

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!

December 2011

SHALOM!



My Dear All:

On December 17, 1903 the Wright brothers made the first successful powered human flight. Right after the historic flight, Wilbur sent the following message home by telegraph:

"WE HAVE FLOWN FOR 59 SECONDS. WE WILL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS!"

Upon receiving the telegram, their sister Katharine went to the local newspaper and informed the editor of her brothers' new flying machine and the flight. She also mentioned that her brothers were coming home for Christmas. The editor assured Katharine that he would publish an article about her brothers. Two days later on December 19th, the paper had the following headline on the 6th page of the paper:

"WRIGHT BROTHERS HOME FOR CHRISTMAS".

The most important story of the - man's first flight - and the editor missed it! Sometimes I wonder if the same could be said about us when it comes to Christmas. The greatest gift that comes from Jesus is Peace and we miss it during this season. Jesus said "...my peace I give to you."(*John 14:27*). Shalom, the Hebrew word for peace just does not mean peace as we use it. Shalom means making whole or completing relationships that includes the binding together of people, their hearts and their minds. When our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ says He gives us His peace, He is binding us to Himself and God the Father forever. And we are given the right and privilege to call God "Abba, Father."

But what do we do during the season? We tend to run around and we try our best to get this so-called peace by focusing on material trinkets to forge 'peaceful relationships.' Real peace does not exist in the pews or narthex, for the one hour we spend in church and it definitely does not come from shopping at Macy's or Nordstrom's. Real Peace comes from God through Jesus and lives in the hearts of His children. So this Christmas while we continue to live our earthly lives, exchanging gifts, and enjoying the bounty that God gives us let us never forget that Jesus came into the world to bring peace to each of us and we live united and in peace with one another as His creation - in and outside the church. So this advent season spend time with the Prince of Peace—and enjoy the rest, tranquility, harmony and hope He created in your hearts and spread the good news.

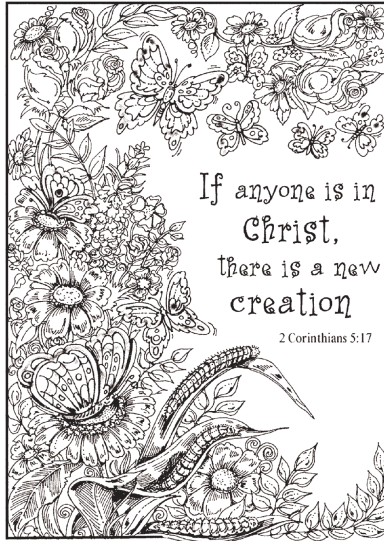
God's Blessings for a wonderful Christmas!

In His Love,
Pastor Ben

Why I Won't Leave Good Shepherd

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us, the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:17-19



These days the term reconciliation is a hot topic with our Good Shepherd family. How can we reconcile our differences? Do we feel like just giving up and throwing in the towel and calling it quits? No doubt, these are difficult times for our congregation, but we all need to search God's Word and pray with all our hearts to fully understand why we are going through this. What is the purpose? Yet we also need to see it all through. Chuck Swindoll, the great pastor and writer expresses our dilemma in this way...

"In our culture today, anything, even news about God, can be sold if it is packaged freshly; but when it loses its novelty, it goes on the garbage heap. There is a great market for religious experience in our world; there is little enthusiasm for the patient acquisition of virtue, little inclination to sign up for the long apprenticeship in what earlier Christian generations called holiness."

Our Generation toys dangerously with an "I'm getting tired so let's quit" mentality. And this is not limited to the spiritual realm. Dieting is a daily discipline, so we stay fat. Finishing school is an everyday thing, so we bail out. Cultivating a close relationship is painful so we back off. Working through conflict in a marriage is a tiring struggle day by day so we walk a way.

The "let's quit mentality is upon us."

Ignace Jan Paderewski, the famous Polish pianist and statesman, was once scheduled to perform at a great concert hall in America. It was a black tie affair, a high society extravaganza. Present in the audience that evening was a woman who had brought her nine year old son, hoping that he would be encouraged to practice the piano if he could just hear the great Paderewski at the keyboard. Weary of waiting for the concert to begin, and being there against

his wishes anyway, the lad squirmed restlessly in his seat. Then, as his mother turned to talk to with friends, the boy slipped out of his seat and down the aisle, strangely drawn by the ebony concert grand sitting majestic and alone at the center of the huge stage. He sat down on the tufted leather stool, placed his small hands on the black and white keys, and began to play chopsticks.

Suddenly the crowd hushed, and hundreds of frowning faces turned in his direction. Irritated and embarrassed some began to shout, "Hey get that boy away from there!" "Where's his mother? – Someone stop him!"

Backstage Paderewski heard the uproar, and the sound of the simple tune. When he saw what was happening, he hurried onto the stage. Without a word to the audience, he walked up behind the lad, reached his arms around either side of him, and began to improvise a counter melody. As the two made music together, the master pianist kept whispering in the boy's ear, "keep going, don't quit, son. Keep on playing...don't stop...don't quit."

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

So it is with us. We hammer away at life day by day, and sometimes it seems about as significant as *Chop-Sticks*. Then about the time we are about to give up, along comes the Master, who leans over and whispers, “*Don’t quit- Don’t give up, keep going*” as He provides His divine counter melody of Grace, Love and Joy at just the right moment.

