

The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
2101 Lor Ray Drive
North Mankato, MN 56003

The Good Shepherd's Voice

Grow in God's Truth, Show Jesus' Love

AUGUST 2007

Mid-month Newsletter

Church phone # 388-4336
e-mail: goodshepherd57@juno.com
web: www.goodshepherdmankato.org

Our Shepherd's Staff: Pastor Vance Becker
Preschool: Tracy Mielke, Kindergarten: Alice Brase
Elementary: Linda Becker, Carolyn Garman

Sunday Worship 9:00 AM

Sunday Bible Classes 8:00 AM

Spanish Worship 2:00 PM

Pastors Boldt, Bode & Roth at the
August Anniversary pot-luck dinner

VBS Blessings

Thank you to Becky Schendel, Cindy Wintheiser and Christa Warner who organized this year's VBS, "Quest for Truth." About 50 children participated, an increase from last year.

Thanks also to the many workers, including:

Lessons: Kristen Dauk & Gary Urban

Crafts: Beth & Joe Holtmeier, Christa Warner

Music: Peggy Pomranke & Carol Becker

Snack: Ginger Kipp

Nursery: Sue Schwarz

Preschool: Julie Evans, Michelle Berger, Becky Schendel

Kindergarten: April Tordsen

Grade 1&2: Kristen Mead, Cindy Wintheiser
Grade 3&4: Stephanie Taylor
Grade 5&6: Lea Ann Neuenfeldt

Thanks to several parents who stayed around to help out.

Help With Sunday School

Teachers are needed for Sunday School classes, starting Sept. 9, but if you are not a teacher, there is still a job for you. Several classes need teachers aides and help is needed to watch the infants and toddlers of teachers and adult class participants in the nursery during Sunday Bible classes. It would be good to have 4 to 6 people to rotate

Sundays. If you are interested, speak to Wanda Schwartz.

Anniversary Ornaments Available

Good Shepherd's 50th anniversary is being commemorated with Christmas ornaments picturing our first and new church buildings. They are for sale for \$10 each or two for \$15. To purchase some for yourself, family and friends, see Sue Schwarz in the church entry.

Host Guest Leaders

Sept. 21 through Oct. 12, Good Shepherd will have three “retired” volunteers from “the 72, Partners on the Road”, with us to lead outreach training activities. You have an opportunity to visit with them personally. As in the Bible story (Luke 10) they will be staying and eating with members of our congregation. Hosts are needed to provide an evening meal for them each day except Friday while they are here. If you would like to have them over, sign up on the table in the narthex or see Sue Schwarz (388-3442). Also, if you have a room, cabin or apartment where one could stay for a week or two, talk to Sue.

Sale was Success

Thank you to Wanda Schwartz for organizing the garage sale which raised \$753.25 to support Carol Becker’s ministry in Japan. Thanks to all who helped, including Linda Becker, Ginger Kipp, Marla Kontak, Ellen Matzke, Shirley Olson, Elizabeth & Chayce Peterson, Charlotte Pugh, and Deb Salzwedel

Help Kids Save

K.I.D.S. STAMPS for LCEF needs a new coordinator to sell stamps to the kids on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in this ministry, see Christa Warner.

Prepare With Prayer

Whenever a Christian or the church hopes to do anything important, the first thing that is needed is prayer, because everything depends on God and what he does for us.

Following is a sample prayer you can use to pray for the upcoming visit of “The 72”, that it would be a great blessing to our congregation.

Dear Father, we ask for your continued blessings on the volunteers from “The 72” and the members of our congregation’s leadership team as we partner for outreach. Move all of our members to become involved in this ministry. Help the people of our congregation to do great things for you and to expect great things from you as we reach out to those around us who need to know the good news about Jesus. We thank you for the training we will receive. Make the joy that comes from living in You overtake us and move us to more effectively share your word and be bold in living it out ourselves. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

All Around the Neighborhood

Dollar Works

Dollar Works is a free program, sponsored by Nicollet County, to help individuals or families with financial stress due to job or family changes, limited income from Social Security, etc., increasing expenses, etc. One-on-one help can teach you to improve money decisions, build and use new money skills, understand paychecks and bank accounts, and understand credit and debt. To learn more, call 934-0360.

Retirement Seminar

Those approaching retirement may have many questions about savings plans, supplemental income, turning assets into income, how much is will be enough, etc. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans representative Blake Hahn offers a free seminar to help answer such questions at 5:30 PM on the 2nd Thursday of every month at the Holiday Inn. If you are interested in attending, call him at 345-3588. Note that no products will be sold at this meeting.

Learn About Effective Outreach

While the team from “The 72” is here, they will be leading various “modules” to help members learn about and experience gospel outreach. Watch for a display in the narthex where you can sign up to participate in one or more of the following modules. In addition to those listed here, our guests will also be leading special Sunday Bible classes for adults.

Monday, Sept. 24, Oct. 1 & 8
7 PM

Strategic Growth for Small Groups

Small group ministry is designed to assist believers to see that Christianity is a way of life and that sharing the faith is an appropriate response to all that God has given us. Small groups are not intended to become worship centers and/or Bible classes for members only, but are opportunities to build ongoing relationships that create a context in which the Gospel can be shared and allows the Holy Spirit to create faith where and when he chooses.

Tues., Sept. 25 & Thurs.,
Sept. 27, 7 PM

Re-turning: Church as Home

This is for those who have a passion for those who are members but for some reason

have not been in attendance for some time. This study will help participants detect and then work with members in jeopardy or at risk of becoming inactive. It also presents a ministry to long term inactives which can be developed separately from the efforts of the Elders.

Days? 6:30 – 7:30 PM

Men’s Bible Class

This group, to meet on a day that best suits interested participants, is hoped to continue on a regular basis.

Wed, Sept. 26 & Tues., Oct.
2, 7 PM

Welcoming Church

This module is designed to help us all understand how we can best welcome and integrate new people into congregational life in an intentional way that looks at what they church has to offer them and what they have to offer the church. The course discusses why assimilation is important and how it can be done effectively.

Thurs., Sept. 27, 7 PM

Friendly Church

This module is ideal for ushers, greeters and all who are outgoing and love to greet and meet new people who may walk in. Although this is somewhat similar in concept to Welcoming Church it has ideas and concepts that that are different.

Sat., Sept. 29, 9 – 11 AM

Prayer Canvass

This is non-threatening, fun and very rewarding activity for one and all including young people. Teams of three spend about 90 minutes in an assigned area of the neighborhood simply asking for prayer requests and delivering a “goodie” bag. Groups then meet back at the church for a time of prayer.

Mon, Oct. 1 & Thurs. Oct. 4,
7 PM

School Outreach

John and Caroline, both longtime teachers in Lutheran schools will share fresh thoughts and ideas that help to reach into the community through a Lutheran preschool and elementary school.

Sat., Oct. 6, 8:30 AM – 2:30
PM.

Touching Friends With the Gospel

All members and members from area churches are invited to this workshop which focuses on how different personalities can be involved in sharing their faith in their own unique way.

Tues., Oct. 9, 8 PM

Congregational Leadership in the 21st Century.

This is for all current, past and future church leaders. Participants will learn to better understand vision, planning, change and conflict.