

The Staff

The Newsletter of the Lutheran Church
of the Good Shepherd

Our Mission:

To equip God's people for ministry with a vision to share God's Word!

August 2011

BOARD BRIEFS

*Notes from the Admin Board's Meetings on
May 26 and June 30.*

At the May meeting: A comment was passed about the "Passing of the Peace." One member mentioned that they really enjoyed the warm feelings and the opportunity to greet their fellow congregants. One member referred to it as "mayhem" and believes you should only greet those that you can reach without leaving your spot. ***What do you think?*** Please let a Board member, Pastor Ben or a Deacon know.

There was significant amount of discussion on the "Lost Sheep" – those congregants who have not been attending services. This issue is of particular interest to me. The Board charged Pastor Ben with the task of contacting those people to determine why they left, if they're interested in returning and if not, why they're not interested. I think it's important that we know why some people have chosen to leave.

There was also some significant discussion surrounding communication between Pastor Ben and the Board. The discussion proved to be fruitful and we hope that the communication between us will be much better.

At the June Meeting: Unfortunately, in June there was no report on the "Lost Sheep." Pastor Ben indicated that he would be working with the

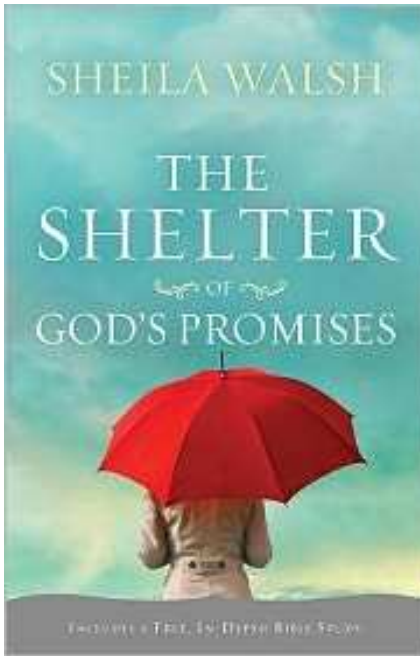
Deacons on this and the Board could expect a report the first week in July.

Also in June, the Board reorganized as is the custom after an election. Randi Rutan remained as President. Pat Pryor was elected Vice President in absentia (that'll teach him to go on vacation!). Bob Hahl retained his post as Treasurer and Beth Meyer (God Bless Her) volunteered for the position nobody wants, Secretary. Julio Artache, Paul Jordan and Bob Shipley are all members at large.

The issue of background checks was raised in connection with the Child Care Center and Pastor Ben recommended for his protection and the Church's that we have a background check done on him. Since he brought the issue up and had no objection, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the expenditure.

The topic of the expansion of our music program came up as a result of an inquiry from the Worship and Music committee. This would entail the restructuring of the existing program and we'll be investigating that in the coming months.

***Respectfully Submitted
Bob Shipley***



**ENJOY SOME SUMMER READING & AND
JOIN US IN SEPTEMBER FOR
BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION!**

In a world of uncertainty, pain and struggle, where do you find solid assurance and unshakeable truth? Gifted Bible teacher and inspiring Women of Faith speaker, Sheila Walsh, offers powerful, heart-filled teaching on ten bedrock promises of God, providing the foundation for daily confidence, joy and hope.

In *The Shelter of God's Promises*, Sheila searches Scripture for what God has promised us, what God's promises mean, and how encounters with Christ are the eternal fulfillment of His unrelenting commitment to us. In this riveting walk through some of the Bible's most compelling stories, Walsh unveils ten foundational promises of God that secure our lives during even the most difficult times. Sheila weaves her hallmark storytelling, inspiring personal experience, and Scripture to help readers gain a trust in God that will sustain them for a lifetime.

I've already ordered my copy, since Kathy Hogan will be starting off the **Book Club** on **September 20 at 7 p.m.**, in the Library of the Church. Won't you order your copy today and join us in September for some great discussion, coffee and fellowship?

Jill O'Connor, Christian Ed Chair.