So it is with Good Shepherd. Do we need to pray about all that is going on here – **Yes!**

Can we all serve and Worship our Lord somewhere else – **Sure!**

Will things run more smoothly and will we agree with everyone, and about everything - **possibly!**

But what are we giving up here?

I know this one thing! God is in the middle of our struggle. As we play “chop-sticks” He is providing His counter melody, helping us to grow, helping us to learn to lean on Him, and helping us to grow in Him. As we struggle to get along – God is with us! As we struggle to get our church in order- God is with us! As we struggle to reach others with the Gospel. God is with us!

The Church in Corinth was playing “Chop-Sticks” also. Paul exhorts them to understand what God had done for them – to draw them to Him. He reconciled them through his Son, even though they did not deserve it. He teaches us reconciliation to look at each other through His Son’s eyes; no one is perfect except Him who is there with us in His Spirit.

Thinking you have had enough and you just can’t take anymore? Take a good look at each other – and think how we all need ***His Grace, His Peace, His Love and His Joy***, do this by looking at Jesus, who gave His all for us- we should be able to press on with the work of building this congregation, helping it be what it is supposed to be--a place where imperfect people playing “Chop-Sticks” can go to worship a God who loves us all very much.

Jeff Campbell

Church Decorating



Many hands make light work. Please join us on Friday, December 2nd at 7:30 pm to decorate the church.

The trees need to go up, the wreaths all around, the garland, and maybe we can put some lights on the big tree out in front of the church???

If you have any questions, please see Alexis Dill.



HAPPENINGS!!!



All are welcome to join us on Saturday, December 17th at 12:00 pm to go Christmas Caroling around the Old Bridge area. We will be going to the Shoppes at Old Bridge on Route 9, and in front of Rite Aid on Cottrell and Route 516, and in front of Ciccone's Italian Deli on Route 9. Other locations are being "scouted out". We will come back to church for a quick 'bite', and go to visit some of our home bound members and sing for them. If you plan on "Spreading some cheer" with us, please let Marie or Greg know. For more information please see Greg Ricca or Marie Bergfeldt.

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3rd & 4th Grade Sunday School Stewardship

Submitted by Abby Eaton

Take a look outside at our pumpkins for Thanksgiving!!!! We would like to say thank you to all who helped us collect lids and bottle caps, plywood, paint and hardware that were used to make them. God teaches us to be good Stewards in all areas of our life. We have made something beautiful from things that were leftover, non recyclable and not being used.

More "bottle cap" art to come. Keep your eyes open.

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Senior Ladies Luncheon

Submitted by Abby Eaton

On Wednesday November 9th, 13 Senior ladies gathered at Good Shepherd in the fellowship hall to share fellowship and a meal. Everyone brought their favorite dish or dessert.

Thank you to Allison VanReimsdyke, Linda Cinquagrana, Linda Gustafson and Maureen Puricelli for your service to our Senior Ladies. A good time was had by all.



Congratulations to Greg Ricca – our new Music Director.

All aspects of our music ministry here at Good Shepherd will now be directed to Greg. Greg is looking forward to working more with the youth, and with the new sound system that should be installed and ready to go by Christmas. Please take a moment to congratulate him.





CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARD: If you would like to be included in the church Christmas card, please fill out the form in the basket in the Narthex and return with your check (or cash) to the basket. All monies and forms must be returned by December 11th. If you have any questions, please see Sandy Shipley, or call Marie in the church office.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS: If you would like to order a poinsettia for Christmas, please use the order page in the back of the flower book. They are \$15.00 each, and payment **MUST** be made at time of order. If you have any questions, please call Marie in the church office. All orders must be in by December 11th.



*There are still a few ornaments and cookbooks left.
These make nice Christmas gifts.
Please see Faith Caban at the counter after worship service.*



I would like to say ***Thank You!*** To all those ladies that spend hours of their day to come and “spruce-up” the gardens. On many occasions, these ladies are here early in the morning (7:30 or so) and work till after 12 or 1:00 in the afternoon. They are pulling weeds, pruning the bushes, planting, and just making our Church grounds look beautiful. I see them “pop” in to do some weeding, or using the weed wacker and going around the parking lot and trees to get rid of those pesky weeds.

Thank you to:

- Allison VanRiemsdyk
- Leslie Green
- Maureen Puricelli
- Abby Eaton
- Linda Cinquagrana
- Linda Gustafson.

If I have forgotten anyone, please let me know.



MANHATTAN SERENADE: December 2, 9 & 10 at 8:00 pm, Sunday December 4th at 2:00 pm. Or come see the special performance on Saturday, December 3rd at 2:00 pm. Tickets are \$14.00 (save \$2.00 by getting tickets on line at www.soarproductions.org.) Performance at the Post Theater in Sandy Hook, NJ. 732-471-8268. If you have any questions, please see Greg Brooks.

Good Shepherd Children's Center

WHAT'S NEW AT SCHOOL



The children of GSCC will be performing their annual *Christmas Show* on December 10th at 9:30 am and 11:30 am, all are welcome to attend. What a perfect way to jumpstart the holiday season! Please remember to pick a name off of the Angel Christmas Tree, it will truly make a difference for someone this Christmas. Some members of the staff at the care center including myself are

happy to participate in the Angel Tree program, it's a great cause and a wonderful way to give back to our community.

