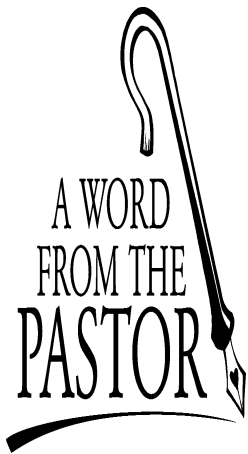


The Staff

The newsletter of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

January 2009

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



“A Promising New Year”

The bulletin announcement didn't quite come out the way it was intended. It read:
“Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale, Saturday. It's a good chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.”

A new year always presents us with the opportunity to closely examine our lives and our lifestyles and make a fresh commitment to healthy change. It's also important to wipe the slate clean and embark on a fresh start.

Still there are many who miss out on the real opportunity the new year brings. Many people see New Year's as an escape. At midnight, the programmed noise-making is a signal to retreat from reality. Thus, our society performs its annual ritual of pretending to be deliriously happy, and the real significance of the moment is lost in the noisy exchange of mindless, meaningless “Happy New Years” proclamations. Within a matter of hours reality sets in and nothing has changed. It's business as usual. It's another golden opportunity for grace and renewal lost.

We must confess that we too are often double-minded. We wish many things and among them, we wish that God would go along with what we wish. In the New Testament letter of James we read, “Do not suppose that a double-minded person, unstable in all his ways, will receive anything from the Lord.” And again, “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you men of double mind.” Conflicting desires pull us this way and that. We stand undecided.

What a blessed new year this can be if we “decide” to be more committed, more regular in our worship, our Bible study, and our Christ fellowship. It is my prayer along with Pastor Mallepalle that your faithful commitment to your living Lord will once again find you overflowing with the goodness and joy only God can bring through Jesus Christ!

Pastor Bill Qualman



TO APPLAUD OR NOT TO APPLAUD – THAT’S THE QUESTION!

Good Shepherd is facing a problem. In the past several months, applause has been heard from many members following and choir anthem or musical piece offered during our worship service.

SO WHAT’S THE PROBLEM?

Historically, anthems, choir offering, and religious music which appears during a religious service was always considered an offering or a gift given to God. As such, applause was never considered appropriate. It would be as offensive as applauding someone’s offering in the collection plate.

Applause praises not the God to whom it is addressed but rather the human beings who offered it.

There is no question that we are blessed here at Good Shepherd with talented, faith-filled musicians and vocalists (and for that we give God the thanks). However during our sacred services the focus of our entire praise and appreciation is directed to God alone.

THE SOLUTION:

For the sake of Christian unity and harmony, the Board of Deacons along with our pastors strongly urge our worshippers to refrain from applause during our services.

The Board of Deacons and the pastors strongly encourage all members of the congregation to enthusiastically encourage, commend, and thank all of our chorale and musical people after each and every worship service reminding them of the valuable service they render to God for us!

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, Jan. 20, 2009, 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm 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) or Marie in the office (marie@lc-goodshepherd.org) if you are interested in leading a future Book Club meeting!



Stewardship Report



Once again we come to the beginning of the Church year, a time of great anticipation, a time of simultaneous repentance and rejoicing, a time of preparing for the birth of the King Jesus, and a time to proclaim His coming again.

What a glorious gift the Lord Jesus is to us! The Apostle Paul called our Savior God's "*indefinable gift*" (2 Corinthians 9:15), and that He is. Who can comprehend the depth of love the Father has for us to give up His only begotten Son? Who can fathom the love of that Son Who willingly laid down His life for us (John 10:15) in order that we might pass from death into life eternal with Him.

If eternity in Heaven were all God gave us, it would be more than we deserve, but, besides Heaven, He gives us good gifts on Earth. In his explanation to the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer, Martin Luther lists some of

The Greatest Gift

Submitted by Pat Pryor

those great gifts: "food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, god reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like." As Luther urges, we would do well to realize that these are God's gifts and to "receive [them] with thanksgiving."