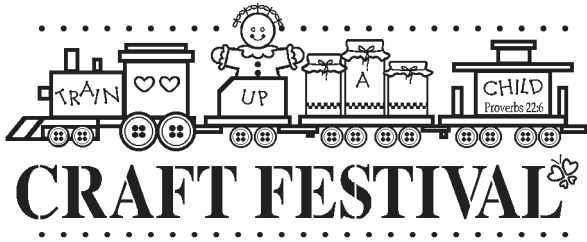
SUMMER BIBLE STUDY FOR WOMEN

The women have just started a Six-week Bible Study, "Healthy Summer Living", as we learn to "give ourselves to each wonderful moment of the summer and really drink in all of the delights of this special season, as we keep our mind, soul, strength and body in balance. Let your ultimate source of delight be found in God. Always keep Him in the center of your life. Let your thoughts rest on Jesus Christ, and let your soul rejoice in all his goodness." (Quotation from the book)

We will meet on **Wednesdays, at 7 p.m.** Let's continue our Healthy Living through the summer with this six-week Bible Study.

In His Service,
Jill O'Connor



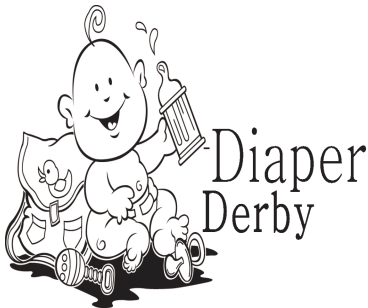


The **CRAFT FESTIVAL** is scheduled for Saturday, **November 12th** this year! Volunteers are needed for various tasks to accomplish this. I have detailed task lists that need to be done for your convenience. Functions that need to be headed up and completed are: advertising, fixing and posting signs around the community, bakery coordinator, food coordinator, festival “greeter” and

coordinator of volunteers, set up and break down coordinator and church craft table coordinator.

Please let me know if you can assist in any of these areas. Once I get a list of interested parties, we can then schedule a meeting to discuss things in more detail. Looking forward to another successful year! Please give me a call 732-536-6202 or email me at MoeMoe57@optonline.net.

The Diaper Derby begins September 1st!!



For quite a few years now, Lutherans for Life has run a “Diaper Derby” in our area. Four area churches (maybe five this year) collect diapers from their congregations and communities in a light-hearted contest. “Trophies” are given to the churches that collect the most diapers. Our church won second place last year. You can see our “trophy” on the table in the narthex. It’s the trophy with a hat and booties!

The real winners are the babies in need. The diapers are given to mothers at the Open Door Pregnancy Center in Toms River, the Pregnancy & Health Center in Shrewsbury, and the Getaway Pregnancy centers in Irvington and Elizabeth.

The babies need all sizes of diapers, especially sizes 4 and 5. There will be a playpen available all through September for you to put your donated diapers. If you would prefer to write a check or donate cash, please write your check to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and clearly mark it for the Diaper Derby, or even better, put your check or cash into an envelope and write Diaper Derby on the envelope, so the counters know this is for the Diaper Derby. If you are going to write a check or donate cash, I would appreciate if you would do so on or **before Sunday, September 18**. My plan is to use any monies donated to buy diapers on diapers.com, where we can get good prices on bulk quantities. That way we get the most diapers for the money.

The “contest” part of the Diaper Derby takes place at the Brielle House on Sunday, October 2. Since that is the day of Good Shepherd’s Gala Event, I will not be able to make it personally. If anyone is not planning to attend the Gala Event, and would be willing to take all the diapers to the Diaper Derby Ingathering in Brielle, please let me know.

Thank you.
Sandy Shipley
Missions Committee Chairperson
(732) 446-1121



SHOWING OUR DEVOTION

Respectfully submitted by Pat Pryor

Webster's Dictionary defines devotion as "loyalty, deep affection, or religious worship." We can be devoted to jobs, to families, to hobbies, to attaining success, wealth, or status. We can be devoted to a political party or a sports team. A Christian's highest devotion should be to His Lord and the Lord's Church.