I would at this time like to wish you and yours a happy, healthy and Blessed Christmas Season and wonderful New Year!

Lorraine Campo, Director GSCC

A SPECIAL THANKS....

Submitted by Susannah Rutan

To all of those who donated candy for the Confirmation October Servant Event and to those individuals who accompanied the students on their venture into the community. The students really enjoyed going out into the community for a *Trick-or-Treat Give Back!* They did hit a few bumps along the way but they continued on, and made it through! The Confirmation class visited over 100 homes on October 30th and thanked homeowners for the candy the students received over the years. They handed out goodie bags as a way of saying thank you and a pamphlet about our church. The students were very inspired and wish to participate in an event similar to this again. We encourage all members of the congregation and visitors to be on the LOOK-OUT in the future for upcoming outreach opportunities.



Thanksgiving drive is a big success! Thank you very much to everyone who donated money or gift cards or turkeys to our Thanksgiving drive. We received over \$800 in money and gift cards, plus turkeys. We have church families who asked for help with Thanksgiving dinner costs, and we usually get more who ask for help with Christmas dinner. Your wonderful generosity will allow us to help church family members with both holiday dinners. Thank you very much. Sandy Shipley, Missions committee

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Sunday School News

Someone has said that if you put the world's best teacher in a room with the world's worst students, very little learning would take place. I don't know if that is true, but I do know that a willing and capable pupil is necessary to the process of learning. For years we have known that you cannot stop a determined student from learning. The necessity of a capable teacher is not denied, but there is also the need for a capable, motivated pupil.

The Necessity of Good "Soil": Jesus told a parable about a sower who went out to plant seed. Both sower and seed were good, but some of the soil into which the seed was sown was poor soil. The result: neither harvest – nor learning – could take place. Read Luke 8:4-15.

Jesus taught that there must be good "seed" and good "soil", good teaching and a good pupil. Subtract either one and learning will be greatly diminished.

The same is true in a classroom. A professor once told a room full of graduate students: "Teaching does not take place until learning takes place."

If his statement is true both student and teacher must come together for the best learning situation.

What qualities does the ideal pupil possess?

Desire, Willingness to Learn: Ancient learners had none of the "essentials" of learning available today, but they had the desire to learn. The great accomplishments of the Greek culture were achieved long before computers and projectors were

introduced. We think of Lincoln studying before an open fire. A determined student can learn from anyone under most any circumstance, but he/she will always need a "shovel," one that will be used to help "dig" out the needed information. A motivated pupil will learn, but without that motivation, the finest of teachers cannot succeed.

Share Knowledge With Others: We would consider a person to be selfish who has that which can be of benefit to others, yet withholds it. Even more so when that knowledge is crucial to the souls of others who desire to have the "*hope of eternal life.*" Titus 1:2, 3:7.

The scriptures tell us, "*he who wins souls is wise,*" Proverbs 11:30, and that "*faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God,*" Romans 10:17. A good student can not be selfish with what he has learned from God's wonderful Word. Knowing it demands that we share it.

IMPORTANT DATES

December 17 – Saturday – Sunday school rehearsal for Christmas Program - **10 AM till noon**

December 18 – Sunday - CHRISTMAS PROGRAM – **10:30 AM SERVICE** all children expected to attend!

December 25 – January 1 – NO Classes

I truly hope you have been enjoying the music ministry! Special thanks to Tony Puricelli. Well the year continues to fly by and there is much more planned as we enter the New Year!

Yours in Christ,
Lorraine Morrison, Sunday School Superintendent



THE ANGEL TREE IS UP!

In the Narthex stands a Christmas Tree with paper Angels hanging on it. Each Angel has a person's name, what organization they are from, an Angel number, and a "wish list". If you find an Angel you want to buy a present for, please take the Angel off of the tree, find that Angel number in the "**sign-in book**" and put your name and phone number, so we know who has that Angel. We ask that you spend \$25 on each Angel, so that each man, woman and child on the Angel Tree gets a gift of approximately the same value.

I have said before that I am always amazed at our church's generosity. For many years, our church family's favorite Mission has been the Angel Tree. Last year, the tree went up on a Saturday afternoon with over 100 Angels on it. On Sunday afternoon, there were less than 10 Angels left. We added 10 more and by the following Sunday afternoon, every last Angel had been signed out. It was wonderful.

This year, we have Angels for five organizations we have included for years, one group that we helped last year, and two new groups. I thought it might be nice to tell you a little about the men, women and children you so generously give gifts to this Christmas season.

The Sayreville Group Home houses five mentally challenged adult women. Good Shepherd 'adopted' the Home some time ago, and we have done several Missions for them. In previous years when they needed paint to brighten up a few rooms, some volunteers when and helped out, and things like that. They have been Angels on our tree for at least ten years now. All of the women need clothes this year. Please avoid buttons or zippers as these can present a challenge for them. We suggest sweat suits, jogging outfits, or other easy on/off active wear.

Amanda Crossing is a residential facility for homeless families. Adults and their children can live in these apartments for one year. In that year, parents are expected to take advantage of training programs, counseling and life skills seminars so that they can learn to be better parents and to become self-sufficient in order to make a better life for themselves and their children. There are 18 Angels for these children this year.

