

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

APRIL 2007

Pre-month Newsletter

Church phone # 388-4336
e-mail: goodshepherd57@juno.com
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



Special Holy Week Services

Apr. 1, Palm Sunday, Palms will be distributed to worshippers and the service will begin with children joining in a procession. The guest pastor for the Sunday will be Rev. Tom Lock, currently serving at Trinity, Janesville. Children's Sunday Bible classes will view an Easter video.

April 5, Maundy Thursday, will be celebrated with worship at 7 PM, including Holy Communion, with a special order sung to the tune of familiar Lenten hymns. The service will conclude with the stripping of the altar. The "Difficult Lesson of Discipleship" in the message

will be "Receiving Forgiveness".

April 6, Good Friday, a "Tennebrae" service will be held at 7 PM. The candles and lights are gradually extinguished during the service, which ends in darkness. The "Difficult Lesson of Discipleship" in the message will be "Accepting Loss".



Easter Worship: 6:30 & 9:00 AM

Apr. 16, Easter Sunday, worship will be at **6:30** and **9:00** AM, both services with

Holy Communion. There are no Sunday Bible classes. A breakfast, served by the youth for a free will offering starts at 7:45 AM. The sermon on "Believing the Incredible" will climax our Lenten theme of "Difficult Lessons of Discipleship".

Voters Meet Tues., Apr. 17

The next Quarterly Voters' Meeting is Tues., Apr. 11, 7 PM. Note that Voters' meetings are now on the third Tuesday and an hour earlier than before. All communicant members, age 18 and older are voting members and are encouraged to participate.

“New” Website

“Check out the new look of the Good Shepherd website. There are lots of great resources, worship calendar, newsletters, etc. Good Shepherd has had a website since January 2000. This has been the first major change since then. Check it out today!

Sponsor an Easter Lily

Easter Lilies can be purchased through the LWML for \$7. They may be designated as memorials, etc. They will be placed in church and can be taken home after the 9:00 AM Easter worship.

Please complete a yellow form from the table by the mailboxes and write the check to Good Shepherd LWML. See Wanda Schwartz or April Tordsen if you have questions.

Let’s Hear From Musicians

Musicians are invited to share their special talents during Holy Week and Easter worship. See Linda Becker about playing an instrument or Peggy Pomranke if you can sing. A brass choir for the hymns is being organized.

Musicians of all experience levels are also invited to speak to Linda Becker about playing during offering or communion.

Fellowship Club Goes Out to Play

The Fellowship Club is planning to see the play, “Dancing at Lughnasa” at Bethany College. The date is not yet finalized – the play runs the weekends of April 13-15 and 20-21. The cost for adults will be \$8. Watch for more details or speak to Richard or Karen Johnson if you are interested in coming along.

All Around the Neighborhood

Higher Things for Youth

A Perfect Confirmation Gift is a subscription to “Higher Things” Magazine. Four times a year, “Higher Things” provides 32 pages of a Lutheran worldview, covering everything from music to movies to the means of grace. For those years just after confirmation, you can’t find a better way to teach youth how the Word speaks to their lives. At \$15 a year (\$12 a year for group subscriptions of six or more), you won’t find a better value. For more information, go online to www.higherthings.org click on the “Magazine Online” button in the upper right-hand corner. Or you contact “Higher Things” via e-mail at subscriptions@higherthings.org or phone at 1-888-448-2359.

Guest Speaker from South Africa

The Rev. Dr. Wilhelm Weber, Rector of the Tshwane Lutheran Theological Seminary in Pretoria, South Africa will be speaking at MLHS, Northrop on April 18th at 1:40 p.m. and at St. Paul’s, Truman at 7:00 p.m.. You can hear about the work of some of the South African Lutheran Churches who are in fellowship with the LCMS.

He is sponsored by the Confessional Lutheran Education Foundation. This event is partially sponsored by MSCL. A freewill offering will be received for Dr Weber’s work. Questions can be directed to Pastor Matthew Rusert at 507-375-4228 or sbranch@myclearwave.net

Lutheran Single Adults Conference

“Rejoice and Sing” is the theme for the 20th International Lutheran Single Adults Conference, July 5-8 in Branson, MO. Singles from all over will gather for fellowship, learning, outreach, worship and service.

The keynote speaker is Rev. John Nunes of Wheatridge Ministries. There will also be a variety of workshops and open forums, along with Bible studies presented by Dr. Paul Maier.

Registration is \$250 per person, covering lunches, fees and entertainment. The event will be at the Radisson Inn, where rooms are available.

For registration information, go on line to www.ilsalcms.org

Older Adults: Leader & Servant

The 19th annual S.A.G.E.S. (Saints Alive! Growing, Ever Serving) gathering of LCMS Minnesota South older adults will be in North Mankato May 7-8 at the Best Western Inn. The theme is "Leader and Servant". Merle Freitag, President of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund, will be the main speaker..

