

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

Pre-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



Aug. Anniversary Sunday

As part of Good Shepherd's 50th Anniversary Jubilee, Rev. Gerald Boldt, a son of our congregation, will lead worship on Sun., Aug. 5, 9 AM. Rev. Boldt is currently pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, Winsted. A 10:30 AM pot-luck brunch follows the service and is an opportunity to visit with Rev. Boldt.

Sept. 9, Rev. Tom Olson will be our guest preacher for a special 2 PM Anniversary service, followed by a Turkey dinner. Nov. 4, Rev. Dr. Doug Rutt will be our guest preacher at the 8 and 10:30 AM worship.

Outdoor Worship

On Sun., Aug. 19, Good Shepherd will have a 8 AM service of worship at Sibley Park and the service at church will be delayed until 9:15 AM. To get there, park west of the ball diamonds and go to the bank of the Blue Earth River.

Bring a lawn chair or something to sit on. In case of rain, we will use the shelter nearby.

Japan Mission Dinner

All are invited to enjoy a meal of Japanese foods, Sun., Aug. 26, 5 – 7 PM, and learn about Japan and Carol Becker's

upcoming mission work. After the meal, Eric Becker will share pictures and experiences from his recent trip to Japan and Carol Becker will talk and answer questions about LCMS mission work there. A free will offering will be received.

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Wednesday Worship with Holy Communion will be Aug. 29, 7:00 PM, before Labor Day weekend. The service will be the same as Sun., Sept. 2.

Pastor Becker on Radio

"Sharing Jesus from Generation to Generation" is the theme for brief devotions by Pastor Becker at 11:40 AM on KJLY, 104.5 FM, July 30 - Aug. 3.

Worship times return to 8 & 10:30 AM on Sun, Sept. 9, with Bible classes for all ages at 9:15 AM

Boosters Sell Brats

Good Shepherd Lutheran School has the brat stand at HyVee Hilltop of the weekend of Aug. 3-5, 11 AM to 5:30 PM. If you can help, sign up on the table by the nursery.

Thanks to those who helped in July: Alice Brase, Jim Dimock, Karen Doyen, Richard Kitzman, Chad & Alison Lease, Ellen Matzke, April Tordsen & boys, & Mark Wilkowske.

Help Work on the Floors

Let's get our church looking good for our anniversary.

Now that ruined tiles are replaced, the floors will be stripped on Sat., Aug 18, starting at 8 AM; and waxed Sun., Aug. 19, starting at 1 PM; and furnishings will be returned Mon., Aug. 20, 7 PM.

Next, the church carpets will be cleaned Sat., 25, starting at 8 AM.

A crew is needed each day to help, including moving furnishings. Please sign up on the table in the narthex by the nursery or speak to Bill Schwartz.

School Blast Off

Mon., Aug. 27, 6 – 8 PM is Good Shepherd Lutheran School Blast Off. All are welcome. There will be a pot-luck supper with hot dogs provided. Bring a dish to share. There will be fun activities for the family and parents of students will complete and turn in registration forms.

LWML Packs Food as Aug. Activity

LWML will be meeting on Tuesday, August 7th at 6:30pm at the Kids Against Hunger building. It is located at 502 Patterson behind Cub West. We will be packaging nutritious meals that are sent around the world to feed the hungry. We hope to have a good group there to help in this worthwhile program. There will be a short meeting there after we are finished.

College Send Off

On Sun., Aug. 12, worship will include a responsive litany for students who will be going to college or technical school this fall.

Students who will be away from home for school are asked to give the church the name of their school, campus or off campus address and e-mail, so we can keep in touch. Drop off a note at the church office or call and leave a message. Building progress

Get Ready for School

Good Shepherd Lutheran School is getting ready to open again with another grade and more students. Lots of help is needed to keep our school growing and improving.

Recruit students. We have some room for more students. Fliers and information/Registration packets are in the church office.

Sponsor a student. If you can help pay part of the tuition for a student, please speak to a School Board member. Several of our students are from low income, single parent, minority and immigrant families. This is a great mission opportunity.

Give a matched gift.

Thrivent members can give up to \$600 per year to our school and have it matched with an additional \$300. Take a "Giving Plus" brochure from the rotating rack near the front door. You can give free money!

