

*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**

### **SEPTEMBER 2007**

Mid-month Newsletter

Church phone # 388-4336  
e-mail: [goodshepherd57@juno.com](mailto:goodshepherd57@juno.com)  
web: [www.goodshepherdmankato.org](http://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

## **Fellowship Club Footwork & Food**

All are welcome to join with the Fellowship Club on **Sun., Sept. 30**. Meet at 4 PM at the Lyle Olson home, 109 Hiniker Mill Rd., Mankato. The group will go for a walk in Rasmussen Woods and return with an appetite for a pot-luck supper. Table service and beverages will be provided. Bring a food dish to pass.

## **Are you There?**

It is time for a new church address directory. If your address, phone number or e-mail address is different from the one in the latest directory,

or if information is missing for you or children no longer at home, please write a note and leave it on the office desk, leave a message on the church phone, 388-4336, or e-mail [goodshepherd57@juno.com](mailto:goodshepherd57@juno.com). so an accurate directory can be prepared.

## **S. A. Noon Meal**

Good Shepherd serves the Salvation Army noon meal on Sun., Oct. 7. All youth are invited to help. Donations of food or money are needed as well. The menu is barbecues on a bun, chips, baked beans, apple sauce, bars, milk and lemonade. Contact Lynn or Sue Schwarz if you can help. Thanks!

## **Weekday Eve Classes Start**

If you know of children or adults interested in learning about Lutheran teachings and church membership, please let Pastor Becker know.

A new Bible study on Lutheran teachings will begin soon for adults.

Wednesday classes for grades 5-8 are Wednesdays, 7 PM. Grades 5-6, taught by Kay Stewart, are studying Old Testament Bible history. Grades 7-8 and parents study the catechism with Pastor Becker. This year they study the Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Office of the Keys and Third Article.

## Remember K.I.D.S.

K.I.D.S. (Kids Into Discipleship and Stewardship) is a fun and educational program where children can buy 25 cent and \$10 savings stamps to create an LCEF savings account. K.I.D.S. teaches the importance of saving while furthering the Lord's work

Last year, 18 children filled their stamp books (\$25) and earned an LCEF flashlight. This year they can earn a K.I.D.S. keylight. Stop by the stamp table on the fellowship hall to check it out. Stamps are sold each Sunday after the 8 AM service.

There is something new this year. For those depositing \$20 or more at a time, a check made out to "LCEF" can be deposited directly into the child's account rather than purchasing stamps. Children still earn their gift for the year by doing this.

A new volunteer coordinator is needed. Ask Christa Warner about what is involved.

## Bless You!

A big thank you goes to the Anniversary Committee for all their work so far in helping us celebrate our church's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary: Chairman Joe Holtmeier, Floyd & Judy Backstrom, Lynn & Pat Lease, Lyle & Shirley Olson, Bill Schwartz, and Mike and Sherry Sack.

## All Around the Neighborhood

### Understand Grief

Understanding Grief is a supportive gathering for those grieving a lost loved one, Thurs., Sept. 27, 6:30 – 8 PM at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, sponsored by ISJ Hospice. There is no charge but pre-registration is required. Call Diana Carrigan at 385-2989.

### Free Check-Up

Older adults are invited to a free health check-up at the Mankato Summit Center Tues., Sept. 25 or Tues., Oct. 2. Blood pressure checks, foot care, ear wax removal, blood glucose screening, fitness information and healthy snacks are provided by MSU nursing students supervised by instructors. Reservations are required. Call 387-1666. Ask for a volunteer driver if needed.

### "The Venue" for Christian Art

A faith-based coffeehouse event, "The Venue", will be Oct. 6, 6-11 PM at the Belle Mar Mall (north end). There is no charge but free will donations will be received. Beside coffee and deserts, local music, poetry, stories, pottery and paintings will be shared. Artists interesting in sharing can contact Julie Hawker, 469-4552.

## Bulletins from the Boards

Church boards and Council met on or before Tues., Sept. 11. Each board reviewed the budget in preparation for the next voter's meeting.

THE ELDERS discussed funeral procedures and set additional guidelines for use of our sanctuary for non-member weddings. A free-will offering for District flood relief was approved.

THE TRUSTEES approved changing to DSL internet and bulletin boards in the narthex, office and hallway. A different farmer may farm our unused land. Running phone lines into the school classrooms is being checked into. Hallways width requirements are being checked on.

THE BOARD OF EVANGELISM is working on plans for the visit of "The 72" and encourages everyone to participate.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION and Sunday School Superintendent reported that 37 are registered for Sunday School and getting teachers was easier than last year. Plans are being made for the Children's Christmas service. Parents will be polled about the best time for the service this year.

THE SCHOOL BOARD Reported that we have 14 new students this year, after losing 3 from last year, for a total of 38 so far.

## Join in Outreach Activities

Our volunteers from “The 72” will be installed Sun., Sept. 23, and offer a full schedule of outreach training and experiences. Let’s get the most out of what they have to offer. Sign up in the narthex for as many modules as you can.

Get to know our volunteers personally by hosting them for an evening meal. Sign up on the table by the nursery.

In addition to those listed here, our guests will also be leading special Sunday Bible classes for adults.

Mondays, 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 members who 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.

Thursdays, 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 21<sup>st</sup> Century.**

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