

# THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

FEBRUARY 2002

## What Does LENT Mean?

Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. By observing the 40 days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for 40 days.

Many Christians participate in fasting, which is a spiritual discipline that does not involve starvation or dehydration.

### The Western Church

Because Sunday is the day of the Resurrection, we skip over Sundays when we calculate the length of Lent. Therefore, in the Western Church, Lent always

*(Continued on page 12)*

### Lenten Journey

## The Fullness of Christ

"The Fullness of Christ" is our Lenten theme this year. Watch the mail for a separate Lenten booklet. Make every effort to be part of our mid-week opportunities.

Each Tuesdays in Lent (morning and evening sessions), there will be Bible study on Ephesians.

Wednesdays in Lent we will hold Soup Suppers at 6 pm. Worship is at 7 pm with messages based on Ephesians. Small Group opportunities in Lent will be held on Wednesday evenings, 7:30 – 9 pm.

**ASH WEDNESDAY  
IMPOSITION OF ASHES  
AND HOLY COMMUNION  
Noon and 7 pm**

## BISHOP BOLICK PRESIDES AT ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF NOAH AND JENNIFER HEPLER

Saturday, February 2, 2 pm, Bishop Leonard Bolick will officiate at the Ordination and Installation of Noah and Jennifer Hepler at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Recent graduates of Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina, the Heplers recently have been called to the Associate Pastor position at Good Shepherd.

The congregation is invited to attend the service of Holy Communion and the reception following in the Fellowship Hall.

## Benevolence Bonus!

See page 5 for more information.



## ANNUAL GOOD SHEPHERD CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



John Alis,  
Council President

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10  
SHARED DINNER—5 pm  
MEETING—6 pm  
CHILD CARE — 6 pm

On the agenda for the Annual Congregational Meeting are important yearly issues of financial planning and also updates to the Good Shepherd Constitution and By-Laws. Detailed information about the proposed 2002 Spending Plan, the Constitution and Bylaw wording changes, as well as absentee ballots are available in the Narthex.

A quorum is required to conduct the meeting. All members are asked to attend and vote on these matters. Every confirmed member is eligible to vote.

# BULLETIN BOARD: UPCOMING EVENTS at GSLC

February 3

## Shepherd's Quake

Sermon Drama—Sunday, Feb. 3.

Tired of phone solicitors? Got one of those machines that alerts you to not pick up when a solicitor calls? Ever wonder what it would be like to be a phone solicitor? (Probably not!!) Well, our youth drama troupe Shepherd's Quake's sermon drama "Blessed are the Solicitors" will portray the other side—life as a phone solicitor. Written by Pastor David, who annually writes a "cheesy play" for Quake, this drama is a playful interpretation of the Beatitudes of our Lord from Matthew 5.

Shepherd's Quake will "preach" at the 8:30 and 11 am worship services.

# Believe

February 9-10

## Marriage Enrichment

Sponsored by our Family Life Committee and our local AAL Branch, Good Shepherd is privileged to welcome The Rev. Dr. Bill Mitcham to lead our marriage enrichment weekend. This year's theme is "The Seven Principles for a Healthy Marriage."

A certified marriage and family counselor and Lutheran pastor (spouse of Pastor Jane Mitcham), Dr. Mitcham also enjoys karaoke. Part of the weekend will include a Saturday evening banquet followed by karaoke!

Dr. Mitcham will preach at our late service on Sunday, February 10.

Registration brochures are in the Narthex.

Deadline for signing up is Sunday, February 3.

February 3

## 2002 Committee

### Leaders Installed

On Sunday, February 3 we will install our 2002 Committee leaders. Thanks be to God for their commitment and service to Christ's church. Please keep these leaders in your prayers. May God use them for the building up of His church.

Children's Committee	Leonette Adkins, Lorrie Houze
Christian Education	Jennifer Falk
Communications	Shirley Anthony
Endowment	Allan Nereim
Evangelism	Susan DiNunzio
Family Life	Colleen Vitek
Finance	Larry Goode, Dave Lynn
Hospitality	Sharon Gibbons
Mutual Ministry	Paul Lester
Personnel	Jeff Wagner
Preschool Board	Bonnie Livingston
Outreach Ministry	Kate Greengrove
Martha Ministry	Carolyn Shankland
Sports Ministry	Bill Reed
Stewardship	Fred Woolard
Worship / Music	Gary Adkins
Youth Committee	Nancy Ballard

February 12

## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 12, come and support our youth by sharing a meal before Lent begins. The supper begins at 6:30 pm, and we will accept free-will donations. Please sign-up on the Wittenberg Wall by February 10.

February 13

## Hannah Circle

meets on February 13 at 9:45 am. In the Library. Pastor Brake is presenting the program. Bring canned goods and *Pennies for Child Abuse Prevention*.

February 17

## True Believers Friendship Club, 3:45 pm, Sunday, in Underwood Hall.

February 17

## JOINING THE FLOCK

All persons interested in sharing in our ministry are invited to a series of new member gatherings at church, 4-6 pm, beginning Sunday, February 17. Led by our Pastors and Associate in Ministry Kimberly Holt, these sessions investigate Lutheran identity and guide new members into full participation in our congregation. New members will join through the Affirmation of Baptism on Sunday, March 24—Palm/Passion Sunday.

February 3

## Pastor Emeritus to Preach

Since 1991, Pastor Denny Brake has graced us with his wit and wisdom, interpreting the Good News of our Lord as only he can do. We are grateful that amidst Epiphany season, Pastor B. has agreed to proclaim the Good News. Come hear our Pastor Emeritus on Sunday, February 3, 9:45 am.

# BULLETIN BOARD: UPCOMING EVENTS at GSLC

**February 21** | **The Thursday Morning Book Study** will be reading *"Peace Like A River"* by Leif Unger.

Discussions for *"Peace Like a River"* will be on February 21, 28 and March 7, from 10-11:30 am, in the church Library. All are welcome. Questions? Contact Alicia Kerins, 518-2775.

**February 28** | **Family Dinner Gardens**  
What is a Family Dinner Garden, or is it a Family Garden Dinner?

Whichever, it is a group of parents of children under 10 who meet monthly for fellowship and a shared meal. This month's dinner is on February 28, 6-7:30 pm, in Underwood Hall.