For many years now, the **Old Bridge Social Services** office has given us the names and wish lists for Senior Citizens who may not have any family or anyone else they expect to receive gifts from. This year, all six of the Seniors have asked for clothes. Please consider their age when choosing clothing styles. Comfortable clothes are always appreciated.

Some years, the **Old Bridge Social Services** office has also given us Angels for families who are in particular need. This Christmas, we have six Old Bridge families on the tree. They are parents and children that the Old Bridge Food Bank felt could really use some Christian love this Christmas. Please keep in mind that the kids were asked for wish lists. Some of them had a lot of "wishes", so I put as many as I could on each Angel.

Good Shepherd's church family also has Angels on the tree this year. The parents and children are identified on the Angels only as "Family A boy" or something similar, with their age and some wishes. While it is very important to help people in need outside of our church, it is even more important to help those who worship and praise our God within our own church family. I thank you that the church family Angels are usually among the first ones taken off the tree.

We do have some new Angels on the tree. Last year, we introduced you to the ***Freehold Clergy Emergency Housing program***. Their president is the Pastor at Hope Lutheran Church in Freehold. Every night from December 1 to March 31, a group of homeless men go to a church where they are screened to ensure they are not using drugs or alcohol, then the men are taken to one of the participating houses of worship in the Freehold area. They are given dinner, a warm bed to sleep in, and breakfast. Various local groups help by donating razors, toothbrushes, toothpaste and other toiletries, as Good Shepherd did last Christmas. What the men really need from us this year are wool socks, hats and gloves, especially the socks. There are 20 Angels for these homeless men on the tree this year.

Brand new to the Angel Tree are 14 teenage boys from ***St. Peter's Orphanage*** in Denville. St. Peter's is a residential facility for boys who have been abused, abandoned or neglected. The boys have mild to moderate emotional, behavioral or social problems, and St. Peter's tries to give them a home that is like a large family. Most of the boys have asked for gift cards or music CDs. Many musical artists put out versions of their CDs with or without explicit lyrics. The Orphanage has asked that if you buy a CD for one of their boys, please buy the edited version if there is one available. Thank you.

Also new to the Angel Tree are ***Senior Citizens from the Reformed Church Home*** in Old Bridge. The Reformed Church Home is a mission-driven, non-profit Assisted Living, Skilled Nursing and Sub-Acute Rehab community of senior citizens age 65 and older. The Home is supported by the Reformed Church in America, which is a Christian denomination. Members of Good Shepherd's Adult Choir usually take part in the Reformed Church Home's Christmas service in mid-December. There are 20 Angels on the tree, for some of the Home's most needy residents.

As always, there will be Angels on the tree for ***My Brother's Keeper***. These can be donations in any amount. You can write a check to the church or buy a gift card to Shop Rite or Wal-Mart. Faith Caban has stocked up on these cards, so you can buy them at the counter from the Scrip program at church if you'd like. The Missions committee holds onto these cards until disaster strikes or someone in our church family has specific need of them. After Hurricane Irene and the flooding that followed, these donations helped out a number of church families who suddenly found themselves in need. After the early snow this year, I fear we are looking at a particularly cold winter in a very depressed economy. My Brother's Keeper is an ongoing Mission that allows the church to help as soon as we find out that people are in need.

This is the first year that I am the primary person coordinating the Angel Tree Mission. Paulette Hacker and Linda Cinquegrana have been giving me tons of help, and a dozen other people are ready to count, separate, bag, tag, and distribute all the gifts. Since this is the first year I am organizing this Mission, I would like to ask you to do two things for me. **First**, please make sure you put your name and phone number in the sign-out book next to the name and number of your Angel. **Second**, if you can, please get the Angel Tree gifts back to the church on **Sunday, December 4**. I just want to make sure we have time to get the gifts to where they need to go, so they are sitting under all the right trees by Christmas Eve.

Thank you very much for your support of all Good Shepherd's Missions.

I wish you all God's love and blessing at this most joyous Christmas season.

Sincerely,

Sandy Shipley
Missions Chairperson



Those Recovering

Kathy Hogan
Joe Kotora
MaryAnn Turk
Rose Sydor
Gloria Carias

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

Veronica Cinquagrana - Dan's mom
James D'Andrea
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

Please review this list and let Marie know in the office if anyone needs to be added, or removed. Thank You.

Those Struggling with Cancer

Kathy Hogan
Robert Pedersen – son of Elizabeth Pedersen
John Smith – brother of Joanne Louth
Ed Siclari
Trish Ead
Vincent 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
Elizabeth Pryor—aunt of Pat Pryor

Those in the Military

Jared Renda – friend of the Bergfeldt Family
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
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...