Volunteer. If you can help with receptionist, office, or light custodial work, please contact Pastor Becker. If can help as a classroom aid, please contact Alice Brase.

Clip for Cash. Our school gets cash for HyVee receipts, 5c for Schools milk jug caps and Quick Trip Milk Moola, Campbells soup labels, General Mills boxtops for education, ink cartridge recycling, and Fantastic Sams Donation Dollars. See the coupon cart by the doors to the education wing.

After School Care Position Open

After school care is offered at Good Shepherd Lutheran School. Anyone interested in applying for the position of care provider should contact Joe Holtmeier or the church office. Work hours are 2 to 5:30 PM on school days. Pay is \$6.50 and up per hour, depending on the number of students.

Thank you for the cards, gifts and kind comments as we celebrated the 25th anniversary of my ordination and Linda's and my 25th wedding anniversary.

Pastor Becker

K.I.D.S. is a training tool

Credit card debt for young adults age 25-34 is staggering. Last year they averaged \$5,200 each, according to Business Week. How can we train our children to avoid the pitfalls of accumulating such debt? Helping them start a savings account with Kids Into Discipleship and Stewardship is a great place to start. Not just any old savings account, these also help build LCMS churches and schools through Lutheran Church Extension Fund. Talk to Christa Warner to learn more.

All Around the Neighborhood

Lutheran Night at the Twins

Our Savior Mens' Club is sponsoring a trip to Lutheran Night at the Metrodome, as the Twins play the Seattle Mariners Tues., Aug. 21, 7:10 PM. The total cost for the game and bus ride is \$29 / person. The bus leaves Our Savior at 4 PM and returns right after the game. If you are interested, call Ken Krabenhof at 388-6743 by August 14.

Outreach Training

As part of District Mission Outpost Training, a Witness Workshop will be offered Sat., Aug. 18, 9 AM to 1 PM at Hosanna Lutheran Church, Mankato. The cost is \$10 per person or \$25 per car load and includes lunch and materials. Come and learn more about how you can spread the good news.

Teaching Today

"Teaching Today's Kids – Put Smiles on their Faces" is the theme of this year's Lutheran Education Volunteer Network (LEVN) Conference, Sat., Aug. 11, 8 AM to 1 PM, at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Prior Lake. All volunteer teachers will benefit from helps, ideas and suggestions about how to keep the joy in teaching God's Word. To register or get more information, call the church at 1-952-445-1779 or Pam Radloff at 1-952-890-5416.

New Pastor at Vernon Center

Vance Milbrath will be ordained and installed as pastor of St. Peter, Vernon Center and St. Paul, Amboy on Sunday, August 19. Ordination and installation will be at 1:30 PM in Amboy and then, at 3:30 PM will be installation at Vernon Center, followed by a reception in at the church. All are welcome. Rev. Dennis Perryman will be the preacher for both services.

E.C.H.O. Needs Refrigerator

E.C.H.O. Food shelf is in serious need of a large commercial refrigerator for meat, eggs and milk, to replace its old one. This cost is approximately \$4000. If you can contribute, send a donation to E.C.H.O. Food Shelf, P.O. Box 3212, Mankato, MN 56002 and note it is for "refrigerator". Your gift is greatly appreciated and tax deductible.

Disability Awareness

A Community Block Party for Disability Awareness is Tues., Aug. 21, 3 – 8 PM, at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church parking lot. It is free and open to the public. There will be musical entertainment, live theater, hands on art, square dancing, food, vendors, and more activities for the whole family.

CVLHS Sales

Cannon Valley Lutheran High School used book sale is July 30 – Aug. 4 at the school, 404 W. Franklin, Morristown. There will be books for all ages.

The CVLHS garage sale is Aug. 3-4 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 406 W. Franklin, Morristown.

An auction to benefit the High School will be Sept. 8. Silent auction is 4:30 to 7 PM. Live auction starts at 7:30 PM. Food will be available through the evening. Donations are requested. Contact Jean at 1-507-685-2314.

Crisis Nursery Available

Mankato Area Crisis Nursery, sponsored by Lutheran Social Service, is now a free 24/7 service for parents to call in a crisis situation. Children, infants through age 12, can receive safe care on a short-term basis when there is a crisis in the family.

The Crisis Hotline Number is 995-9259. Parents may call this hotline in situations of high stress, sudden illness, housing problems, divorce/separation, or financial crisis.