We show our devotion to Christ in different ways, but much of our devotion is expressed in what we say or do. To the Ephesians Paul wrote, "*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them*" (Ephesians 2:10). Our good works show our devotion to God for Who He is and what He has done for us. As Christians, we show our devotion to Jesus through the faithful stewardship of our time, talents, and money.

As devoted stewards . . .

- We give generously. Giving puts our devotion into action. Because of our devotion to Jesus, we generously give Him our best. Jesus said, "*Freely you have received, freely give*" (Matthew 10:8 NIV). He also said, "*It is more blessed to give than to receive*" (Acts 20:35).
- We follow Jesus' example of serving. Jesus said, "*...the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve . . .*" (Matthew 20:28). Filled with Christ's love and grace, we

become new people who are prompted to follow His lead by helping and serving others. "*For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him Who for their sake died and was raised*" (2 Corinthians 5:14-15).

- We love others. We are to love our neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 19:19). We are equipped by Christ to be loving people because He changes us into loving people. Paul wrote, "*So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith*" (Galatians 6:10). Peter wrote, "*Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins*" (1 Peter 4:8).
- We are in this world but not of the world (John 15:19). We acknowledge that God is the owner and the source of all good things. We are devoted to Jesus, so we hold things of this world loosely. We love people rather than things.

May God keep our hearts devoted to Him and, through our devotion, may He be glorified.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LAUNCH SEPTEMBER 2011

It is our goal to make this a great year for Sunday school. We will be launching the year with a special time of focus and celebration. The first day of classes and registration will be held on Sunday, September 11 at 9:15 AM.



Sunday School News

On Sunday, September 18 we have planned some special activities in conjunction with the Christian Education Committee. It is our annual Rally Day launch of all the programs and ministries at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. We welcome every member to participate in Worship, Sunday school and social events. All are encouraged to participate and be a part of the excitement and fellowship!

There will be activities, information, learning opportunities and at the 10:30 AM service our volunteers (Sunday school teachers and their Assistants) will be dedicated.

The goal of Sunday school is to provide meaningful Christian education and socialization for children and by adults being actively involved they too will greatly benefit. The Sunday school calendar will be posted and I hope you will find it useful in planning ahead.

So what is Sunday school all about?

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock” (Matthew 7:24-25).

Jesus frequently used common experiences to help people understand his message. Being a carpenter, a story using the construction of houses probably came naturally to him. A person might easily build a house in a sandy wadi/dry riverbed (a fast-moving creek or small river that is not visible during the dry season).

But when the rainy season came, water would gush down the wadi/dry riverbed and carry the house away because its foundation was nonexistent. A foundation of stone had to be deep and substantial. It required meticulous and intentional effort. But the house that stood atop it would resist the rains of winter. Jesus was comparing this wise builder with a life where his message was put into action. Both resulted in a strong foundation.

What this parable is saying is exactly what we want to offer our children. We want to help our children build a strong faith foundation so that when the rains and storms of life assail them (and they will at some time or another), their house of faith will not fall away. It will stand strong and give them strength and shelter.

- 1. We want to teach the Bible and**
- 2. We want to make disciples of Jesus Christ.**

I look forward to a fun and exciting year. Thank you for the opportunity to share our faith with you and your children!

Yours in Christ
Lorraine Morrison
Sunday School Superintended.

MARK THESE DATES

AUGUST 2011

Saturday Evening Services at 5:00 PM – August 6, 13, 20, 27

Special Choir Rehearsals on **August 21st** immediately following service, and **Tuesday, August 30th** at 7:00 pm. Pizza and salad will be served. We are gearing up for September 11th Memorial Service and our 50th anniversary Service. All past and present choir members are invited to attend. New members are always welcome. If you are interested, please see Greg Ricca.

SEPTEMBER 2011

Saturday Evening Services at 5:00 PM – September 10, 17, 24
NO Saturday Service on September 3rd

September 4	Last week of Summer Schedule 9:00 am service
September 5	Church Office Closed
September 9 – 10	Women of Faith - Philadelphia
September 11	Sunday School Begins – Worship Services at 8:00 & 10:30 AM
September 18	Rally Day -- Installation of Sunday School & Care Center Teachers

OCTOBER 2011

Sunday October 2, 2011
50th Anniversary

NO Sunday School

One worship service at 10:00 am

Dinner @ Palms Plaza at 1:00 PM

Coffee hour before service to welcome guests and old friends!