Patrick Bowen	12/01
Kaitlin Jordan	12/02
Tyler Salzer	12/03
Demetrius Pate	12/04
Richard Stemming	12/05
Katherine Bowen	12/07
Cara Jeanne DiMaggio	12/08
Susannah Rutan	12/08
Kelly Doran	12/09
Ed Siclari	12/11
Allison van Riemsdyk	12/12
Andrew Cecil	12/12
Richard Toth	12/13
Alexis Dill	12/14
Brigitte Meitzner	12/14
Emilou Eck	12/14
Nicole Onorato	12/15
Priscilla Seesman	12/15
Joan Gibson	12/15
Samantha Messler	12/15
Danielle Nathanson	12/17
Daniel Onorato	12/18
Patrick Cole	12/23
Christine McGrade	12/24
Miriam Nieves	12/24
John Streu	12/24
Valerie Tietchen	12/26
Christian Hawley	12/26
Joan Habinowski	12/27
Tom Jocus	12/29
Anthony Onorato	12/31

Happy Anniversary to.....

Laurie & William Burke 12/19



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

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From the Alleys

Submitted By Wayne Krawiec

We are already into the 9th week of bowling!

Our new officers are:

President:	Wayne Krawiec
Vice President:	Bob Shipley
Secretary:	Bob Hahl
Treasurer:	Sandy Shipley.

As of now: **First place** (45-18) goes to Dynamite Bowl (Steve, Danny & Tony Onorato)
Second place (42-21) goes to Lane Rovers (Bob & Carol Hahl, and Steve Weiss)
Third place (40-23) goes to Top of the Heap (Ron & Doreen Humiston, & Beth Meyer)

Our new bowlers this year are Jim D'Andrea, Peter Bergfeldt, and back again Nicole Onorato.

We have 10 teams with 3 bowlers on each team. We bowl 36 weeks and split our season into two 18 week sessions. The winner of the first half bowls the winner of the second half to decide the championship.

Highlight so far are:

High Games:	Women	Men
	Patty Ricca 195 Victoria Artache 194	Ron Humiston 242
High Series:	Women	Men
	Carol Hahl – 528 Mary Artache – 495	Steve Weiss – 584 Bill Burke 582
Leading High Averages:	Women	Men
	Carol Hahl – 154	Wayne Krawiec – 208

Several bowlers have improved their averages especially Danny Onorato, 10 pins a game, Victoria Artache, 11 pins a game.

Our gutter ball fund is growing real fast with help from, Tom Rutan, Vinny Stefanelli, Marie & Peter Bergfeldt, Jon Bliven, Mary Artache, the Shipleys, the Riccas and a few others. I expect it to exceed last years total of \$445.00.

On December 19th we will have our annual Christmas Party, come join us for the fun and cheer us on. at Strathmore Lanes in Aberdeen at 8:30 pm. Stay tuned for more highlights next month and God Bless all our bowlers and their families.

The Holidays are right around the corner – why not **“Shop with Scrip”** and help the Church at the same time! You get dollar for dollar for your purchase and your friends, family, business associates, and teachers get something they can appreciate! (*Really your child’s teacher doesn’t need another mug, or candle.*)

Need stocking stuffers or small \$10 or \$15 gifts? Why not consider: iTunes, Dunkin Donuts, Starbucks, Claries, Panera Bread or Singular Movie Gold Tickets – either AMC/Lowes or Regal/United!

Need something for a student, consider: iTunes, Macys, Aeropostale, JC Penney, Bed, Bath & Beyond, Cabalas, Dicks Sporting Goods, Bath & Body Works, Target, Walmart, Kohl’s, Best Buy, Children’s Place, Babies-R-Us, Gap, Old Navy, American Eagle!

More down to earth needs – why not a ShopRite card or a Gas Card: Wawa, Exxon, Mobil, Sunoco, Gulf or BP, or something like a Home Depot, Pep Boys, Sears, Lowes, Jiffy Lube, Sams Club, Walmart! (You know everyone needs gas, and everyone is keeping up on their car repairs, this is a perfect gift for those people you don’t know what to get?).

Maybe a restaurant for the Sr.’s in your life: Olive Garden, Outback, Ruby Tuesdays, Chili’s, Red Lobster, Applebee’s, Cheesecake Factory, PF Changs, TGIF, Panera Bread!

There is something for everyone and our Church benefits greatly! Already this year the Scrip/Supermarket program has generated **\$4000.00** for our Church – Consider it! For more information, please see Faith Caban. Thanks!



You can also purchase the church ornament. These were custom made from an actual artistic rendering of our Church and are 3D with 24K gold overlay. They are \$15.00 for one, and \$25.00 for 2. Please see Faith Caban at the counter after worship service if you would like to purchase one of the ornaments, or one of the cookbooks.

Looping the Church

Tony & Sonya Hansen

What do Saint Paul's Cathedral in London, England, the Grand Rapids, Michigan airport, 488 subway information booths in New York City, and soon Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Old Bridge, NJ, all have in common? Loop technology!!

One of the pieces that will be part of our new sound system is what is known as an "audio loop" or "hearing loop." What is an audio loop? Who can benefit from an audio loop?

"Imagine yourself as a person with a significant hearing loss. While seated at the theater or at worship, or standing at a ticket window, you find yourself struggling to hear. Which of these hearing solutions would you prefer? Would you want:

1. To take the initiative to locate, check out, wear, and later return special equipment (often a receiver with a headset or earphones that likely require that you remove your hearing aids), or
2. To push a hearing aid or cochlear implant button, turning your own hearing instrument into a wireless loudspeaker that broadcasts sound customized for your own ears?