Call Silke Barrett, 782-0628, for reservations and food suggestions.

**March 3** | **Owls (Older, Wiser, Lutherans) Dinner**

Hazim Dahir, a Palestinian Muslim who has lived in Raleigh for the past 16 years, will address the OWLs at a special dinner on Sunday, Islamic faith, and has spoken to various community groups on this topic.

Bring a dish to share (please avoid any pork, sausage, bacon, or other pork products) and learn more about our world.

**March 16**

**Want to meet more folks that you attend church with?**

**Finding it hard to get to know other families?**

The Evangelism Committee invites you to take part in the Dinner for 8 Supper Club, beginning March 16.

Details will be announced soon. Contact Susan DiNunzio, 676-4353, for more information.

# Belong

**April 19-21** | **Medoc Mountain State Park** is reserved for the April 19-21 Church Camping Trip! Just 1 - 1/2 hours from Raleigh, and northeast of Louisburg, NC, this scenic wilderness site is perfect for a weekend getaway. \$5 per person covers the cost of a campsite and the Saturday night meal. Call Chris Quinn: 870-6462 or email: tctpquinn@cs.com for more information.

**June 16-23** | **LUTHERIDGE/ LUTHEROCK WEEK**

CHRISTIAN CAMP FOR ALL YOUTH GRADES 3-12. REGISTRATION MATERAILS ARE IN THE NARTHEX. (7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CONFIRMANDS REGISTER AS A GROUP)

**June 24-28** | **Vacation Bible School**

This week of Bible learning, singing, crafts, friendship and fun still needs a volunteer director from this congregation. No previous experience is necessary. Last year's director, Sharon Burnette, will provide a thorough orientation, and Kimberly Holt will provide you with continuous support. If you love God, like kids, and want to have an amazing experience, this could be a great use of your gifts in ministry. Contact Kimberly Holt: Kimberly@gslchurch.org, 848-1573.

**July 8-12** | **Lutheridge Day Camp** is coming back to Good Shepherd this summer.

Registration for Lutheridge Day Camp starts February 17. This year camp is \$120 for the week, Monday - Thursday 9-4 and Friday 9-12, with a sleep-over on Thursday.

We will also have extended care hours before and after camp. The fee for extended care has not been set yet, but will be separate from the camp fee.

Children in rising 1st grade to rising 5th grade can sign up for great fun and great activities in a Christian setting!

**In July!** | **Summerfest**, our annual summer drama presentation of a familiar Bible story, will be in July, either the week of July 15 - 19 or July 22 - 26. We hope to have this date set soon.

This experience involves a week of daily fun and rehearsals, and then the group performs for the congregation at a worship service. Children in rising K through rising 5th grades are eligible to audition for this group.

# Opportunities to learn and serve

## VOLUNTEER NEEDED!

If you are looking for a high-energy adventure, consider helping The ARC of Wake County sell concessions for certain events at the Entertainment & Sports Arena (ESA)! Volunteer participation helps raise needed funds for persons with developmental disabilities in Wake County. Interested in more details? Contact Sally Sloop at 846-6219.

## Small Group Ministry News

New small group opportunities are coming in Lent! I know many of you are interested in participating in small group ministry, but have difficulty adding anything to your schedule. I want to tell you about a short-term opportunity that might finally allow you to try out small group life to see what it's like.

Wednesdays during Lent, we will have in-church small group meetings that will follow the mid-week worship services. The Scripture focus will be the New Testament book of Ephesians. You will have an opportunity to get to know other Good Shepherd members better by coming together with them for 60-90 minutes. In that time, you will share your lives, scripture and prayer.

So come for soup and worship, and stay to experience the fullness of Christ in a small group.

## FAITH INVASION TOPICS AND SCHEDULE LISTED

**January 30:** New Testament Hebrews. In room E-12, Pastor Jennifer will present the lesson to the following groups : Silke Barrett, Kathy Miller, Mara Calame, Pastor David, and Andrew and Nancy Ballard. In The Chaffee Youth Activity Center, Pastor Noah will present the lesson to the following groups: Matt Reeves, Denise Tilden (Denise Seroka), Dean Nelson, Lisa Sears, Darlene Lee.

**February 6:** New Testament Catholic Letters. In room E-12, Kimberly Holt will present the lesson to the following groups : Silke Barrett, Kathy Miller, Mara Calame, Pastor David, and Andrew and Nancy Ballard. In The Chaffee Youth Activity Center, Yvette Reeves will present the lesson to the following groups: Matt Reeves, Denise Tilden (Denise Seroka), Dean Nelson, Lisa Sears, Darlene Lee.

**February 13:** Ash Wednesday. There will be no regular Faith Invasion activities so that everyone can participate in special Ash Wednesday services.

**February 20:** We will begin our Lent schedule, which will be similar to what we did in December. Following the Wednesday evening service, we will have an abbreviated Faith Invasion, finishing by 8:30 pm.

We have 70 youth active in this portion of confirmation ministry, which utilizes adult-lead small group format. Our small group guides are critical to this evening of faith nurturing and support for our youth. Recently, three guides have had to step down, so if you love God, like kids, and can give 90 minutes every Wednesday night until mid-May, I would love to talk with you.

## FAITH FAMILY THRIFT STORE

A thrift store is opening at Faith Lutheran School soon! Proceeds from the thrift store will help support the school.

If you would like to donate items (clothes, household items, toys, books and furniture) you may drop off items at the school from 8-3.

## Do You Find the “Now the Feast” Liturgy Confusing?

Many of us find liturgy hard to follow. However, having several editions of the same liturgy makes for real difficulties!

Good News! The “Green Worship Binders” used at the Contemporary Music Service at 11 am, soon will have the updated and FINAL version of the “Now the Feast and Celebration” liturgy installed.

This version offers clearer directions and has the service in the order that is actually used at Good Shepherd.

The pastors and the Worship and Music Committee thank you for your patience through this transition.

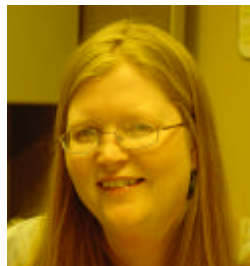
## FAITH LUTHERAN REGISTRATION OPEN!