The services are free and voluntary and are confidential unless evidence of abuse or neglect requires reporting.

Luther Musical

“Martin Luther: The Musical” is a lighthearted play about Luther created by theater majors at St. Olaf College, Northfield. It will be performed at Augsburg College chapel, Minneapolis, Aug. 3, 8:30 PM; Aug. 4-5, 7 PM; and Aug. 10-11, 8:30 PM. For tickets, call 1-612-343-3390.

Habitat ReStore

A Habitat for Humanity ReStore is now open at 1751 Bassett Dr., Mankato. Normal store hours are Thurs. & Fri., 10 AM – 6 PM and Sat., 9 AM – 4 PM.

The public is invited to donate or buy new and gently used home improvement goods including equipment and supplies, lighting, plumbing, paint, carpet, cabinetry, appliances and non-upholstered

furniture. The cost is 50% - 75% of retail and proceeds help eliminate poverty housing in our area.

Donations can also be received on Tues. and Wed.. To arrange for pick up of larger items, call the store at 388-6682 or e-mail restore@hickorytech.net

Volunteers are needed for various types of work at the store. Contact the store if interested.

Oratory Contest

High School juniors and seniors are invited to enter the Minnesota Concerned Citizens for Life Oratory Contest, 6 PM, Oct. 15 in Mankato. Students write and present an original 5-7 minute pro-life speech on abortion, euthanasia, infanticide or stem cell research. The winner receives \$50 and advances to the MCCL State Oratory Contest in St. Paul in April. The state winner receives an expense paid trip for two to compete in the National Right to Live Oratory Contest, July 5, 2008, in Washington, D.C. For details, contact Tom Hoehn, 381-2544. Registration deadline is Oct. 1.

Pre-Marriage Workshops

Couples anticipating a wedding are invited to participate in a Readiness for Marriage workshop Sept. 7-9 at Berea Lutheran Church, Richfield, or Messiah Lutheran Church, Moundsview. Sessions are Fri., 7-9 PM and Sat. and Sun., 1-5 PM.

Workshops are conducted by our District's Lutheran Counseling Center's Suzanne Stoltenberg and her husband, Barry. The workshops consist of lectures, video presentations, group and couple discussion and individual reflection. Prepare/Enrich inventories are incorporated and deal with various issues important to marriage relationships.

The cost is \$75 per couple for the workshop. Prepare/Enrich inventories must be arranged through the couple's pastor and completed at least two weeks before the workshop. The inventory cost is \$35.

For additional information or to register, contact Louise Rutgerson at St Michaels Lutheran Church, 1-952-831-5276.

Dollar Works

“Dollar Works” is a free program offered by Nicollet County Extension Office to teach families or individuals how to improve money decisions, build and use new money skills, understand paychecks and bank accounts and understand credit and debt. If you are having financial problems resulting from job or family changes, this program can help. Call 934-3060.

Bless You

Thanks to Angie Forsberg, resident at Willow Point, for donating new VCR tapes for our tape ministry.

The 72 are Coming

Sept. 21 through Aug. 11, we will have a team of 3 volunteers at Good Shepherd as part of “the 72, Partners on the Road”, a gospel outreach training program of our Synod.

One thing that needs to be arranged is their meals for each night they are here. If you would like to host them, please sign up on the table by the nursery or speak to Karen Johnson.

Bruce Manzey, our team’s leader, was born and raised on a farm in southern Minnesota. He has worked as a farmer and in farm and construction machinery sales. He now has a business as a recruiter (“headhunter”) for equipment companies. He is now 70 and has been married to his wife, Nancy, for 38 years. He is a big fan of Gophers basketball.

Bruce is now a member of Living Christ Lutheran Church, Chanhassen. He has served on nearly every possible board position in the two congregations he has been a member of, taught Sunday school and Bible studies and initiated a small group ministry program. He has also served in district positions and community organizations helping with adoption, abortion, and crisis counseling.

John and Caroline Boll came from farm backgrounds and met in High School at Concordia Seward, NE. Both are retired Lutheran school teachers. John spent 43 years at 6 different Lutheran elementary and high schools; the last 30

also serving as principal. Caroline taught 26 years and raised 5 children. Their 4 living children are also church workers. They retired a year ago from St. John Lutheran in Wykoff, and live in Preston.