Most churches, theaters and ticket windows in the United States provide either solution #1 or nothing at all. Solution #2 can be found "throughout the United Kingdom, Nordic countries and, increasingly, more American locations."

Loop technology has existed for some 70 years, but only in the past decade has it made much headway in the US. States such as Michigan, New Mexico and Arizona have been extremely progressive in deploying audio loops in numerous public venues, but other areas have begun to deploy audio loops in a big way. For example, "in the past three years, loops have been approved for taxis and 642 subway information booths, according to public notices from New York City's Taxi and Limousine Commission and Metro Transportation Authority."

It's estimated that 36 million Americans, more than 1 in 9, have hearing loss.

"About 1 in 4--some 8.4 million--have hearing aids, a number that would surely increase if hearing aids could double as wireless, customized loudspeakers.

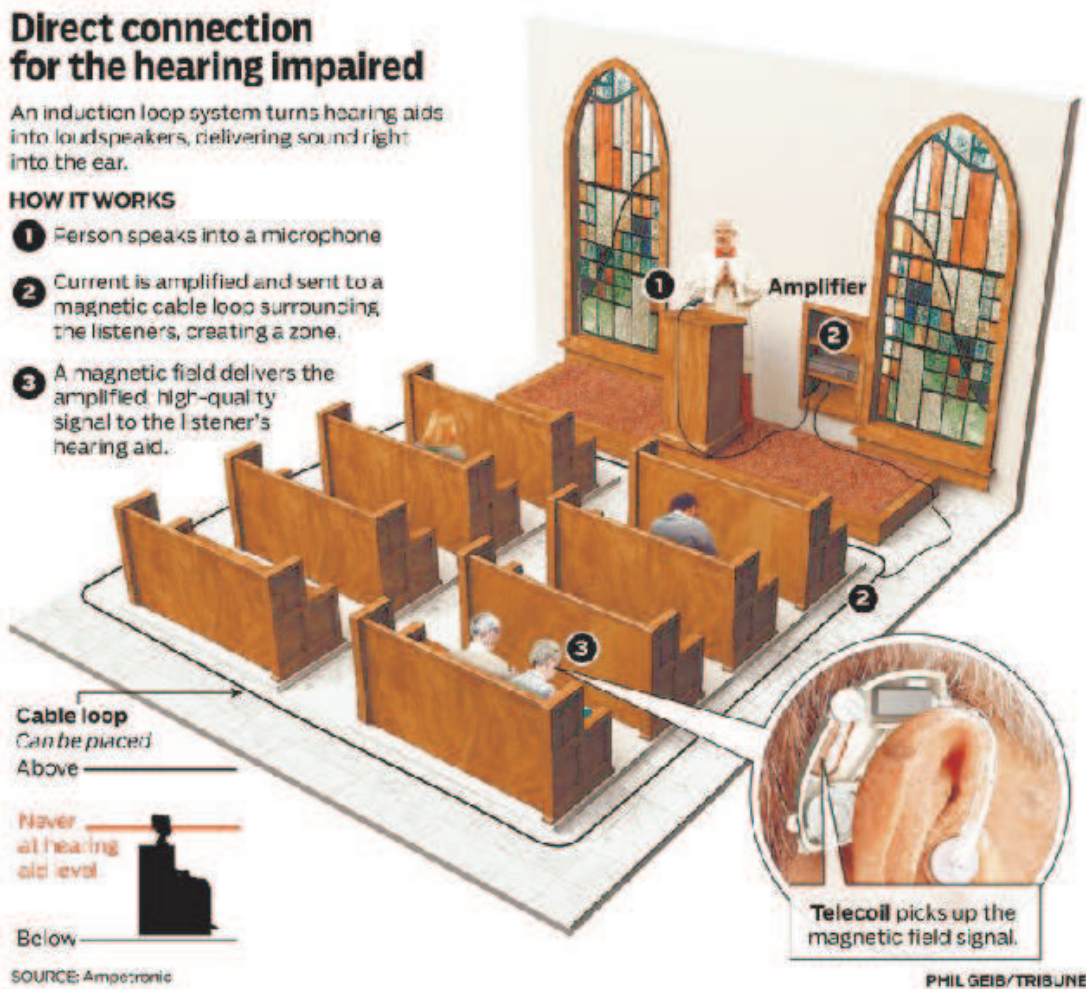
"In most places, hard of hearing people hear the broadcast sound, but only after it has traveled some distance from a loudspeaker, reverberated off walls, and gotten mixed with other room noise. Induction loop systems take sound straight from the source and deliver it right into the listener's head. It's as if one's head was located in the microphone, or inches from a television's loudspeaker--without extraneous noise, or blurring of the sound with distance from the sound source."

Figure 1. Delivering sound directly into hearing aids.

In an audio loop, a simple wire is looped around the perimeter of the church and connected to the church's amplifiers. Sounds picked up by the microphones are transmitted to that loop, establishing a magnetic field within the loop. The telecoils (found in 2/3 of all hearing aids sold) then pick up that magnetic signal and provide the high quality sound directly to the listener's hearing aid when the listener turns their T-coil on.

Audio loops provide a number of advantages over FM and infrared systems, as found in some theaters and churches. For example, the user does not need to check out and use highly visible head phones that have been used by numerous other people; and no one needs to maintain those headsets, cleaning them and changing their batteries.

