

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

JANUARY 2007

Mid-month Newsletter

Church phone # 388-4336
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web: goodshepherdmankato.org

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

Sunday Worship 8:00 & 10:30 AM
Sunday Bible Classes 9:15 AM

God Gives Life

School Open House Jan. 22

Mankato Area Public Schools do not have class on Monday, Jan. 22. What are you and the kids going to do? How about going to school? Good Shepherd Lutheran School, invites parents and pre-school through elementary students to drop by and visit at any time during the school day, 8:10 AM to 2:30 PM on January 22. School will be in session for preschool through grade 6 students at Good Shepherd, so guests can see classes in progress. School board members will be available to answer questions and

refreshments will be provided. Hot lunches will not be available on this day but guests are welcome to bring a sack lunch and eat with the students at 11:30 AM. Classes for preschool through grade 7 will be offered in the 2007-2008 school year.

Cleaning List Update

The list of church members scheduled to help clean the church is being updated. Because the new sanctuary has enlarged our building, more individuals will be scheduled for each period. If you have been on the current list but are

no longer able to help, please call the church and leave a message or contact Trustee Scott Lassiter, 934-3348.

A cleaning checklist has been posted on the inside of the door of the cleaning closet by the Fellowship Hall. Check it to see what has been cleaned and what remains to be done. Initial the day when you do a task so that others know what has been taken care of.

Thanks to all the hard workers for doing your part to keep God's house looking good.

Hear the Lutheran Hour: Sun.,
6:00 PM, KJLY, 107.1 FM

Help Prepare for the Harvest Crew

Harvesters for Christ are volunteers who visit congregations for a few weeks to help lead and train for Gospel outreach activities. Good Shepherd has applied for a Harvesters for Christ team later in 2007. This will be a very special time and is a project that will take many helpers. Some key people are needed to get things organized. If you would be interested in working on any of these areas, please contact Karen Johnson or Pastor Becker.

An Events person will serve as contact person and help oversee the whole team visit.

A Recruitment person will encourage people to be involved in training and activities.

A Publicity person will work on communicating about activities through posters, newsletter, bulletin, etc.

An Arrangements person will help with housing, etc., plan for training events, and organize canvassing and follow up, if this is done.

A Prayer leader will involve people in praying personally and in groups for the church activities and for unchurched people in the community.

Bulletins from the Boards

THE CHURCH BOARDS met Tues., Jan. 9.

THE ELDERS selected Kevin Brase to be board

chairman and scheduled the duties of new elders. The elders began reviewing the 2007 worship schedule.

THE TRUSTEES selected Bill Schwarz as chairman. Rain gutters have been installed on the back of the sanctuary addition. Hymn boards are being made and will be put up soon. Scott Lassiter will check on upgrading the office computers and will work on an updated cleaning list.

THE BOARD OF EVANGELISM will be chaired by Karen Johnson. The committee has repaired the pen holds of the friendship registers and finished the Harvesters for Christ application.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION will be chaired by Cindy Wintheiser. They are planning special Easter activities and beginning to look at VBS preparation.

The youth raise \$300 through the cookie bake. 8th graders have also been involved. A Circuit Youth Lock-In is being planned. Youth will serve a Salvation Army noon meal in February. Youth may go to the "Higher Things" national youth gathering in Minneapolis in July and an overnight music festival in Willmar.

THE SCHOOL BOARD met Thurs., Jan. 4. They planned an open house for Mon., Jan. 22. The school choir will plan to sing at other Mankato area LCMS churches which have members in our school. Our grade 4-6 students are participating in basketball and cheerleading along with Immanuel Lutheran, Courtland.

The board has a goal of adding 20 more students for the next school year.

THE TREASURER noted that, we received some large special gifts in December and so received more than we spent in that month but fell behind about \$10,000 overall in 2006 in the current general fund. The debt fund, from which the mortgage is paid, also had more expenses than receipts. As a result, savings are being used up.

THE ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE would like to have Rev. Dale Meyer as a special guest speaker. Others that may be invited as guest preachers are former pastors or sons of the congregation.

THE BUILDING COMMITTEE reported that new speakers have been hooked up on the sanctuary. Sound absorbing panels to reduce the loudness are being planned and could be covered artistically.

THE CHURCH COUNCIL made nominations for Synod president and vice presidents, who will be elected at the Synod convention this summer. The Council approved receiving a special offering for "Faith Comes by Hearing", a project to provide an audio recording of the Bible for people groups which do not yet have the Bible in their own language and may not even have a written form of their language. As part of this, every member of Good Shepherd will be given a recording of the New Testament (in English) which can be played on an MP3 compatible player.

Someone left a box of knitted bandages for missions at the church recently. Thanks! Doris Schumacher would like to know who brought them. If it was you, please contact her at 3871558.

All Around the Neighborhood:

Mission Guest at New Ulm

Mr. Gary Theis of Mission Central will speak at Redeemer Lutheran, New Ulm, on Sun., Jan. 21, 9 AM and will lead a study and discussion at 10:30 AM. Mission Central, located in Mapleton, IA, serves as a site for missionaries on furlough and sponsors and promotes LCMS missionary projects.

March for Life

The MCCL March for Life, the 34th commemoration of the Roe v. Wade court decision on legalized abortion, is Mon., Jan. 22, 12 noon, at the State Capitol in St. Paul. A program on the Capitol front steps begins at 12:30 PM. Thousands are invited to attend to send a message to state lawmakers affirming the "right to life".

CSP Offers Travel to Spain

CSP Offers Travel Opportunities to Spain The School of Continuing Studies at Concordia University, St. Paul is offering an exciting opportunity to explore Spain from May 23 -

June 3, 2007. The trip, which will include the sights of Madrid, Toledo, Seville, Granada, Rock of Gibraltar and much more, is open to alumni, friends, family, current Concordia adult and traditional students or visiting students. For more information, visit <http://www.csp.edu/scs> - and click on Exploring Spain.

Help for Healing Grief

ISJ Community Health Services and Hospice offers several opportunities to help those who are grieving the death of a loved one. There is no charge, but the size of some groups is limited so please call 385-2989 to register or get more information.

"Understanding Grief" meets Thurs., Jan. 25, 5 to 6:30 PM at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. This supportive gathering will include information about the grief process and time for sharing.

Grief Support Group is Mondays, 6:30 to 8:30 PM, Jan. 29 through March 5, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Senior Grief Support Group is Thursdays, 10 to 11:30 AM, Jan. 25 through Feb. 1 and Feb. 15 through March 8, at Christ the King Lutheran Church.

Marriage Encounter Retreat

Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend is planned in Sioux Falls, S.D, on March 2-4, 2007. It will be held in the beautiful new Good Samaritan Retreat Center there. Marriage

can and should be an exciting and fulfilling journey! Can your good marriage be better or even great?

Couples are urged to consider this opportunity to nurture your marriage and appreciate its blessings. Learn simple, effective communication techniques. Practice privately; no group sharing! Four presenting couples will share and show you how they learned to bring more joy and understanding to their marriages.

The cost of this weekend is \$45 for registering (insuring your meals and rooms) and a free will offering at the end of the weekend. To learn more about this weekend, check out www.GodLovesMarriage.org and/or contact one of these couples to register:

Vernon and Karen Harrington, 712-533-6221, giblem@frontiernet.net

Doug and Leanne Fox, 402-684-2379, dlfox@huntel.net
Pastor Bob and Aimee Moeller, 605-526-3572, seelsorge8@aol.com