Of course, we cannot repay God. We have nothing to give Him that He did not first give us. David, in Psalm 51 comes before God with deep repentance and then expresses complete dependence on his Lord. "*O Lord, open my lips,*" he pleads in verse 15, "*and my mouth will declare Your praise.*" And our Savior is quick to respond to our prayer, enabling us to glorify and praise Him just as the shepherds did (Luke 2:20) and inspiring us to proclaim with the angels, "*Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace to men on whom His favor rests*" (Luke 2:14).

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

January 11, 2009 immediately following the 8:00 & 10:30 services, there will be a Special Congregational Meeting to discuss the use of the Capital Reserve fund for the new signs for Route 9 and CR516. Please try to attend either of these meetings.

FROM THE ALLEYS

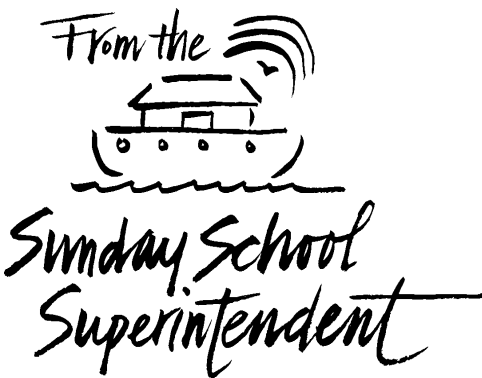


Happy New Year from the Good Shepherd Bowling League. As we get closer to the end of the 1st half of our season the teams -- Joshua's Kazoo (Bob & Sandy Shipley and Brian Burniston) and Bowling Stones (Bob & Carol Hahl and Sean McGovern) hold 1st and 2nd place, with Spare Us (Jim Hatcliffe, Brigitte Meitzner, and Steven Humiston) a close 3rd.

Wayne Krawiec scored 267 and has taken over men's high game. Carol Hahl still holds women's high game with a 204.

Remember we bowl Monday nights at 8:30pm at Strathmore Lanes. Come cheer us on.

Submitted by Laurie Burke



Congratulations Sunday School students for a job well done! You did great at the Christmas Program. A big Thank You to all the teachers for all their hard work! (and to Tim O'Connor for our beautiful candy cane, and Amy Ford for our visuals.) and finally a Thank You to all who helped make the coffee hour a success.

Happy New Year! Our next Parent Visitation will be the 3rd/4th Grade on Sunday, January 25th, during Sunday School time. This class will also present a message in Church during the 10:30 am service. The teachers in this class are Mrs. Humiston and Mrs. Eaton, along with 2 teen helpers (former Sunday School students)-Alison Schulmeister and Sabrina Yoniak.

Mrs. Humiston began teaching Sunday School about 20 years ago, after helping out in Vacation

Bible School. Doreen taught 7th grade for about 3 years, before moving to 4th (which is now 3rd / 4th) grade. She is a nurse in Monmouth Medical Center working in Pediatric ER, and also substitutes as a school nurse in Old Bridge. Doreen is married to Ron and they have 2 sons, Shaun and Steven. She enjoys bowling in our Church Bowling League as well as working with the students in Sunday School which she finds a fulfilling experience.

Mrs. Eaton hails from Georgia. She and her husband, Geoff, have 3 sons--Garrett, Kyle and Jon and have lived in 7 states in the past 21 years. Abby started teaching in the 6th grade, then moved to 4th, spent time teaching an Adult Bible study course, and in back in the 3rd / 4th. She is very involved in the Stewardship Committee, and worked with your children in this years Stewardship Sunday School program, which emphasized stewardship through "Giving Back to God." When Abby is not gardening or quilting, she can be found substituting in Old Bridge Middle School or High School, or participating at the Wednesday night Women's Bible Study.

Submitted by Laurie Burke



Those Recovering

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
Josie Schubert –mother of Mary Artache

Those with Other Needs

Olivia Rae Vargas – niece of Sue Hawley
Gloria Carias
Les Ebersole
Evelyn Katora
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 Katora
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 Katora
Guy Katora
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...