Those Recovering

Joe Kotora
Bill Sabino
MaryAnn Turk
Rose Sydor
Gloria Carias
Michael Junco
Christine McGrade

Those in Nursing Homes

Jerry Bosco – Brother of Rosemarie Staudinger
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

Jack Kaplan – nephew of Marie Bergfeldt
Cookie Rose – sister of Marie Bergfeldt
Michele Carlson
Nicole Stacy
Olivia Rae Vargas – niece of Sue Hawley
Gloria Carias
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

Those Struggling with Cancer

John Smith – brother of Joanne Louth
Tony DeLuca – friend of the Bergfeldt's
Ed Siclari
Vinny Campo – husband of Care Center Director
Elaine Bosco, sister of RoseMarie Staudinger
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

Those in the Military

Ron Rutan – nephew of the Rutans – USS R. Reagan
Chrystal Rutan – niece of the Rutans – USS Preble
Andrew DePasquale – nephew of June Hullings
Matthew Walczak - friend of the Kim's
Jason Lefkowitz – friend of the Bergfeldt Family
Nelson Junco – nephew of Millie Junco (in
Afghanistan)
Patrick Grimes – grandson of Joan Brenner
Jeff Borkowski
Dustin Brown
Jeff Kotora
Guy Kotora
Brian Borkowski –nephew of the Borkowski's
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

For Your Information

Happy Birthday to...

Kaitlyn Cuisinier	8/1
Katerina Pate	8/1
Paulette Hacker	8/2
Barbara Wittig	8/7
Shari Turk	8/7
Nicholas Tucci	8/8
Joseph G. Kotora Sr	8/9
Robert Shipley	8/10
Connor Hullings	8/11
Ryan Kuzma	8/11
Millie Junco	8/13
David Petersen	8/13
Shane Palmer	8/14
Garrett Eaton	8/15
Michelle Carlson	8/16
Bonnie Lo	8/16
Lori Gonzalez	8/17
Michael Svat	8/17
Faith Caban	8/19
Barbara Yager	8/19
Sydney Wolven	8/20
Martha Dubin	8/21
Jonathan Schwartz	8/21
Dylan Cecil	8/22
Tom Doukas	8/24
Jeff Campbell	8/25
Jonathan Eaton	8/26
Laurie Burke	8/29
Sydney Gouamba	8/29
Terri Campbell	8/30
Sheryl Kotora	8/30



Happy Anniversary to.....

Abby & Geoff Eaton	8/4
Brian & Tara Burniston	8/5
Wayne & Christine Borkowski	8/17
Jeffrey & Mary Ellen Brace	8/17
Pat & Toni Pryor	8/20
Ebenezer & Sujata Mallepalle	8/22
Cynthia & Gordon McGrane	8/25
Joseph & Sheryl Kotora	8/28
Tony & Sonya Hansen	8/29
Micah & Dawn Margolis	8/31

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

Asst. Pastor
Rev. Ben Mallepalle
ebmallepalle@yahoo.com

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

**Organist & Sr Choir
Director**
Mr. Greg Ricca

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

Sexton
Frank Lylo

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



Baccalaureate

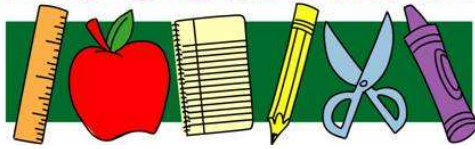
*Thank you so much for the scholarship.
I truly appreciate it!*

From Sabrina Yoniak



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

"For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth comes knowledge and understanding." Proverbs 2:6



While everyone has been in the full swing of summer and enjoying those lazy, hazy days, the Christian Education Committee has been hard at work coming up with new ideas and planning some great ways to share God's Word with all those who come through our doors.

