

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

OCTOBER 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 8:00 & 10:30 AM
Sunday Bible Classes 9:15 AM
Spanish Worship 2:00 PM



EF M TI N SUN Y

Gospel Treats

On the tables by the church mail boxes is a supply of leaflets which you can take to hand out with Halloween treats to little goblins this year. They include a gospel message and an invitation to worship at Good Shepherd.

Thanks to "72" Participants

A big thank you goes to all who participated in the "72-Partner's on the Road" outreach ministry, either by your attendance at the modules, hosting them for evening meals and for your prayers for its success. A special thank you to Pat, Lynn, Chad and Allison Lease

for opening their home to John and Caroline Bole for 3 weeks. Blessings to you!

*The Evangelism
Committee and Leadership
Team*

New Sunday Studies

"Healthy Congregations" is the topic of a new Sunday adult study. Healthy congregations are like healthy families. They involve healthy relationships between spiritually healthy people. Come and learn more.

"Angels" is the topic of a new study for High School Youth, meeting in the youth room each Sunday. All confirmed youth are welcome.

HyVee School Fundraiser

Distributed with this newsletter are forms which can be used at HyVee stores Nov. 17-18. \$5 of your purchase will be donated to our Lutheran school. Share them with friends, hand them out to trick-or-treaters, and pick up more copies by the mailboxes if you need them.

Kids Party

A Harvest/Reformation Costume Party for all children is Fri., Oct. 26, 7 – 8:30 PM in the fellowship Hall. Children can wear their costumes (but no ghosts, witches, devils, etc.).

Japan Blog

For the latest on Carol Becker's work in Japan, you can read updates on her blog at songofjoy126.blogspot.com. To get her newsletter by e-mail, send her a request at carol.becker@lcms.org.

Directory Update

New Address:

Brad Engelson

430 South Ave.
North Mankato, MN
345-6825

Paul & Elizabeth Gansen

324 ½ Center St.
Mankato, MN
317-2380

Transferred out:

Andre & Kia Adams to

First English Lutheran
Church, Centerville, SD

Michelle Swenson to St.

Paul Lutheran Church,
Ogilvie, MN

LWML Bakeware Fundraiser

On Sun., Oct. 21 and 28, LWML will be selling RADA baking sheets and cutlery items in the fellowship hall between services of worship. The funds will be used for mission projects.

A new item this year is the Bakeware Buddy. It is a nylon knife to cut bars and cake without scratching the pan. RADA has soy candles in 18 different scents. You may also purchase dif, soup,

bread and desert mixes. The people who have tried these items like them.

See Wanda Schwartz in fellowship hall or call her at 387-1660.

Bulletins from the Boards

Church boards met Tues. Oct. 9. Voters met Tues., Oct. 16.

The BOARD OF ELDERS approved having Wednesday Advent worship start at 6:30 PM this year and having the Children's Christmas service on Sun., Dec. 16. The elders are planning to develop a funeral information leaflet and are studying ways to have larger print in the Sunday bulletin.

The BOARD OF TRUSTEES is taking care of several maintenance items. They approved use of the church piano for student piano lessons during the school day.

The BOARD OF EVANGELISM is following up on the visit of the "72" team with evaluations and making new plans based on what was learned.

The BOARD OF EDUCATION polled parents and decided to have the Children's Christmas service this year on Sun., Dec. 16, at 2 PM. The theme will be "Star of Wonder". Practices will be on Saturdays in December.

The SCHOOL BOARD met Oct. 4. Parents of new elementary students were

surveyed and all responded that they were happy with the school. Several fund raisers were planned for November, including a book fair, a walkathon, and a HyVee receipt rebate program. In addition to Lori Mensink, Emily Holtmeier and Elizabeth VanGrootheest will be helping with after school care. Heather Knudson will be taking over the school newsletter. A harvest/Reformation party for all children will be Fri., Oct. 26.