Registration for the 2002-2003 school year at Faith Lutheran School is now open to Lutherans and returning families.

We are a 4-year-old pre-kindergarten through grade 8 school and currently have 325 students. We are fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Class size is a maximum of 18. Qualifying Lutherans receive a discount.

We are located at 1809 Capital Blvd. in Raleigh. Call Joyce Stokes at 829-5899 for information and to set up a personal tour.

HURRY! There is a discount on the registration fee if you register by February 28.



Kimberly Holt  
Associate in Ministry

# Opportunities to learn and serve

## 2001 Ends with Financial Surplus

### Bonus Benevolence Funds Available!

#### Where did we get a bonus?

Some events in the life of Good Shepherd that might have been thought of as “negative” have taken on a positive financial cast, resulting in a surplus from 2001. When Pastor Dave Keck left to become Senior Pastor at Mt. Olive in Hickory, NC, his salary for the remainder of the year accumulated. When the building of the new Sanctuary was delayed due to weather issues, we also delayed our loan process, and some allocated funds were not spent.

#### What will we do with it?

The Council and Finance Committee recommend that after we place a portion of the funds in our reserve fund, bringing that fund up to the guidelines recommended by the Finance Committee several years ago. We will then make \$37,000 available to needy organizations or other worthy causes both inside and outside our church community.

#### How will we decide how to spend it?

In order to use these funds in God’s service, we will be gathering ideas from the congregation. Members are invited to submit ideas for use of these funds to Committee Chairs. The Finance Committee and the Council will begin allocating funds this year. All plans for the money will be in place by July 30, and the money will be disbursed by year’s end.

If you don’t know to which committee an idea should be submitted, contact the office.

## Getting to Know the Gospel of Matthew

Last month, we learned that the Gospel according to Matthew draws a parallel between the life of Jesus and the life of ancient Israel.

This month, we will look at Matthew’s account of Jesus’ birth. The story of Jesus birth, which most are familiar with, comes from the Gospel of Luke. Matthew’s account differs somewhat from Luke’s; however, they have three main things in common:

An angel announced Jesus’ birth.  
Jesus was born in Bethlehem.  
Jesus was born of a Virgin.

What differs is that in Matthew, the angel appears to Joseph; in Luke, he appears to Mary. In Matthew, there is no mention of a stable, shepherds, or a tax collection; instead he mentions a house and the wise men, who arrive about two years after Jesus’ birth.

These differences between Matthew and Luke in their retelling of the birth of Jesus are not problematic. What is important is that they agree in their confession about Jesus: He is our Messiah!

## S e r v e

### Global Mission Event Dare to Live God's Promise July 18-21 Hickory, NC

Do you want a bigger world and a way to serve? So you have a heart for justice? See how the Gospel makes a difference! Are you a student with questions?

Bring global understanding into your future. Do you want meaning and fun for your youth? Join us at the Global Mission Event.

Is your family ready for creativity, music, and loads of activities? Take the Journey...at Lenoir Rhyne College this summer. Let’s try to take a van full of Good Sheep.

Kimberly Holt has brochures available at her office. You may also get info and download registration forms online: [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

## MUSIC NOTES:



Sybil Hogan

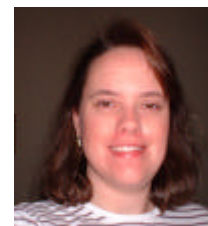
Happy New Year to all of you! With the new year comes new beginnings for us all, and I would like to offer choir as a

choice for one of your new “beginnings”. It’s a perfect time to come and begin singing with the Chancel Choir, Children’s choirs, etc.

We are all still warming ourselves with memories of Christmas and Christmas music, but keeping an eye on what lies ahead, Lent and Easter. Please consider making choir a choice for serving.

ALL voices are welcome. Again, I say, no prerequisites - just the love of music and singing. Don’t wait to be asked - COME! I am hoping to see new faces in all choirs.

## Handbell Corner



Diana Langseth

The Handbell Choir has a new name! After taking suggestions, and then holding the official vote, our new name is **Bell Song**.

Thanks to Johanna Taylor for her suggestion which has become our new name.

**Bell Song** is hard at work at preparing our Lenten musical offerings. We are preparing both full choir and small ensemble numbers for our upcoming performances.

Thanks to everyone who has made the choir a success throughout 2001.

Diana Langseth, Director

# FROM THE PASTOR....

## Jennifer Hepler

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD!'"

Psalm 122:1



What a thrill it has been for Noah and me, even in this short amount of time, to live and work among you here at Good Shepherd. You have graciously welcomed us into this community of faith, helped us as we struggle to remember

names, and embraced us as we join you as fellow workers in the body of Christ. For all of this, we are thankful. This is especially true since our first few weeks here at Good Shepherd have only confirmed for us that this is where the Holy Spirit has called us to serve as pastors.

On Saturday, February 2, at 2 pm, Noah and I will be ordained and installed to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament at Good Shepherd. It seems only fitting to us that Psalm 122 be one of the texts read at this celebration. With gladness, we join this community in its worship of the Triune God and we look forward to the opportunity to teach, to learn, and to grow with you in the faith. As we begin this journey with you, our prayer is that we may faithfully live out the vows we will take at our ordination. May the Holy Spirit, who has led us to serve in this place, continue to grant us all discernment and wisdom in our life together that Christ may be known in all that we do.

Peace,  
Pastor Jennifer

### **NOTE FROM YOUR PASTORS THE ASSOCIATE PASTORS:**

As we adjust to the new additions to the pastoral staff, the following list of committee assignments for Pastors Jennifer and Noah may be helpful:

Pastor Noah:  
*Worship and Music*  
*Community Outreach*  
*Communications*

Pastor Jennifer:  
*Property*  
*Stephen Ministry*  
*Christian Education*  
*Youth*

### **Eastern NC Lutheran Via de Cristo - Feb. 14-17**

## Via de Cristo Upcoming

VIA de CRISTO is a Spanish phrase meaning "Way of Christ." Via de Cristo is a highly structured three-day weekend designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people and bring them to a new awareness of living in God's grace. It is a combined effort of lay people and clergy toward renewal of the church.