With the installation of our new sound system at our church, we will have a loop set up around our sanctuary.



Next month, Greg Ricca will highlight some of the other aspects of our new audio / visual system.

Board Briefs

Congregational Meeting Update

Sixty-four members of the congregation attended the Fall Congregational meeting on November 11, 2011. We are thankful that many of our members understood the importance of the meeting and the need to voice their opinions, thoughts and ideas. We had created an ambitious agenda as follows:

Constitution & By-Law Changes
Sound System Proposal
Emergency Notification System
Director of Music Proposal

Call Process Update & Kick-off
Reconciliation Update
Polity Changes within the LCMS
Financial Update

We believe that it is important to provide an update on the meeting for all those who were unable to attend meeting.

Constitution and By-Law Changes: After a lengthy discussion regarding the proposed changes, a motion was made to table the discussion and hold a separate meeting on the Constitution and By-Laws. This motion was passed. Since that point in time, the Administrative Board has met and has passed this back to the sub-committee for further follow-up with a plan to hold a Constitution and By-Law meeting in the new year.

Sound System Proposal: Julio Artache presented Greg Ricca's proposal for a new sound system/multi-media project for the sanctuary. We thank Greg for the great amount of time and effort he put into researching what we would need to bring us into the 21st century and provide us with another 50 years of quality sound and multi-media advancement. Those present at the meeting overwhelmingly agreed that this was a much needed enhancement to our Worship. The following motion was passed with 56 Yeas, 0 Nays and 1 Abstention: The Admin Board moves to approve the purchase and installation of the sound/media system not to exceed \$20,000.00. The costs will initially come from Capital Expenditures to be offset by donations and the possible CHEF grant. The Board will apply for the CHEF Grant in January 2012.

It is important to note that the Worship and Music Committee has already begun to complete the CHEF Grant application. We will be applying for the maximum grant of ½ the cost of the project or approximately \$10,000.00. This will be submitted in January and we will receive the grant in March, if approved. The work on this project will begin over the Thanksgiving weekend. Please see Greg, a member of the Administrative Board, or a member of Worship & Music if you are interested in the details of the project or if you would like to make a donation to the project.

Emergency Notification System: The Administrative Board has contracted with a company to provide us with an Emergency Notification System. This system will allow us to contact all members of the congregation by way of telephone and/or email when we need to cancel Worship Services due to snow, hurricanes, or other events. We will also plan to use this system to notify members of special events and/or meetings. A listing of members and their current contact information has been created and is posted on clipboards at the kitchen counter. We ask that everyone review the information and let us know how you want to be contacted. You may add or delete cell phone numbers, home numbers or email addresses accordingly.

Director of Music Proposal: The Worship and Music Committee made the following motion: The Worship & Music Committee moves that Greg Ricca's title be changed to Music Director. For this we will provide an increase of \$6,000 annually, which breaks down to \$500.00 per month. This can be reviewed in 6 months or a year to determine if we see a 10% increase in attendance or in giving and see if we can afford to continue with the increase. This metric is based upon the salary being a 10% increase.

After very little discussion, the motion was approved with a vote of 55 Yeas, 0 Nays and 0 Abstentions. It was agreed that Greg is already doing the work of a Music Director and its time we recognize those efforts. The raise in salary will be reflected in the budget.

Call Process Update: Randi announced that President Klettke will be presenting the Administrative Board with the Call Manual on November 9, 2011. Therefore, it was announced at the meeting and at both services the following Sunday that anyone who was interested in working on either the Self-Study Committee or the Call Committee let the Administrative Board know by signing up for one or both committees. The Administrative Board noted that we will be unable to have everyone who is interested sit on these committees, but that does not mean you will not be involved in the process. We need everyone's input and there will be a variety of channels to voice opinions, ideas, and thoughts. The first opportunity will be the Congregational Survey. It is extremely important that everyone complete the survey because this will provide us with the direction and guidance for the Call Committee. In addition the personal information forms for the Pastors on the Call list will also be provided for everyone to review and the Call Committee will make themselves available to hear your comments and thoughts as well as to answer your questions. This process is not just designed for those on the various committees, but rather these committees are designed to facilitate the ideas, thoughts and needs of the entire congregation.

We also discussed that as a congregation we will need to decide the fate of the position of Assistant Pastor. This will be done before the Call Committee contacts the first Pastor on the Call list. Why? It's because we need to be able to clearly inform the Pastors we interview if they can expect to have an Assistant Pastor or not. This question will be thoughtfully considered and a recommendation will be presented to the congregation at a special meeting for discussion and a vote.

Reconciliation Process: Bob Shipley informed the congregation that Pastor Taylor, a trained Reconciler, continues to work with Pastor Ben and the Administrative Board in order to achieve reconciliation. Two meetings have already occurred and a third has been scheduled. Neither the Administrative Board nor Pastor Ben is at liberty to share any details, but we will keep everyone informed of the end result, when the process is completed.

Policy Changes within the LCMS: Beth provided a high level overview of the changes to the election of our Synodical President as well as our Circuit Counselors. These changes were made to allow the individual congregations more of a voice in the process. In addition, if anyone is interested in representing the congregation at the NJ District Convention, please see a member of the Administrative Board and voice your interest.

