a chain reaction. Maybe you just want to do something especially nice for a neighbor, or a neighbor that may be homebound, sometimes our actions speak louder than a brightly wrapped package.

Of course, please do not forget our four legged friends that may be calling a shelter their home this holiday season, to stop by with donations, it doesn't have to cost anything, shelters take donations of old towels, and old blankets as well as food and laundry detergent all year long. Maybe if your looking for a special friend, you may just find them as your dropping off your donations.....:)

So, in closing from me and my family to you and yours, please have a very wonderful, blessed holiday season, give from the heart, not from the wallet and celebrate every moment, it will be over in a blink!



*Lorraine Campo, Director*  
**GSCC**

# ANGEL SHARING TREE

*by Paulette Hacker, Chairman, Mission Committee*



We will be buying gifts for the Sayreville Group Home residents, moms and their children from Amandla Crossings, and our neighbors from Old Bridge Welfare. This year, we will also be helping some special people – members of our church family. There will be Special Angels marked “**My Brother’s Keeper.**” For these special Angels, feel free to donate any amount you wish, and place your cash or check made payable to “Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd” in the special basket in the Narthex.

As in the past, our limit is \$25 for each person for the regular Angels. This is to ensure that each member of a family gets a gift of equal value.

**PLEASE REMEMBER ...** put your name and telephone on the list next to your Angel’s number; ***DON’T*** tape down the Angels (they are removed before being distributed) and bring your gift back **NO LATER than December 14** to allow time for distribution. If the gift is not received by that date, someone from the Missions Committee will have to take the time to shop for the gift.

We are also asking if there are any **church families** in need of fixings for Christmas. If you are in need, please call the church office. We will be collecting money for grocery store gift cards so our friends can enjoy a wonderful dinner.

**The Lutheran Church  
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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 9:15 AM

Adult & Teen Bible Classes – 9:15 AM

Youth Fellowship Meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of  
each month @ 6:00 PM

**Christmas Worship Schedule**

**Christmas Eve:**

**7:30 PM Family Service**

**11:00 PM Candlelight Service**

**Christmas Day: 10:30 AM Celebration Service**

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