The upcoming weekend will be held at Camp Dixie, near Fayetteville, NC, February 14-17.

Those attending this **Via de Cristo** weekend from GSLC are: Edna Alfredson, Brad Buff, Rob Cash, Bob Huff, Alex and Judy Plavocos, Ray and Laura Prill, Bob and Pam Northrup, Fred and Connie Woolard, Nancy Herje, Barbara Huff, Paul Lester, Kathy Miller, Shirley Anthony, Carolyn Pratt, Bruce and Joyce Wehrle, Sandy Cash Lois Walker, Carol Weber and Deb Wilkins. Pastor David Sloop is serving as Spiritual Director, along with Pastor Mike Hoffmann and Pastor Charlie Hoyle.

### **REFUGEE FAMILY UPDATE**

Great News! We have received notice that the Ho family will be arriving from Vietnam around February 27! Our plans are settle them in their apartment March 1. We need your help readying their new home. We need 1 or 2 clothes bureau's and a couch/ chair combo for the living area. If you can help by donating these items, please email Wendy Voigt at [mwvvtv@att.net](mailto:mwvvtv@att.net).

Please continue to check bulletins and the Wittenberg Wall for information - and continue to pray for the family's safe arrival!

Contact the Outreach Ministry Committee through Kate Greengrove, 676-7848.

## Three on Three Challenge! Three on Three Challenge! Three on Three Challenge!

Sunday afternoon, February 3, 3 pm, before the Super Bowl, you are invited to put together a team of three players and compete in our *3-on-3 Challenge*. Admission for your team is to bring a canned good for each player to the Souper Bowl. Canned goods will be given to the Food Bank of North Carolina.

One team issues the challenge to all, and is ready to match wits and spin moves with any players Good Shepherd can muster. To challenge this team, sign up through the bulletin or on the Wittenberg Wall.

Here is a brief bio on the members of The Dream Team:

**Jennifer “Three point” Hepler**, a newcomer to area 3-on-3, stands tall at 5’5”.

Kicked out of South Carolina for humiliating the locals

south of the border, Jennifer is the team captain. “Among the many things that attracted me to Good Shepherd,” declared Jennifer, “was the chance to practice and perfect my basketball. I am nearly completely recovered from an injury to my knee suffered when I caught my foot in the net, on my way down from a jump shot.”

**David “PD” Sloop**, a veteran on the courts, deceiving with his gray hair and out-of-shape body, has hidden these great talents from the locals for years. Where is he at lunch? Where is he during any spare minute? Practicing his sure shot, his between the legs dribble in Good Shepherd’s new Fellowship Hall. “PD” stands for “Power Dunker.”

**Noah “Sinkem” Hepler**, no relation to Jennifer, is what you could call a sleeper. He never really liked basketball, except the video variety. When asked if his nickname “Sinkem” had anything to do with basketball, Noah said, “No, I thought it had to do with the Noah and the Ark.” Noah has been sharpening his elbows in preparation for the *Three on Three Challenge*.

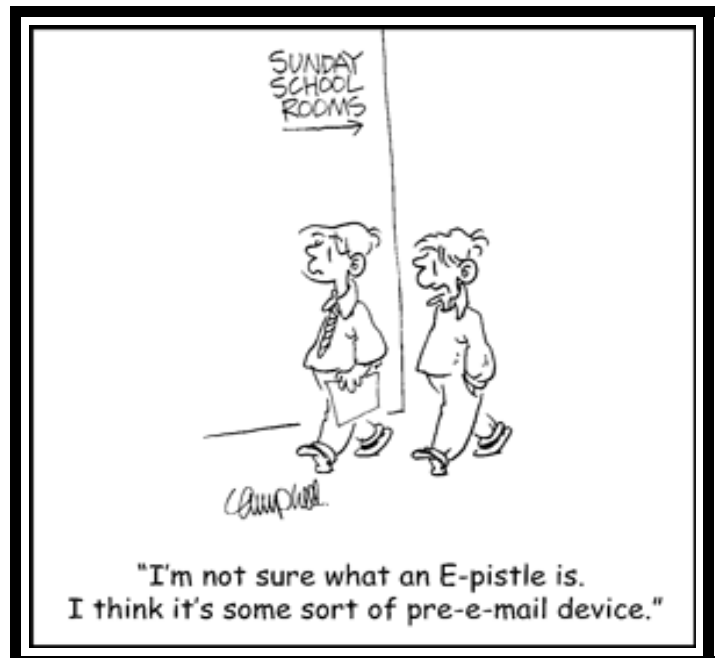


Pictured here is the “Dream On Team” before one of their recent practices. Come out and cheer on Souper-Sunday, February 3, 3 pm.

## 2001 Top Ten Religious Stories

(According to the Christian Century magazine)

1. Extremist hijackers wreak death and destruction, launching a U.S.-led “war on terrorism, deeply religious in roots and responses with opposing definitions of evil and good.
2. Heightened attention to Islam, especially improved relations with U.S. Muslims, with President Bush and mainstream churches at the fore.
3. White House efforts to win approval for faith-based initiative thwarted by church-state objections.
4. Bush OK’s limited federally supported stem-cell embryo research, but concerns resurface on private human cloning attempts.
5. Israeli-Palestinian violence worsens with suicide bombings before and after September 11.
6. Turmoil in Presbyterian Church U.S.A. over homosexuality issues, including June vote to recommend gay ordinations.
7. Death penalty debates revived by Timothy McViegh execution and cases of DNA evidence freeing prisoners.
8. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America deals with unsanctioned ordination of lesbian pastor; elects new presiding bishop.
9. Intrepid Pope John Paul II tries to mend Eastern Orthodox bridges with visits to Greece, Ukraine and Armenia; first visit to a mosque.
10. Civil rights leader Jesse Jackson admits to fathering child out of wedlock.