Financial Update: The Administrative Board made the following motion: The Board moves that we adjust the budget to include the Sr. Pastor's salary package. It was explained that we based the proposed salary package on a \$50,000.00 salary. In addition, the Administrative Board believed that it was important to put the salary package back into the budget in order to provide us with a clear picture of our financial situation. Even though the money will not be spent until we have a Sr. Pastor in place, our financial updates will reflect the donation needs to support the salary. Therefore, beginning in January 2012, we will require a weekly donation of \$6,900.00 in order to support the budget. The up-side to this motion is that by achieving our budget goal, we will be able to have the money in the bank to assist with any expenses associated with Calling a new Pastor.

Please contact any Administrative Board member with any questions you may have regarding this update. We welcome your questions, thoughts, comments and ideas.

Board Briefs

From November 16th Meeting

Shortly after Pastor Ben opened the meeting with a prayer, Greg Ricca , our newly minted Music Director, came in to inquire about a check for the new sound system. Apparently over the long Thanksgiving weekend our screens, speakers and projectors are going to be hung. It was a short but pleasant interruption.

After dispensing with some mundane tasks, the Board received Pastor Ben's report. It appears that the Care Groups that the Deacons have been working with are reasonably complete and include the vast majority of the "Lost Sheep" on the latest list generated by the office. In addition to several congregants contacted, Pastor Ben contacted two lost sheep.

Pastor Ben stated that some current church members approached him and stated that they are considering leaving our church to go to other churches. When asked to provide their names and reasons Pastor Ben citing confidentiality said he would approach the members and obtain their okay in order to divulge details or reasons to the Board. The Board's problem is that in order to rectify the situation, we need to know why these people are unhappy or have chosen to seek another church. I would ask that you, *the people in the pews*, talk to your neighbors and fellow congregants and let a Board member know what the perceived problems are. We want to make things better; in order to do that we need to know what's *not* okay.

This leads to another issue that came up at the congregational meeting. Apparently there are some congregants who do not trust the Admin Board. If you fall into that category, I would ask that you speak to someone on the Admin Board or someone else and let us (the admin board) know what we did to cause you to not trust us. As stated at the congregational meeting, you can sit in on a board meeting or review the minutes in the office. We recognize that trust is an earned quality and we all want to earn the trust of those people we represent.

The other topics we touched on were the importance of signing up for the emergency notification system, the dinner the Board is providing for the first Advent service and a retreat on "Adaptive Challenge and Adaptive Solutions / Leadership." This retreat is being held in Long Branch and is open to all. Should you be interested in more information or cost, please see a Board Member or Pastor Ben.

The topic of the Admin Boards annual winter retreat was also discussed briefly but the potential conflict with the "Adaptive Challenge" retreat is complicating the scheduling of same.

We discussed the parsonage and we asked Julio to reach out to the Qualmans to let them know that while we have not invoked our right to institute the sale of the parsonage, it's important that they know that we've started the call process and it is possible we could find it necessary to explore that scenario in the future. We have not received the required written notice from the Qualmans that they wish to invoke their right to institute the sale of the parsonage.

Lastly, we reviewed the sign up sheets for the Call Committee and the Self Study Committee. Thirteen people signed up for the Self Study Committee and thirty signed up for the Call Committee with six names that appeared on both. From those lists, we drafted the personnel lists for those committees. Since two board members were not at the meeting, we decided to circulate the proposed lists to them for their review and comment prior to approaching those people chosen. We hope to have the committees up and running by the time you read this.

Wednesday, November 30th @ 7:30 pm
 Wednesday, December 7th @ 7:30 pm
 Wednesday, December 14th @ 7:30 pm
 Wednesday, December 21 @ 7:30 pm



MARK THESE DATES

DECEMBER 2011

**Saturday Evening Services at 5:00 PM – December 3, 10, 17
 December 7, 14, & 21 Mid week Advent Service 7:30 pm –
 meals will be served at 6:15 pm on November 30th, December 7th and December 14th.
 NO meal on December 21st.**

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| December 2 | Decorating the Church at 7:30 pm |
| December 4 | Confirmation Servant Event |
| December 10 | Care Center Christmas Program |
| December 11 | Angel Tree Gifts Due Back |
| December 17 | Sunday School Rehearsal – 10:00 am
12:00 - ?? Christmas Caroling (<i>see Greg Ricca for details</i>) |
| December 18 | 8:00 am Regular Worship service
10:30 am Sunday School Christmas Pageant |
| December 24 | Christmas Eve Worship Services at
7:30 pm Family Service and
11:00 pm Candlelight Service |



Please note, there we only be 2 worship services on Christmas Eve.

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| December 25 | Christmas Day Worship Service at 10:00 am
NO Sunday School 12/25 and 1/1/12 |
|--------------------|---|



The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

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

The Rev. Ben Mallepalle, Assistant Pastor

GS Children's Center
732-679-8887

Mrs. Lorraine Campo, Director
gsc@lc-goodshepherd.org

Worship Services

Sunday at 8:00 & 10:30 AM

Sunday School at 9:15 am

Saturday Evening Service @ 5:00 PM

Midweek Advent Service at 7:30 PM

December 7, 14 & 21

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3139 County Road 516
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50 Years of Service to our Lord!