Adam Lo	1/01
Jordan Kaplan	1/01
Christina Sereda	1/04
Candace Riggs	1/04
Andrew Junco	1/05
Jeffrey Lisk	1/06
Katrina Clapsis	1/07
Amy Ford	1/07
Jason Cocklin	1/07
Kevin Prenderville	1/08
Melissa Siclari	1/09
Matthew Qualman	1/09
Douglas Kim	1/10
Alyxa Olsen	1/11
David Schulmeister	1/12
Jennifer Melfa	1/12
Katherine O'Connor	1/13
Scott Weiss	1/14
Erika Meitzner	1/17
Kim Raba	1/17
Joseph George Kotora	1/18
Edward Siclari	1/18
Edward Siclari	1/18
Roy Ebersole	1/23
Kathy Schulmeister	1/23
Wayne Borkowski	1/24
Kyle Ebersole	1/25
Leela Mallepalle	1/25
Christine Kim	1/25
Paul Garg	1/27
Katelyn MacLean	1/27

Josceline Marie Skrok	1/27
Barbara Freeborn	1/28
Brendan van Riemsdyk	1/28
Arthur Staudinger	1/28
Jessica Shipley	1/28
Allyson Gonzalez	1/29
Jessica Van Handel	1/29
Dereck Matthews	1/29
Ruth Culmone	1/30
Carol Hahl	1/31
Alicia DeSena	1/31

Adult Bible Studies Starting January 11, 2009 @ 9:30 AM

The Seven Secrets For A Happy

Family. Leader: Pastor Qualman, in the Fellowship hall.

The human family was designed by God just as was marriage. Needless to say, He has a few things to say about what goes into a happy and secure family. In these difficult times, when the Christian family is challenged and even attacked, God has a powerful word and guide for us all.

Understanding the Meaning of Jewish Festivals.

Leader: Sonya Hansen in the Resource Room. What exactly is understood by the celebration of Jewish festivals such as Hanukkah, the Passover, or Shavuot? How would a better understanding enable us Christians to better witness to our Jewish friends? Jesus understood and celebrated these festivals and even claimed to be their fulfillment in the Gospel of St. John.

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

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Sexton

Frank Lylo

Pastor Emeritus

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

FUTURE EVENTS

January 2009

January 10 th	Couples Bible Study @ The Hullings, 6:00 PM
January 11 th	Special Congregational Meeting following both services
January 17 th	LYF New Year's Eve Party
January 20 th	Book Club

Good Shepherd Children's Center

WHAT'S NEW AT SCHOOL

January is a new beginning especially for GSCC. We look forward to our Open House which will take place on January 17th, 2009 from 9 am to 1 pm. If you know of any families in need of a school for their little ones, please tell them about this special date. The Open House is a great way for people to come in and tour the school, meet with the teachers and ask questions. If a family signs up the day of the Open House, they get \$50.00 off their first month's tuition, which is a nice way to say thank you for picking Good Shepherd.

January is also a good month for snow, being born in January my birthday parties as a child were constantly being postponed (but there is so much you can do with your family. Take advantage of the weather and have movie nights, or invest in a great sled and make a sledding date, our favorite activity is "bake night", you



don't mind the extra heat in the house and you have something wonderfully warm to share over tea or coffee. We catch up with board games and card games. A lot of people do not like the

winter, but I do, for me its a time where families can reconnect a little bit

because there is absolutely no reason good enough for being outside. So maybe during the month of January you can think of fun ways to spend more time with your loved ones and actually enjoy the winter instead of dreading it. Plan a family vacation, there is so much to do during the winter months, and it's probably not a bad idea to get some down time that I'm sure is well deserved.

*Lorraine Campo, Director
GSCC*

**The Lutheran Church
of the Good Shepherd**

www.lc-goodshepherd.org

3139 County Road 516

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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 @ 6:00 PM

GS Children's Center

732-679-8887

Mrs. Lorraine Campo, Director

gsc@lc-goodshepherd.org

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God's love at work here!