They became members of the “72 Partners on the Road” last year and served at Faith Lutheran in Minneapolis this spring.

Pray for Workers

As we prepare for the coming of our team from The 72, much prayer is needed. Here are prayer thoughts to include in your prayers.

Dear Lord and Savior, you have provided forgiveness and eternal life not only for me but for the whole world. Because of all that you have done, the fields are white for harvest. You have also generously given us abundant resources and willing fellow workers to lead and help us.

We thank you for the Bruce Manzy, John and Caroline Boll, who are willing to come and help us. We thank you for church leaders who are ready to work with this program. We thank you for the people in our community whom you love, even though they may not yet understand this.

We ask your forgiveness for timid faith and for not doing all that we could have to share your gospel. Give us courage, wisdom, guidance and continued opportunities to give a reason for the hope that is in us.

Guide our leadership team to plan wisely for a great benefit

to our congregation. Guard Bruce, John and Caroline with your holy angels and bring them safely to us. Lead all members of our congregation to become involved in this unique opportunity. Prepare us and the hearts of those whom we will reach with the work of your Holy Spirit. Use these activities for blessings to our community and our congregation and your kingdom, all to your glory.

Learn about Small Group Ministry

One of the things The 72 would like to do while here is help start small group ministry. Small groups meet for Bible study, prayer, fellowship and service activities and provide an opening for the unchurched to become connected to Christian ministry. If you might have an interest in being involved in a small group, please speak to Pastor Becker or Karen Johnson.

Coming Activities

While The 72 are with us, they are planning to involve as many congregation members as possible in a variety of activities, including:

- Sunday Bible Classes
- Women’s & Men’s study groups
- Training on being a Friendly Church, a Welcoming Church, and ministry to those returning.
- Prayer Canvass
- School Outreach
- Small Groups
- Share Life Workshop

Sharing Jesus From Generation to Generation

As Good Shepherd celebrates its 50th anniversary, this is the first in a series of articles about church history.

A History of the Early Christian Church

The Book of Acts is only the beginning of the story of how the “Word of the Lord grew.” Christians in Jerusalem, the first center of the Church, were soon scattered as the city was destroyed in 70 AD. Antioch, in Syria, another mission center, first sent out the Apostle Paul. The church in Ephesus of Asia Minor, founded by Paul, was later led by John, the longest living disciple. These cities became centers of Christian leadership. Meanwhile, other apostles spread Christianity to Africa, Persia (Modern Iraq), China and India; and the church was established in Rome, capital of the Empire, where Peter and Paul are both thought to have been killed.

After the Apostles died, the church struggled against the attacks of paganism and Judaism, which tried to destroy it, and against false teachers within, such as the Gnostics and Montanists, which would have twisted and distorted the message. While the believers endured cruel physical persecution, often supported by the government, the “Apostolic Fathers”, such as Justin Martyr, Iranaeus, Origin and Tertullian,

wrote against early heresies. Alexandria, Egypt, already a center of Jewish population, rose as a new center of Christian teaching.

In the face of false teachers, the church pointed to its continued succession of leaders from the time of the apostles. Iranaeus, for example, learned from Polycarp, who was taught by the apostle John. The claims of new teachings forced the church to define which writings, in addition to what is known as the “Old Testament” were considered to be God’s won word, the “New Testament”. A formal statement of faith, later called the “Apostles’ Creed”, began to develop as it was used to transmit the faith to those being baptized. Heresies, such as Arianism, which denied that Jesus was true God and true man, were opposed by Christian leaders such as Athanasius.

In 312 AD, the Roman Emperor, Constantine, converted to Christianity. Suddenly the relationship between the church and the state swung from persecution to approval. With support came supervision. In 325, Constantine called a council of the whole church at Nicea to deal with questions of false teaching which threatened church unity and so threatened the peace of his realm. It was also Constantine who moved the capital of the empire from Rome, in Italy, to what became Constantinople, in Turkey, making it a new center of Christianity in the East and leaving the bishop of Rome as the most powerful individual in that key city.

