

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

FEBRUARY 2007

Pre-month Newsletter

Church phone # 388-4336
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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



LWML Prayer Service Feb. 6

All women of Good Shepherd are invited to join in the LWML Prayer Service, Tues., Feb. 6, at 7 PM. Afterward, Sally Maschke will share information about Birthright. There will be a business meeting and refreshments.

Fellowship Club Super Bowl Party

Fellowship Club will have a Super Bowl Party Sun., Feb. 4, 5:30 PM at the home of Wally & Phyllis Richter, 1417 Carney Ave.. A pot-luck supper will be

shared at half time. Bring a dish to pass. Beverages, plates and utensils will be furnished. All are welcome.

Christian Outreach Sunday, Feb. 18

Rev. Mark Press, new director of the Oswald Hoffman School for Christian Outreach, will be our guest preacher on Sun., Feb. 18, Transfiguration Sunday. He will also share more about Christian outreach during the 9:15 AM Bible class.

Lent Begins Feb. 24

The theme for midweek worship messages is "Difficult Lessons of Discipleship"

Faith Comes By Hearing

The Bible says, "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God" (Rom. 10:17). In February, every member of Good Shepherd will have a unique opportunity to hear God's word and to help others who have never heard it before.

"Faith Comes by Hearing" is a organization which makes audio recordings of the Bible in many languages. Groups like Lutheran Bible Translators and others are working for the benefit of 3.1 billion poor and illiterate people around the *continued on next page*

world do not yet have the Bible in their language. Audio recordings of these translations allow these people to have God's word even before the difficult process of developing a written form of their language and teaching them to read it.

Remember when mom used to say "clean your plate because kids are starving in China"? Well, the same is true of God's word, the food of spiritual life. We need to devour it for ourselves also. Starting Sun., Feb. 4, a CD recording of the New Testament (in English!) will be offered to every member of Good Shepherd for FREE, and there is a kids version with a Bible song CD for every child. The CD's will work on most computer CD drives, TV VCRs, and MP3 compatible CD players, and you can download them to your computer or MP3 player.

What's the catch? There is none, but we do want you to listen to it. Included is a schedule for listening to the whole New Testament in 40 days. Listen to your CD for 28 minutes per day during Lent and you will get to John's Revelation of heaven before Easter. Feel free to share your CD with someone else as well.

Also, on Feb. 4 and 11, we will receive a free will offering to sponsor one book of the Bible in the Jur Modo language of Sudan. The average cost of a N.T. book of \$948. How much should you contribute? That is up to each individual. Consider how much you spend on other CDs, videos, cable & internet service, etc. which is less valuable than the precious word

of God. 100% of the offering will go to the cost of recording the N.T. in the Jur Modo language.

Lent Begins Feb. 21

Ash Wednesday worship is Feb. 21, 7 PM, including Holy Communion and a liturgy sung to the tunes of familiar Lenten hymns.

Soup and sandwich suppers will be served before the Wed. services, 5:30 to 6:30 PM. A free will offering is received. Watch for a sign up sheet on the table outside the sanctuary, to help provide bars, etc.

"Difficult Lessons of Discipleship" is the theme for midweek Lenten worship. Each week we will learn from those involved in Jesus' passion about:

Feb. 21: Accepting humility
Feb. 28: Controlling anger
Mar. 7: Experiencing failure
Mar. 14: Withstanding pressure
Mar. 21: Admitting guilt
Mar. 28: Acknowledging helplessness

Holy Week

Apr. 5: Receiving forgiveness
Apr. 6: Accepting loss
Easter Sunday
Apr. 8: Believing the incredible

School News Brief

At Christmas, in place of a gift exchange, school students donated \$100 and went to the Dollar Store to buy gifts for residents at the St. Peter treatment center.

Parents are invited to come Wed., Feb. 7, 7 PM to preview

a video, which is part of the Concordia Sex Education curriculum which will be used at Good Shepherd Lutheran School in February.

Students will go to pack food for Kids Against Hunger on Tues., Mar. 6. Church members will be invited to help provide money for the food.

School chapel offerings are going to the LLL Hearts for Jesus program to provide Bibles for Russia.

LHM Sunday, Feb. 25

Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) and the international Lutheran Laymen's League proclaim the true Gospel to millions of people around the world as part of the mission of "Bringing Christ to the Nations – and the Nations to the Church.

LHM is more than just a radio program. It also partners with congregations to provide training and resources such as "Equipping to Share", "Practicing Hospitality", "New Neighbor Outreach", "Project Connect" and more.

If you would like to help promote Lutheran Hour Ministries at Good Shepherd, please speak to Pastor Becker.

Circuit Youth Lock In Mar. 2-3

A Mankato Circuit Youth Lock-In at the Lake Crystal Area Recreation Center is being planned for Fri., Mar. 2 into Sat., Mar. 3. Watch for more information or see Kathy Taylor for details.