The schedule begins Monday at noon with registration and closes with devotions at 2:30 PM on Tues. Seven workshops on a variety of topics are offered along with theme sessions, entertainment, etc.. The Monday evening banquet speaker will be General John Vessey, Retired Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, US Armed Forces.

Registration for the full gathering is \$50 per person, including the banquet.

For more information, see Pastor Becker or pick up a "Sagacity" newsletter from the rack by the mailboxes.

Youth Conference for Adults

Have you ever thought to yourself, "It's not fair that youth get to have all the fun. I wish there was something like 'Higher Things' when I was a teenager..."? Now's your chance to experience a "Higher Things" youth conference for yourself!

This year, and ONLY this year, the youth conference "For You" is being opened up for

adults to come and see just what goes on at these events. The Gospel is FOR YOU too!

There are two ways to take advantage of this opportunity...
- In Minneapolis - FOR YOU - For a Day! There are a very limited number of spots for adults to come and visit on a "day-pass". You will be able to participate in all the worship, study, and fun in a given day at the conference. \$75 will admit you to the conference itself, cover your meals, parking, souvenir t-shirt, and entertainment activities for one day only. This opportunity is only available to singles and couples.
- In Asheville, NC - FOR YOU - For the Week! For \$275 per person, you may join in the "Higher Things" Asheville conference. This fee covers registration, double-capacity housing, meals, and all the worship, study, and fun taking place at conference. There will be a special catechetical session or two for these visiting adults as well.

There is one condition to which all adults must agree in order to attend FOR YOU For a Day or FOR YOU For the Week: Stay out of the kids' way! :) Please keep in mind that these are first conferences for YOUTH. If you'd like to spend time talking to pastors/preachers, sectional teachers, staff, and other adults, please do so during free time and not during sectionals.

Download the FOR YOU For a Day (MN) Registration Form at <http://higherthings.org/files/FY-FAD-RegistrationForm.pdf>. Download the FOR YOU For

the Week (NC) Registration Form at: <http://higherthings.org/files/FY-FTW-RegistrationForm.pdf>

Lutherhostel for Older Adults

Lutheran Summer Music and Association of Lutheran Older Adults join in offering the Minnesota Lutherhostel, a five day musical feast at Gustavus Adolphus College, in St. Peter, July 18-22.

Dr. Ralph C. Schultz, president emeritus of Concordia College, New York, will present the topic: "Feel the Spirit", exploring the music, text and styles of two composers from different centuries.

Per person cost is \$350, not including lodging. For more information, go online to ALOAserves.org or contact Walt Schmidt by phone (623) 937-8835 or by email at waltlois@cos.net.

Become a Northern Light

"Becoming Northern Lights: Ablaze! With God's Love," outreach resource fair for pastors, outreach teams and lay people will be Apr. 21 at the Forestview Middle School, Baxter, MN, sponsored by Minnesota North District. Choose from 29 outreach workshops. a brochure with registration information is available. Go online to www.mnn.lcms.org or call 1-800-829-5022.

College Age Outdoor Ministry

Spend an exciting and challenging summer of service in outdoor ministry at one of many Lutheran Camps across the US as a counselor, cook, lifeguard, program leader, maintenance worker, wrangler, craft leader, etc.. Apply soon for the best placement options at www.nloma.org.

Bible Tour

This is the fourth in a series of articles about the books of the Bible.

The third group of books in the Old Testament is the prophetic books. When the Old Testament historical books are pictures as parts of a highway, traveling along a time line, the prophets are in a neighborhood toward the end of this highway, with streets intersecting it, some long and some short.

The prophetic books are mostly written in a poetic style, like the books described in last month's article. Some parts, however, are prose descriptions of visions or accounts of historic events.

The prophetic books are subdivided into two groups. The first group of five books is called the "major prophets" not necessarily because they are more important but because they are larger. The second group, "minor prophets", wrote shorter books. Each group is arranged in the order they are

thought to have been written. Some of the minor prophets spoke and wrote before or at the same time as the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah.

The first major prophet is Isaiah, written during the time of the later kings of Judah. In 36 chapters (the same as the number of O.T. books), he urges people to repent. Then, in 27 chapters (the same as the number of N.T. books) he encourages them with the promise of a savior. Next, Jeremiah warned Judah to repent before it was too late. But Jeremiah was rejected and saw Jerusalem destroyed by the Babylonians. He wrote about this in Lamentations. This is actually not a longer book, but grouped next to Jeremiah's other writing.

Next comes Daniel, written by a young man who was exiled to Babylon before Jerusalem was destroyed, and living there until just before their return 70 years later. Daniel's description of events provides for us the "bridge" over the gap in the "historical highway". Ezekiel, a priest, was also exiled about the time of Daniel, but lived on a work farm in the country. Both Ezekiel and Daniel describe bizarre prophetic visions.