## ELCA WORKSHOP: *Career Crossroads*

**Career Crossroads I: Discovering Your Gifts and Mission in Life**  
February 1 - 3, 2002.

Helps people discern God's call within a Christian community,  
their personal gifts, and their life purpose  
Blends faith resources with career counseling tools

**Career Crossroads II: Finding Work that Fits Your Mission**  
May 3 - 4, 2002.

Applies a personal sense of mission to the search for appropriate  
employment and service  
Blends ongoing discernment of God's call with practical how-to  
techniques in the search for employment and service: establish-  
ing a faith-based support group, spiritual disciplines, and  
written expressions of your life mission.

The leaders for these workshops are Dr. Sue Setzer, Executive Di-  
rector of the Career and Personal Counseling Service in  
Charlotte, NC, and the Rev. Dr. Harvey Huntley Jr., Re-  
gion 9 Coordinator and Deployed Staff in Columbia, SC.

*Cost of program and materials for Career Crossroads I: \$200;  
meals: \$40; and lodging (for 2 nights): \$25. Cost of pro-  
gram and materials for Career Crossroads II: \$125; meals:  
\$20; and lodging (for one night): \$12.50.*

*Cost of programs combined (for those desiring to do both parts in  
sequence): \$300. This does not include meals or lodging.  
Travel costs are not included in any of the fees listed  
above. Private motel rooms are available at additional cost  
at a short distance from the seminary.*

Registration forms and additional information are available from  
Region 9, ELCA, 4201 N. Main St., Columbia, SC 29203,  
Telephone (803)461-3263, email: astiglbauer@ltss.edu  
and FAX (803) 461-3380.



*Come to the  
Coffeeshouse at Good Shepherd*

**February 22, 6:30-9 pm**  
**\*musical entertainment \***

**Doug Behning and Paul Regan**

**\*refreshments\***

**All are Welcome**  
**No Admission Charge**

## Meditations for the E-Mail Impaired By *Pastor Denny Brake*

"To the pure, all things are pure..." *Titus 1:15*



Pastor Denny Brake

Some of the months are  
named after people. Febru-  
ary originally had 30 days  
but Julius Caesar stole one  
of its days to add to July, the  
month named after him.  
Caesar Augustus stole an-  
other day to add to August,  
the month named after him.

February is not named for any human. It gets  
its name from the Latin word *februarius*, which  
means to purify. To the pure, all things are  
pure. First of all, it means we can all be seen  
as pure because of the purifying sacrifice of  
Christ. It also can symbolize looking at life in a  
positive way.

Placing an order by phone, I spoke with a  
woman with a pleasant, cooperative voice. I  
asked if they had PR training for her job. She  
said, "No, that's the way I am." She will be  
'movin on up.'

February harbors Valentine's Day. It is a time  
for couples to know each other well before get-  
ting serious. Some evidence of purity, honesty  
and unselfish love must be present. No think-  
ing of "I'll change him or her after we're mar-  
ried." Many people can change a tire, but only  
God can change a person.

W

# W

## HY WOULD GOD LOWER HIMSELF TO COME TO EARTH AS A MAN?

There was once a man who didn't believe in God, and he didn't hesitate to let others know how he felt about religion and religious holidays, like Christmas.

His wife, however, did believe, and she raised their children to also have faith in God and Jesus, despite his disparaging comments.

One snowy Christmas Eve, his wife was taking their children to a Christmas Eve service in the farm community in which they lived. She asked him to come, but he refused.

"That story is nonsense!" he said. "Why would God lower Himself to come to Earth as a man? That's ridiculous!" So she and the children left, and he stayed home.

A while later, the winds grew stronger and the snow turned into a blizzard.

As the man looked out the window, all he saw was a blinding snowstorm. He sat down to relax before the fire for the evening.

Then he heard a loud thump. Something had hit the window. Then another thump. He looked out, but couldn't see more than a few feet. When the snow let up a little, he ventured outside to see what could have been beating on his window.

In the field near his house he saw a flock of wild geese. Apparently they had been flying south for the winter when they got caught in the snowstorm and couldn't go on. They were lost and stranded on his farm, with no food or shelter. They just flapped their wings and flew around the field in low circles, blindly and aimlessly. A couple of them had flown into his window. The man felt sorry for the geese and wanted to help them. The barn would be a great place for them to stay, he thought.

It's warm and safe; surely they could spend the night and wait out the storm. So he walked over to the barn and opened the doors wide, then watched and waited, hoping they would notice the open barn and go inside. But the geese just fluttered around aimlessly and didn't seem to notice the barn or realize what it could mean for them. The man tried to get their attention, but that just seemed to scare them and they moved further away. He went into the house and came with some bread,

# Financial Report

Financial Update as of December, 2001

General Fund:

*Budgeted receipts* \$885,137

*Actual receipts* \$872,431

*Difference* \$ 12,706

Needed December \$ 81,164

Received December \$114,850

broke it up, and made a breadcrumb trail leading to the barn. They still didn't catch on. Now he was getting frustrated. He got behind them and tried to shoo them toward the barn, but they only got more scared and scattered in every direction except toward the barn. Nothing he did could get them to go into the barn where they would be warm and safe.

"Why don't they follow me?!" he exclaimed. "Can't they see this is the only place where they can survive the storm?" He thought for a moment and realized that they just wouldn't follow a human. "If only I were a goose, then I could save them," he said out loud.

Then he had a n idea. He went into the barn, got one of his own geese, and carried it in his arms as he circled around behind the flock of wild geese.

He then released it. His goose flew through the flock and straight into the barn, and one by one the other geese followed it to safety. He stood silently for a moment as the words he had spoken a few minutes earlier replayed in his mind: "If only I were a goose, then I could save them!" Then he thought about what he had said to his wife earlier. "Why would God want to be like us? That's ridiculous!"

Suddenly it all made sense. That is what God had done. We were like the geese - blind, lost, perishing. God had His Son become like us so He could show us the way and save us. That was the meaning of Christmas, he realized.

As the winds and blinding snow died down, his soul became quiet and pondered this wonderful thought. Suddenly he understood what Christmas was all about, why Christ had come. Years of doubt and disbelief vanished like the passing storm. He fell to his knees in the snow, and prayed his first prayer. "Thank You, God for coming in human form to get me out of the storm!"