The VOTERS approved an amendment to the by-laws which moves the quarterly voters meeting from the 3rd Tuesday of the month back to the 2nd Tuesday. The voters approved a budget for 2008, which totals \$283,389.34, slightly less than the budget for 2007. There were incremental increases to salaries but a reduction in the expected pension plan costs. Worship expenses increased but Synod Convention costs were eliminated from last year. The Day school development and Fellowship budgets were cut in half. The expected cost of utilities and offering envelopes was reduced. The 2007 budget and year-to-date expenses can be seen on the back of this newsletter. There was much discussion of an approximately \$110,000 shortfall in the current and building debt accounts. The voters approved cashing in \$25,689.60 in Washington Post stock when necessary. A special Stewardship forum was scheduled for Oct. 23.

All Around the Neighborhood

Lutheran Free Conference

The 20th Annual Lutheran Free Conference is Sat., Oct. 27, 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM, at Redeemer Lutheran Church, St. Cloud, MN. Registration begins at 8:30 AM. The cost of \$25 per person, includes, refreshments, lunch and a copy of the book “Don’t Tell Me That!” (Newly translated from Martin Luther’s comments on the use of the law).

There is no pre-registration but if you do plan to attend, those preparing the lunch would appreciate a call at 1-320-252-8171. The event is sponsored by Minnesota North Confessional Lutherans. Both lay and clergy are welcome.

This year’s theme is “Free to Be?”, inspired by the growth of an apparent aversion to the law of God within U.S. church bodies. Modern support, even in churches, for lifestyles which contradict the 10 commandments raises the question: What is the role of the law of God in the life of the Christian? Having been redeemed by Christ, are we now free to be whatever we want to be?

These questions will be addressed by pastors Rev. Paul Strawn of Spring Lake Park, MN; Rev. Dr. Holger Sonntag of Carver, MN; Rev. Thomas Aadland of

Minneapolis; and Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram of Forest Lake, MN.

Redeemer Lutheran Church is at 2719 3rd St. North in St. Cloud, north of Hiway 23, west of Hiway 10 and east of Hiway 15, on 3rd St. North, between 25th Ave. and 33rd Ave.

What’s So Great about Hospice?

An informational meeting about hospice care and how it can help families will be Thurs., Nov. 1, 6:30 – 8 PM at Hilltop United Methodist Church, 108 S. Manitou Dr., Mankato. The event is free and open to the public. The presenters are Stephanie Putzier, Medical Director, Kim Melius, Social Worker, and Jacek Soroka, Chaplain.

Micah Parker at Camp Omega

Dr. Micah Parker, a Mega-Event speaker at the 2007 National Youth Gathering, will be at Camp Omega Sun., Nov. 4, 2:30-4 PM, speaking to Senior High Youth on the topic of Sexuality and Profanity, in the camp dining hall. Parents are also welcome.

The event is free. T-shirts with Dr. Parker’s “TRUST” logo will be available for purchase. If you have questions, contact Curt Stoltenow at (507) 685-4266 or curt@campomega.org, or Amy Schreader (507) 202-4985 or aschreader@trinityjanesville.com

Camp Omega Appreciation Dinner

The 1st Annual Camp Omega Appreciation Dinner is Sun., Nov. 4, at the Faribault American Legion. The highlight of the program is a presentation by Dr. Micah Parker, a Mega-Event speaker at the 2007 National Youth Gathering. He will speak on “Trust”, a topic born from a personal challenge he experienced.

All are invited to enjoy this evening of fellowship. Contact Curt Stoltenow at (507) 685-4266 or curt@campomega.org to make reservations or for more information.

Community for Unity at CSP

“A Community for Unity: A Community’s Time for Meditation, Reflection and Prayer” will be Fri., Nov. 9, 9 am to 3 pm at Concordia University, St Paul. The day will include community opportunities in singing, Bible study, worship in chapel and devotions. The day of meditation will begin in the Cross of Christ Fellowship Center, adjacent to the Graebner Memorial Chapel. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Please register with Melanie Vasterling at 651-641-8701 or Vasterling@csp.edu by Thurs., Nov. 1. The registration fee is \$10, with scholarships provided for those needing and requesting this support.