The minor prophets include twelve books. In the Jewish "bible" they are simply grouped together as the "book of the twelve". That would be easier to find than all these little books!

Hosea wrote to Israel before it was carried away by Assyria, accusing them of spiritual adultery. Joel warned Judah of a plague and promised spiritual

renewal. Amos foretold the destruction of surrounding ungodly nations. Obadiah promised that God would defeat the opponents of his people. Jonah was sent to preach to Nineveh, the capital of Assyria, where people did repent, for a time.

Micah, a contemporary of Isaiah in Judah, condemned corruption and promised a Savior to come from nearby Bethlehem. Nahum predicted that God would finally destroy wicked Nineveh. Habakkuk predicted that God would use Babylon to punish evil but would then punish Babylon. Zephaniah said God's judgment would come, but a remnant would be preserved.

After the Babylonian exile, Haggai accompanied those who returned, along with Ezra and Nehemiah, and encouraged them to rebuild. Zechariah also assured of God's plans to rebuild his people through a coming savior. Malachi issued a final call for reform of immorality and corrupt worship.

For the next period of 400 years, no inspired books were written until Jesus came. Some books written during this time, called the Apocrypha, are included in Roman Catholic Bibles. Luther included them as a separate section in his translation of the Bible and said they were interesting to read; but even the Jews at the time of Jesus did not consider them to be the word of God.

Bible Bites

....for eat and run Bible reading

April 2007 (series C1, B2)

In each reading, pick a memorable verse for yourself.

Family Catechism

Bold type is for children through grade 1 to learn. Underlined is for children through grade 4 to learn. The whole piece is for youth and adults to review

1 Palm/Passion Sunday

- Deut. 32:36-39; Phlp. 2:5-11;
Luke 23:1-49
- 2 Acts 2:1-39; Zeph. 2:1-15
- 3 Acts 2:40 - 3:26; Zeph. 3:1-20
- 4 Acts 4:1-31; John 9:1-41
- 5 Maundy Thursday
Jer 31:31-34; Heb. 10:15-39;
Luke 22:7-20
- 6 Good Friday: Isa. 52:13-53:12
or Hosea 6:1-6;
Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9;
John 19:17-30
- 7 Psal. 31:1-24

What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?

These words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For **where there forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.**

Pray for pastors

8 Resurrection of our Lord

- Exod. 15:1-11; 1 Co. 15:1-11
Luke 24:1-11 or John 20:1-18
- 9 (Resurrection Eve.)
Jonah 2:2-9 or Dan. 12:1c-3
1 Co. 5:6-8; Luke 24:13-49
- 10 Acts 4:32 - 5:32; John 10:1-42
- 11 Acts 5:33 - 6:15; John 11:1-37
- 12 Acts 7:1-29; John 11:38 - 12:11
- 13 Acts 7:30-53; John 12:12-50
- 14 Psal. 118:1-29

What is the office of the Keys?

The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His Church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

Where is this written?

This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, Receive the Holy Spirit. **If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.**
[John 20:22b-23]

Pray for instrumental musicians

152nd Sunday of Easter

- Acts 5:12, 17-32; Rev. 1:4-18;
- John 20:9-31
- 16 Acts 7:54 - 8:25; John 13:1-38
- 17 Acts 9:10-43; John 15:1 - 16:4
- 18 Acts 8:26 - 9:9; John 14:1-31
- 19 Acts 10:1-33; John 16:5 - 33
- 20 Acts 10:34-11:18; John 17:1-26
- 21 Psal. 56:1-13

What do you believe according to these words?

I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and

absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.

Pray for Choirs

223rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:1-20; Rev. 5:11-14;
John 21:1-14
23 Rev. 1:1-20; John 18:1-27
24 Rev. 2:1-29; John 18:28 -
19:16
25 St. Mark, Evangelist
Isa. 52:7-10; 2 Tim. 4:5-18;
Mark 16:14-20
26 Rev. 3:1-22; John 19:17-42
27 Rev. 4:1 - 5:14; John 20:1-31
28 Psal. 17:1-15

The 9th Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

Pray for colleges and seminaries

294th Sunday of Easter

Acts 20:17-35; Rev. 7:9-17;
John 10:22-30
30 Rev. 6:1 - 7:8; John 21:1-25
MAY
1 St. Philip & St. James
Isa. 30:18-21; 2 Cor. 4:1-6;
John 14:8-14
2 Rev. 7:9 - 8:13; 2 & 3 John
3 Rev. 9:1 - 10:11; Obadiah 1-
21
4 Rev. 11:1-19; Jer. 1:1-19
5 Psal. 60:1 - 61:8

The 8th Commandment

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Pray for Broken homes