While everyone has been in the full swing of summer and enjoying those lazy, hazy days, the Christian

Sunday School will be starting classes on September 11th and then kicking off the following Sunday, September 18th with our annual Rally Day. Children and parents will have an opportunity to meet their new Sunday School teachers, gather for some Christian Fellowship and games, attend a special Worship Service and enjoy some fun, food and games at our annual Church Picnic. The Sunday School is very excited about their new music ministry as well as their new Stewardship project, a Lasagna Garden. So make sure you tell your neighbors and friends about all of the exciting things going on at Good Shepherd's Sunday School this year.

Communion and **Confirmation** will have some brand new and exciting changes. Learning Events will now take place during the Sunday School hour, with Servant Events and Fellowship Events taking place on specified Sundays. A Confirmation Breakfast will be held on Sunday, September 11th for parents and children in the 7th and 8th Grade Confirmation program to discuss some of these exciting new changes. If your child is in 6th, 7th or 8th grade and you would like more information about our Communion and Confirmation programs, please feel free to contact either the church office or me directly.

As always, many Bible Studies are available for the Adults in our congregation as well. On Wednesday nights, beginning September 14th at 7 pm, our Women's Bible Study will commence. A study is still being decided by the ladies, but we will keep you posted with our fall study. In addition, several Bible Studies will be available on Sunday morning during the Sunday School hour. Won't you join us for Rally Day to see which Bible Studies will be offered and which study you would like to attend?

In addition, we are continuing to work on a new elementary age Youth Group to be started this fall. We are in the beginning stages, but if you have a child in 3rd through 5th Grade that would be interested in joining such a Youth Group, please let me know.

As we continue to meet throughout the summer and into the fall, the Christian Education Committee will strive to find different ways to bring God's Word to all those at Good Shepherd and in our community. We look forward to a wonderful year of growing in Christ, sharing God's love and reaching out to those in our community.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jill O'Connor,
Christian Education Chair

SUMMER PREACHING SERIES:

Feature of Pastor Johnston's Summer Preaching Schedule at Good Shepherd

Pastor Johnston will feature a Summer Preaching Series entitled:

"The Biblical Foundation of TRUE NORTH: Key Passages of Holy Scripture to Help Reveal Our Reason for Existence and Our Sense of Mission."

The Biblical foundation of your life is like TRUE NORTH, the point of reference by which all things are measured. You can clarify true north for yourself with the following three steps:

1. Reflect on those verses of Holy Scripture that have clarified your sense of purpose in the past.
2. Review some of the Bible passages that have been meaningful for other Christians.
3. Capture your sense of your Biblical foundation in your own words.

As Pastor Johnston has done that exercise for himself, he has developed a Preaching Series he will share according to the following Summer Worship Schedule here at Good Shepherd: (Following each sermon title is noted the Biblical Foundation Verse with the context of verse noted in [].)

August 14: "Nothing Else Pleases God Like Faith" Hebrews 11.6a [1-6];

August 28: "The Unconditional Gift of Faith" Ephesians 2.8-9 [1-10];

September 4: "Sole Cause of Christ's Death and Our Lives" Romans 5.8b [6-8].

GOLDEN RULE TO FOLLOW

If you OPEN it CLOSE it
If you turn it on... turn it off
If you unlock it ... lock it
If you MOVE it ... PUT IT BACK
If you agree to do it... then do it.
If you borrow it.... return it
If you use it... take care of it
If you break it... repair it
If you mess it up clean it up
If it will brighten someone's day... say it.

Just a gentle reminder that things have been moved, and not returned to their proper place.

Food garbage has been left after events which causes a rodent problem (and smell).

Frank is a great help, but he is not here to clean up after meetings, parties, etc.

Thank You.

The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

www.lc-goodshepherd.org
3139 County Road 516
Old Bridge, NJ 08857
732-679-8883

Worship Services
Sunday at 9:00 AM
6/26 – 9/4

The Rev. Ben Mallepalle, Assistant Pastor

Saturday Evening Service @ 5:00 PM
No Saturday service on 9/3

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!