# WHAZZUP WITH YOUTH

**We're going to Wintergreen Ski Resort in Virginia!** February 9! We are taking a day ski trip, leaving at 5 am and returning at 8 pm. The cost is \$120, which includes rentals (ski or snowboard), lift ticket, and transportation. Please bring money for breakfast/dinner (fast food on the road) and lunch at the resort. (\$25 suggested). There are 45 youth spaces available, and 10 chaperone spaces.

January 25 and February 22 **Help with the Good Shepherd Coffeehouse!!!** Come at 6:45 pm and be picked up at 9 pm. Parents are encouraged to attend! This opportunity is for all youth, 6th-12th grades.

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** February 12, come and support our youth by sharing a meal before Lent begins. The supper begins at 6:30 pm, and we will accept free-will donations. Please sign-up on the Wittenberg Wall by February 10.

IF YOU ARE GOING ON EITHER OF THE SUMMER SERVANT CAMPS, YOU SHOULD PLAN TO COME AT 5:30 PM AND LEAVE AT 7:30 PM. YOU WILL BE COOKING AND SERVING TO HELP RAISE MONEY FOR THE TRIPS.

## **Springmoor Visits**

Visit with the residents of Springmoor once a month! We will be visiting on the following dates: January 26, February 23, March 23, and April 20. If you are interested, contact Yvette Reeves at least one week ahead.

**Youth Group** meets every Sunday night from 5-6:30 pm. We share in a Bible study, games, and pizza. Bring \$2 for pizza.

**Speak Out!** is our high school discussion group. We meet at Starbucks Stonehenge every Tuesday from 6-7 pm.

**Faith Invasion** will meet after the Lenten services. Youth are expected to attend services. Soup suppers begin at 6 pm but are not required.

**Youth Winter Calendars** have been mailed out. There will be a calendar for every 4 months throughout the year. The winter calendar covers January - April. If you have not received a calendar, please see Yvette Reeves.

**Volunteers Needed!!!** We still need volunteers for every aspect of youth ministry. If you are interested in helping on an ongoing or occasional basis, **please** talk to Yvette Reeves!!!

**Shepherd's Quake** is our drama group, headed up by Sandra Jean and Dan Evans. They meet every Sunday night from 6:30-7:30 pm. The group is open to all 6th-12th graders. They will be doing a sermon skit on February 3, and a dinner theater in the spring.

## **Mission Statement**

of

## **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**

**We Believe in Christ  
"Love God First"  
Enhance our Love for  
Christ  
and Each Other**

**We Belong To Christ's  
Family  
"Develop Individual  
Ministries"  
Become Christ's  
Compassion**

**We Serve as Christ's  
Family  
in the Community**



Good Shepherd youth Corinne Lee, Adam Buff, David Buff, Michael Taylor, and Michael Kimosh enjoy basketball in the Fellowship Hall on one of the "open gym nights" sponsored by the Sports Ministry Committee.

Contact Bill Reed, 846-1811, for more information.

**CATCH THE SPIRIT:  
Lutheran Women Discovering  
the Economy of Time,  
Relationships and Money**

Co-Sponsored by Lutheran Brotherhood

In our fast paced lives, we struggle with the demands associated with getting everything done! Have you ever felt like you were a piece of elastic stretched beyond its limits? Do you ever feel as if your cup is so dry and empty that you are uncertain about how to fill it again? We do not walk this journey alone! God is with us and will restore us so that we can be all that He has called us to be.

In this workshop, you will discover ways to restore the elastic of your life and fill your cup to overflowing by:

- Discovering powerful ways to help you decide where to spend your time and energy.
- Increasing your flexibility when things feel overwhelming or out of control.
- Strengthening the relationships in your life.
- Growing strong in the Lord through trust and obedience.

**Workshop Leader: Pam Northrup**  
Pam earned her undergraduate degree from East Carolina University and a Masters of Education from North Carolina State University. She is currently working as the Training Manager for the Town of Cary, where she conducts communication, team building, and leadership development courses. She and her husband Bob are active members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

**Worship Leader:**  
**Pastor Becca Pivetta**, Circle of Grace Lutheran Church, Cary

**Who should come:** All Lutheran women, married or single, children or no children.

**When: Friday, March 8, 2002**  
**6:30 pm - 9:30 pm**  
**Saturday, March 9**  
**9 am - 1 pm**

**Where: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Raleigh**  
**Corner of Brooks and Clark Ave.**

## Thank You Letters

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Rhoda and I thank you for your generous Christmas gift, cards, special food items, notes of appreciation, and friendship these past five months.

Special thanks to all who supplied food and prepared the great coffee hour on December 30th! God bless you all in this New Year.

Pastor John Weinbach  
?????????

Dear Congregation of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church:

On behalf of the staff and families of Pan Lutheran Ministries, I would like to extend a warm thank you for your participation in our Christmas donation program! With your help we were able to provide Christmas gifts to 47 families. Our families enjoyed a wonderful Christmas and we are truly grateful.

Please extend our thanks to all those who participated in this pageant at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Without your generosity, the wonderful Christmas our children experienced would not have been possible.

I wish you and yours a Happy New Year and I look forward to working with you again in the future.

Sincerely,  
Johanna McNamara  
Christmas Coordinator  
Pan Lutheran Ministries  
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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for your generosity in collecting and donating food items to our food pantry. Your work is especially appreciated now as we are finding it increasingly difficult to obtain various food products. Your gift will help benefit 40-50 families who visit our pantry weekly. We are glad that the Lord has moved you to assist us in this way. May He bless you with every spiritual blessing in Christ and prosper you in all ways.

Bless you all,  
Mike Halcomb  
Triangle Vineyard Christian Fellowship

?????????