Help Host the Harvesters

Good Shepherd is getting ready to host a “Harvesters for Christ” team this fall.

Volunteers with this LCMS program will be with us for several weeks to help lead and train in evangelism outreach activities. The idea is not that they will do it for us but that they will show us how to do it. The more preparation there is for this big event and the more people who are involved, the more beneficial it will be.

Volunteers are needed first for some key positions on the leadership team:

Recruitment – This person will talk about the various activities in the congregation with people who may not know what is planned and will recruit and encourage people to be involved with the activities and training modules.

Publicity – This person will lead others in keeping the congregation informed with through banners, posters, announcements and newsletter articles.

Arrangements – This person will take the lead in arranging for host housing and meals for the Harvesters couple, and lead the planning of activities we might chose to do, such as a neighborhood canvass, witness workshop, congregation home visits, etc.

Prayer – This person will remember the team and church members in prayer and involve members in praying personally for the unchurched, organize prayer groups or a prayer chain.

If you are interested in leading or helping with any of these areas, please speak to Pastor Becker or Karen Johnson, chair of the Board of Evangelism.

Changes for Campbell Clippers

Thank you to all who are faithfully saving Campbells soup labels for our school. Please be aware of a change in the program. We now are to submit only the UPC code and the symbol next to it, not the whole label. This means that on older style labels, you will NOT CUT where it says “cut here”, but will leave the symbol attached to the UPC code.

Thank You, Thank You

A portion of Good Shepherd mission offerings is earmarked for special ministries in our area. The following thank you notes have recently been received:

“Dear friends in Christ: Thank you for your generous donation of \$500 to the Sudanese Ministry at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church. The Sudanese congregation has 99 members, with an average weekly attendance of 41. We worship Sunday at one o’clock in the afternoon. We very much appreciate your support for this ministry. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers that we may continue to do the Lord’s work.”

Vicar James Ruey

*“Dear Friends,
During this holiday season, I take great joy in thanking you for helping VINE to sustain and grow the ‘culture of caring’ that we work so hard to share with everyone who comes to us. Your contribution of \$400 will help us to continue to give the gift of independence and companionship to VINE care receivers. Further, it affirms the work that VINE does to meet the needs of our community and allows us to coordinate volunteers who chose to put their faith in action.*

Pam Determan, Director

Preschool Sign-Up

Preschool applications will soon be on the table by the office. Members have priority in admission, but plan to apply soon to assure a spot.

The new address of Betty Sandry, in Bloomington, has been posted on the bulletin board on the way to the fellowship hall.

All Around the Neighborhood:

Theresa House Benefit Brunch

Enjoy Dad’s Belgian Waffles at a benefit for Theresa House, a women and children’s shelter, on Sun., Feb. 11, 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM. at St. Peter and Paul’s Church basement. The cost is \$5 per person. Children under age 5 are free. Take out will be available.

Zimmerman Family Benefit

Hosanna Lutheran is hosting a benefit for the family of Kyle Zimmerman, born 3 months premature at 2 lbs.. It will be Sun., Feb. 18, 11 AM to 3 PM. A spaghetti dinner will cost \$6 per person (under 5 free) and there will be a bake sale and silent auction. Funds will be supplemented by Thrivent and the Catholic Aid Association. Donations can also be mailed to Wells Fargo Bank, c/o Kyle Zimmerman, 206 E. Hickory St., Mankato. Call Lisa at 420-0761 with questions.

Potato Pancake Dinner at Glencoe

The Men's Club of First Ev. Lutheran Church, Glencoe, hosts its 55th annual pancake dinner Sun., Feb. 4, 9 to 8 PM. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$3.50 for ages 4-12 and free for age 3 and under. The menu includes all you want to eat potato and regular pancakes, applesauce, sausage, cheese, bars, coffee and milk.

Lutheran Liturgy for Lay People

The annual Workshop on Lutheran Liturgy for Lay People is Sat., Feb. 10, 9 AM to 3 PM at Glory of Christ Lutheran Church, 4040 State Highway 101 N., Plymouth.

The registration fee of \$20 covers snacks and lunch. Advance registration is recommended. Fliers are on the table by the church office. Rev. Matthew Harrison, executive

director of LCMS World Relief and Human Care will be the speaker. He has received the Divine Service in a host of contexts around the world and will share how the service of God to us in Word and Sacrament is translated through the Divine Service into vibrant, godly, and compassionate care of others.

Join an Archaeological Dig

Join the adventure during the sixth season of archaeology excavations at Hippos of the Decapolis, the "city set on a hill" (Matt 5:14), overlooking the east shore of the Sea of Galilee. Concordia's Northeast Church Project continues to uncover a Byzantine church complex (5th to 8th century) that served as a memorial site for several previously unknown saints. The team, led by Concordia University, St. Paul professor of Religion Dr. Mark Schuler, will be in the field from June 28 – July 27, 2007. Cost is \$1800 plus airfare.