Later emperors continued the trend of support for the church, limiting paganism and heresy with official laws. As the Empire began to decline, barbaric kingdoms on the frontiers began to be won to the faith by bold pioneer missionaries. Heresies which had troubled the church – such as the denial that the Holy Spirit was an equal member of the trinity; misunderstandings of how the divine and human natures and will were united in the person of Christ; overdependence on the personal character of pastors; and crediting human will with the power to cooperate in salvation – were dealt with by a series of church councils at Constantinople, Ephesus and Calcedon. At these meetings, Augustine, Bishop of Hippo in Africa, gained prominence as a theologian along with Ambrose and Jerome. Jerome’s Latin translation of the Bible became the standard for many centuries.

The church was gradually beginning to grow and change. Free from persecution, it came out of hiding in house churches into permanent buildings, patterned after Roman town halls. Church laws and courts developed, independent of civil law. The leadership grew into a hierarchical clergy, distinct from lay people. The Bishop of Rome grew in power and authority beyond that of other key cities. As Christianity became common and expected, the general level of spirituality declined. Others began to withdraw from public life into religious monasteries or live as solitary hermits.

Next: The Medieval Period

Bible Bites

for eat and run Bible reading

August 2007 (series C1, B2)

To read the O.T. once and the N.T. twice in 6 years, read the 1st reading each week day.

Include the 2nd reading to finish in 3 years. For Sundays and special days, all three pericopes are given. *In each reading, pick a memorable verse for yourself.*

1 2 Sm. 2:1-32; Jer. 39:1-18

2 2 Sm. 3:1-30; Jer. 40:1-16

3 2 Sm. 3:31 - 4:12; Jer. 41:1-18

4 Psal. 27:1-14

The 10th Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

Pray for Vacation Bible School

5 10th Sun after Pent.

Eccl. 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-26

Col. 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21

6 2 Sm. 5:1-25; Jer. 42:1-22

7 2 Sm. 6:1-23; Jer. 43:1 - 44:14

8 2 Sm. 7:1-29; Jer. 44:15 - 45:5

9 2 Sm. 8:1-9:13; Eph. 1:1-2:10

10 2 Sm. 10:1-19; Eph. 2:11 - 3:21

11 Psal. 137:1 - 138:8

Asking a Blessing

Lord God, Heavenly Father, **bless us and these Your gifts** which we receive from your bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pray for the Board of Education

1211th Sun. after Pent.

Gen. 15:1-6; Heb. 11:1-16;

Luke 12:32-40

13 2 Sm. 11:1-27; Eph. 4:1-32

14 2 Sm. 12:1-25; Eph. 5:1-33

15 St. Mary, Mother of Our Lord

Isa 61:7-11; Gal. 4:4-7;

Luke 1:39-55

16 2 Sm. 12:24-13:18; Eph. 6:1-24

17 2 Sm. 13:19-39; Jer. 46:1-28

18 Psal. 49:1-20

What does God say about all these commandments?

He says: "**I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments.**" [Ex. 20:5-6]

Pray for The School Board

1912th Sun. after Pent.

Jer. 23:16-29;

Heb. 11:17-40, 12:1-3;

Luke 12:49-56

20 2 Sm. 14:1-24; Jer. 47:1 - 48:25

21 2 Sm. 14:25-15:12;

Jer. 48:26-47

22 2 Sm. 15:13-37; Jer. 49:1-22

23 2 Sm. 16:1-23; Jer. 49:23-39

24 St. Bartholomew

Prov. 3:1-8; 2 Cor. 4:7-10;

Luke 22:24-30 or John 1:43-51

25 Psal. 50:1-23

What does this mean? God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But **He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments.** Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands.

Pray for Good Shepherd Lutheran School Teachers

2613th Sun. after Pent

Isa 55:18-23; Heb. 12:4-29;

Luke 13:22-30

27 2 Sm. 17:1-29; Jer. 50:1-20

28 Luke 11:1-26; Jer. 50:21-46

29 Martyrdom of John the Baptist

Rev. 6:9-11; Rom. 6:1-5;

Mark 6:14-29

30 Luke 11:27-54; Jer. 51:1-23

31 Luke 12:1-34; Jer. 51:24-40

SEPTEMBER

1 Psal. 75:1-10; 117:1-2

Duties of workers

...obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. **Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart.** (Eph. 6:5-6)

Pray for Public Schools

Family Catechism

Use a part of the Catechism each week as part of family devotions. **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

Hear the Lutheran Hour:

Sun., 6 PM, KJLY 107.1 FM