- John Alis**  
President, 881-7701
- Donna Scott**  
Vice-President, 870-9575
- Cindy Citty**, 846-9144  
Executive Committee
- Gary Adkins**, 844-3931  
Executive Committee
- Nikki Funderburk**, 848-9893  
Youth Representative
- Erin Robinson**, 848-7814  
Youth Representative
- Randy Ehm**, 676-3681
- Larry Goode**, 783-0208
- Tom Hansen**, 848-1254
- Jennifer Huff**, 870-5795
- Doug Kingsbery**, 790-0081
- Bob Northrup**, 872-6754
- Dick Pailthorpe**, 848-8354
- Kathy Roush**, 870-7453

*Pam Harrell*, Congregational Secretary, 676-8353  
*Bill Dugan*, Treasurer, 570-9410

*Members are invited to call Council Members with any questions or comments.*

## GOOD SHEPHERD STAFF

- David A. Sloop**  
Senior Pastor, 846-6219 h.
- Jennifer Hepler**  
Associate Pastor, 841-0534 h.
- Noah Hepler**  
Associate Pastor, 841-0534 h.
- Denny Brake**  
Pastor Emeritus, 217-0747 h.
- Kimberly Holt**  
Associate in Ministry, 787-7977 h.
- Yvette Reeves**  
Youth Director, 844-0574 h.
- Sybil Hogan**  
Music Director, 676-2203 h.
- Diane Schroeder**  
Organist
- Beth McCauley**  
Preschool Director, 846-5060
- Shirley Anthony**, Administrator
- Jean Robinson**, Bookkeeper
- Lois Walker**, Office Assistant
- Petra Teeter**, Office Assistant

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## CELEBRATING GOD'S PEOPLE

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(Continued from page 1)

begins on Ash Wednesday, the seventh Wednesday before Easter. In many countries, the last day before Lent (called Mardi Gras, Shrove Tuesday, Carnival, or Fasching) has become a last fling before the solemnity of Lent. For centuries, it was customary to fast by abstaining from meat during Lent, which is why some people call the festival *Carnival*, which is Latin for *farewell to meat*.

### The Eastern Church

The Eastern Church does not skip over Sundays when calculating the length of the Great Lent. Therefore, the Great Lent always begins on Clean Monday, the seventh Monday before Easter, and ends on the Friday before Palm Sunday—using, of course, the eastern date for Easter. The Lenten fast is relaxed on the weekends in honor of the Sabbath (Saturday) and the Resurrection (Sunday). The Great Lent is followed by Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday, which are feast days, then the Lenten fast resumes on Monday of Holy Week. Technically, in the Eastern Church, Holy Week is a separate season from the Great Lent.

### Special Days

The purpose of the liturgical calendar is to relive the major events in Jesus' life in real time, which is why Lent is 40 days long. If Jesus were born on December 25, then His conception would have been nine months earlier, on about March 25. That is when the angel Gabriel would have announced Jesus' birth to Mary. Thus 25 March is known in the historic church as *The Annunciation*.

*Roughly speaking, the Western Church consists of Protestants, Catholics, and Anglicans. The Eastern Church consists of the Eastern Orthodox churches, the Oriental Orthodox churches, and the eastern-rite churches affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church.*

- ? Congratulations to Matthew Ulman and Stacey Fuller who were married on December 29, 2001. Matthew is the son of Jerry and Judy Ulman.
- ? Congratulations to: Andrew Markoff, recently accepted to Princeton University for Fall 2002
- ? Congratulations to Erin Robinson, accepted at Washington University in St. Louis.
- ? Congratulations to Andrew and Paul Markoff, participating in St. Timothy's Winter sports Hale wrestling team.
- ? Welcome to the Family of God through Holy Baptism—Barry Long, and son Tyler Long;
- ? Welcome to the Family of God through Holy Baptism—Hannah Grace Woodling, daughter of Chris and Melissa.
- ? Congratulations to Ashley and John Brady at the birth of Owen Brady, grandson of Tom and Sybil Hogan
- ? Congratulations to Marianne Wolters who celebrated her 90th birthday on January 21.
- ?? Congratulations to Austin Dowd, awarded the rank of Eagle Scout.
- ? Congratulations to Katie Grunwald for making the Symphonic Band during the All-District competition in January.
- ? Sympathy to Jean Robinson and family at the death of her father.
- ? Sympathy to Bonnie Buckler and family at the death of her grandmother.
- ? Sympathy to John Hrivnak and family at the death of his step-father, Gordon Petersen.
- ? Sympathy to Sue Keehn and family at the death of her mother, Erma Rosencrantz.
- ? Sympathy to Ursula Young and family at the death of her cousin Barbara.

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## GUIDANCE

When I meditated on the word guidance, I kept seeing "dance" at the end of the word. I remember reading that doing God's will is a lot like dancing.

When two people try to lead, nothing feels right. The movement doesn't flow with the music, and everything is quite uncomfortable and jerky. When one person realizes and lets the other lead, both bodies begin to flow with the music. One gives gentle cues, perhaps with a nudge to the back or by pressing lightly in one direction or another. It's as if two become one body, moving beautifully. The dance takes surrender, willingness, and attentiveness from one person and gentle guidance and skill from the other.

My eyes drew back to the word guidance. When I saw "G", I thought of God, followed by "u" and "I". God, "u" and "I" dance". God, you, and I dance.

This statement is what guidance means to me. As I lowered my head, I became willing to trust that I would get guidance about my life. Once again, I became willing to let God lead.

Lets continue to pray for one another. Show us a new revelation of your love and power. Holy Spirit, we ask you to minister to our spirit at this very moment. Where there is self-doubt, release a renewed confidence through your grace.

In Jesus' Precious Name,  
Amen

**The Moviegoer, by Walker Percy:**

## **A Book That Should Be Read . . . And Then Read Again**

Reviewer: **Gary Jakaitis** from Albany, New York

Walker Percy was forty-six years old when his first published novel, "The Moviegoer", was awarded the National Book Award in 1962. It was, in some sense, the public beginning of the second half of Percy's life for, as Percy himself wrote in 1972: "Life is much stranger than art-and often more geometrical. My life breaks exactly in half: 1st half-growing up Southern and medical; 2nd half-imposing art on 1st half." But what, exactly, did Percy mean when he said this? In some sense, "The Moviegoer" is the beginning of an answer.

Percy was born in 1915 and lived his early life in Birmingham, Alabama. His grandfather committed suicide when Walker was an infant and his father, too, committed suicide in 1929. Following his father's suicide, his mother moved Walker and his two brothers to Mississippi. Percy's family was one of the oldest families in the South and he and his brothers soon found a father figure in the form of his cousin, William Alexander Percy, known affectionately as Uncle Will. Three years after his father's suicide, Percy's life was again marked by tragedy when his mother's car went off a bridge, killing her and leaving Walker and his brothers in the charge of his Uncle Will.