For more information, visit the excavation web site at <http://hippos.archaeology.csp.edu> or contact Schuler at (651) 641-8736 or schuler@csp.edu.

Bible Tour

This is the second in a series of articles about the Books of the Bible.

1 and 2 Kings is also a two volume work. It takes us down the historic highway from David's son, Solomon, to the end of the empire. 1 Kings tells about when there was still one

kingdom and the ministry of the prophet Elijah. 2 Kings tells about when the kingdom split into two parts and about the work of the prophet Elisha in the northern part of the divided kingdom. The trail of the historic highway becomes a bit twisty and hard to follow here as it jogs back and forth between the northern and southern kingdoms like a soap opera.

Now, 1 and 2 Chronicles do not tell about what happened after 1 and 2 kings. Instead, this two volume set is a kind of expressway which parallels the historic highway. Volume one quickly runs through the genealogy and history from Adam through David. Volume two picks up with Solomon and continues until the end of the empire with more focus on the southern kingdom than 1 & 2 Kings.

Here there is a gap in the historic highway during the time of the Babylonian captivity. A bridge over this gap will be discovered later in the Prophetic books.

The highway picks up after the exile with Ezra, the priest who led the first group of Jews to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple, and Nehemiah, who led a second group some years later and rebuilt the city walls.

Esther is a historic marker at the end of the highway. It tells of a Jewish woman, still living in Persia at the time of the return from exile, whose experiences explain the origin of the Jewish festival of Purim.

The historic highway ends at about 400 years BC, but there is more to come.

Bible Bites

....for eat and run Bible reading

February 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.*

Let us Pray...

...For all people according to their needs. Each week our prayers during worship include special groups. Please also remember them in your daily prayers.

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

- 1 Judg. 18:14-31; S.O.S. 1:1 - 2:7
- 2 Presentation of our Lord
1 Sam. 1:21-28; Heb. 2:14-18;
Luke 2:22-40
- 3 Psal. 64:1-10

How can water do such great things?

Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For

without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit,

Pray for the unchurched and new members

4 5th Sunday after the

Epiphany Isaiah 6:1-13; 1

Cor. 14:12b-20;

Luke 5:1-11

- 5 Judg. 19:1-30; S.O.S. 2:8- 3:11
- 6 Judg. 20:1-25; S.O.S. 4:1 - 5:1
- 7 Judg. 20:26-48; S.O.S. 5:2 - 6:3
- 8 Judg. 21:1-25; S.O.S. 6:4 - 7:9
- 9 1 Sm. 1:1-28; S.O.S. 7:10 - 8:14
- 10 Psal. 36:1-12

St. Paul says in Titus, chapter

three: "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying." [Titus 3:5-8]

Pray for married and engaged couples

11 6th Sunday after the

Epiphany

Jer. 17:5-8; 1 Cor. 15: 1-20;

Luke 6:17-26

- 12 1 Sam. 2:1-26; 2 Cor. 1:1-24
- 13 1 Sm. 2:27-3:21; 2 Co. 2:1-3:18
- 14 1 Sam. 4:1-22; 2 Cor. 4:1 - 5:11
- 15 1 Sm. 5:1-6:12; 2 Co. 5:12-6:18
- 16 Psal. 103:1-22
- 17 Dr. Martin Luther, confessor
Isa. 55:6-11; Rom. 10:5-17;
John 15:1-11

Where is this written?

St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: "We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." [Rom. 6:4]

Pray for minorities & the underprivileged

18 Transfiguration of our Lord

- Deut. 34:1-12; Heb. 3:1-6;
Luke 9:28-36
19 1 Sam. 6:13-7:12; 2 Co. 7:1-8:7
20 1 Sm. 7:13-8:22; 2 Co. 8:8-9:15
21 Ash Wednesday
Joel 2:12-19; 2 Cor. 5:20b - 6:2;
Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21
22 1 Sm. 9:1-26; 2 Co. 10:1-11:15
23 Psal. 77:1-2
24 St. Matthias: Isa. 66:1-2;
Acts 1:15-26; Matt. 11:25-30

What does such baptizing with water indicate?

It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that **a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.**

Pray for radio and television ministry

25 1st Sunday in Lent

- Deut 26:1-11; Rom 10:8b-13;
Luke 4:1-13
26 1 Sam. 9:27 - 10:16;
2 Cor. 11:16 - 12:13
27 1 Sm. 10:17 - 11:15
2 Co. 12:14 - 13:14
28 1 Sm. 12:1-25; Joel 1:1-20
MARCH
1 1 Sm. 13:1-23; Joel 2:1-17
2 1 Sm. 14:1-23; Joel 2:18-21
3 Psal. 91:1-16

What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.

Pray for day-school students

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