Percy went to medical school at Columbia University, where he contracted tuberculosis during his internship. In and out of sanitariums for several years, he finally returned to the South in his early 30s, getting married in 1946 and settling in the New Orleans area, where he lived the remainder of his life. It was at this time that Percy received an inheritance from his Uncle Will that allowed him to devote himself completely to his long-standing interest in literature and philosophy.

I relate the biographical details because, as you read "The Moviegoer", it seems (not surprisingly) heavily marked by Percy's life experience, the author's biography being one point of reference for the novel.

"The Moviegoer" is a peculiarly American and belated expression of the existential novel that had been so brilliantly articulated in France by Albert Camus. Like "The Stranger", Percy's novel focuses on meaning-in this case, the obsession of Binx Bolling, the novel's narrator, on what he calls the "search". As Bolling says at one point, "the search is what anyone would undertake if he were not sunk in the everydayness of his own life." And exactly what does this mean? "To become aware of the possibility of the search is to be onto something. Not to be onto something is to be in despair." An enigmatic definition, but one which makes the reader who spends time with "The Moviegoer", who reads the book carefully and reflectively, to think more deeply about his or her own life.

What "The Moviegoer" suggests is resonant of Thoreau's contention that most men lead lives of quiet desperation. But it is a desperation that arises not from the ordinariness of everyday lives, but, rather, from the failure to transform that ordinariness through contemplation and self-reflection, through an appreciation for the mundane. Thus, in the book's epigraph, Percy quotes Kierkegaard: "the specific character of despair is precisely this: it is unaware of being despair." As Percy has suggested in another of his books, "Lost in the Cosmos" (a work of non-fiction subtitled "The Last Self-Help Book"), we inhabit a society of alienated and despairing "non-suicides" who Percy wanted to transform, through his writing, into "ex-suicides". In Binx Bolling's words: "For some time now the impression has been growing upon me that everyone is dead. It happens when I speak to people. In the middle of the sentence it will come over me: yes, beyond a doubt this is death . . . At times it seems that the conversation is spoken by automatons who have no choice in what they say."

"The Moviegoer" is a thoughtful and a thought-provoking book that should be read and then re-read, slowly and carefully, for every paragraph is laden with insight into the character of its narrator, the character of its author and, ultimately, the character of ourselves.

What are you reading?  
listening to?  
watching?

Send in your suggestions  
and reviews.

### **DIVIDED LOYALTIES, by L. K. Malone**

Okay you lovers of suspense and international intrigue, here's a book we recommend you add to your reading list! Enter the world of international adventure while safely sipping coffee at home! We are very happy to announce the new publication of the novel "Divided Loyalties" by our good friend and frequent participant at TheologyWebsite, L. K. Malone.

[www.theologywebsite.com/books/index](http://www.theologywebsite.com/books/index)

### **Recommendations from Christian Book Review**

**The High Flyer**, Susan Howatch  
**Mere Christianity**, C.S. Lewis  
**Speak What We Feel**, Frederick Buechner  
**Reaching for the Invisible God**, Philip Yancy  
**The Moviegoer**, Walker Percy

**The Power and the Glory**, Graham Greene  
**Prayer**, Richard Foster  
**An Introduction to the New Testament**,  
Raymond Brown  
**Lord of the Rings**, J.R.R. Tolkien  
**Telling the Truth**, Frederick Buechner

[plaza.powersurfr.com/ristau/christian/books.html](http://plaza.powersurfr.com/ristau/christian/books.html)

**G**odric "In *Godric* Frederick Buechner captures the voice and the times of this saint with a style that recalls the richly alliterative language of Middle English poetry. So too does it recall the beautiful earthiness of that literature, reminding us that this time of deep spirituality was also a time of real flesh-and-blood folk. And in some ways this is the deepest point of this delightful (and at times comic) novel: these people, like those who live among us today, become saints not by leaving the body behind but by finding a way to live more deeply within it. They find a way to turn it to glory." --Doug Thorpe, *Amazon.com*

# FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jan Kimosh; Robert Medlin; Wayne Heath; Byron Trimmer; Emily Vaughn; Ken Newcomer
- 2 Bailey Coffas; Anne Howard
- 3 Tina Hanley; Russ Corbally; Sharon Burnette; Matthew Dahl; William Nelson
- 4
- 5 Katie Behrend; David Falk;
- 6 Rose Blom; Scott Helfrich
- 7 Alexa Colasurdo
- 8 Ned Masenheimer; Beth Reed; Becky Reed
- 9 Ralph Funderburk; Kathy Newton
- 10
- 11 Tom Galligan; Nancy Davis
- 12 Elizabeth Sutton; Mallory Crumpler; Douglas Kuhar
- 13 Mark Klimek; Kelsey Kingsbery
- 14 Austin Dowd
- 15 Margaret Perry
- 16 Candy Branscome; Kyle Macemore; Dick Martin
- 17 Phil Sheridan; Jeremy Petersen; Kathy Roush; DJ Beckham; William Franch

- 18 Christina Rau; Susan Mobley; Matthew Miller
- 19 Shelbi McCoy; Amy Larson; Ashley Mobley; Jennifer Davis
- 20 Valerie Resovsky; Lynne Allen
- 21 Sally Sachsenmaier; Barbara Meyer; Jeannette Kuchenreuther; Gabi Zwilling; Elise Saenger-Heyl
- 22 Scott Buell; JoAnn Fulton
- 23 Randy Ehm; Gina Poole
- 24 Rob Cash; Alison Storms; Judy Ulman; Scot Bolen; Bryan Dickson; Katherine Hrivnak
- 25 Heidi Heath; Bob Lovelace
- 26 Tommy Quinn; Irene Casey; Kacey Scott; Peggy Larson; Laura Chaplinsky
- 27 Jim Wilder; Madeline McMillan; Lee Ann Roberts
- 28 Brian Huff; Laura Prill; Rachel Austin; Wylie Robinson
- 29 (?)Lois Blair

## The Shepherd's Voice

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

# FEBRUARY 2002