

*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**

### **JANUARY 2007**

Pre-month Newsletter

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



*Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him*

## **Epiphany Worship**

The Epiphany of our Lord is a major church holiday on Jan. 6. It celebrates the coming of the Magi to worship the baby Jesus, the savior of the whole world. We will have a special service of worship on this Saturday at 6 PM. The service will include Holy Communion with a special order of service set to the tunes of familiar Epiphany hymns.

## **Voters Meet Jan. 16**

The quarterly voters' meeting is now at a new date and time as we begin operating

under our revised constitution, adopted and approved last year. It will now be the third Tuesday, starting at 7:00 PM.

Business includes election of a vice-president and a school board member, not accomplished at the December meeting; and also our opportunity to nominate for president and vice president of the Synod.

All communicant members over age 18 are voting members and are encouraged to attend.

## **LWML Meets Jan 2**

Good Shepherd LWML meets Tues., Jan. 2, 7:00 PM. The program for the evening includes taking down Christmas decorations and Bible study. A

short business meeting and refreshments will also be part of the evening – of course, ALL women of Good shepherd are welcome, so get the new year off to a good start by visiting LWML.

## **Where Did We Put the Keys?**

Keys to the church are needed by new officers. Outgoing officers and anyone else who no longer regularly needs one are asked to please return them to Bill Schwartz. You can do it in person or put it in his box (Put it in an envelope with your name on it so we know who returned it.)

## Old & New in '07

In our worship we will soon try a new practice which is actually very old. That is, singing the introit. The introits, which we have been speaking responsively at the beginning of our worship, are taken from the book of Psalms, the hymn book of the Old Testament. The Psalms were meant to be sung. The ancient practice in the church, including the Lutheran Church, was that the Introit was sung, like other parts of the liturgy, sometimes by the clergy or choir. The common practice in Lutheran churches now is that the introit is sung responsively with the congregation.

In the front of Lutheran Worship, the introit for each Sunday is found, along with the music to which it they are sung. As we introduce this practice, we will be turning to this part of the hymnal to sing the introit. As we become familiar with the practice, turning to the page with the music will not be necessary.

Singing the introit was not introduced when Good Shepherd first began using Lutheran Worship because there was no organ at that time and this type of chant is not as easy when accompanied by piano instead of organ.

## St. James Supports Our School

St. James Lutheran Church and School, Howard Lake, MN, is helping to support Good Shepherd Lutheran School.

Friends, students and faculty at St. James Lutheran School had a "penny harvest" during November and collected \$923.33 which was sent to Good Shepherd. Also, St. James LWML sent a check for \$100 in December.

Thank you and God's blessings to these brothers and sisters in Christ who value Lutheran education and the mission outreach that is part of it. St. James, Howard Lake, is the home congregation of Lynn Lease.

## Take Your Bulletin

Those who show the worship bulletin from their church when they eat Sunday brunch at the Green Mill restaurant will have \$2 donated back to their place of worship.

Remember that where ever you eat on Sunday, you can support your church by leaving at least as much money at the place where your soul is fed as you leave at the place where your body is fed.

## Invest in Future Generations with LCEF

A new year may mean many new things for you and your family. Take time to explore the benefits of an IRA through LCEF. Saving for education or retirement can also help future generations when you invest in the Lutheran Church Extension Fund. Special IRA applications and current rates are available on line at [www.lcef.org](http://www.lcef.org) or call 1-800-THE-LCEF.

## Bless You

Thank you to Dennis Boldt and his helpers who worked during Christmas vacation to resurface the floors in the fellowship hall, classrooms, kitchen, etc., including: Eric, Carol & Pastor Becker, Mark Drill, Ed Forst, Richard Johnson, Dennis Kipp, Lowell Lovelace, Lyle Olson, Wally Richter, John Rush and Larry Salzwedel.

## News from Camp Restore

Camp Restore is a Southern District LCMS camp operated with assistance from Laborers for Christ, LCMS World Relief & Human Care, Orphan Grain Train, and Lutheran Social Services of the South Disaster Response. It is based at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in New Orleans East, which suffered severe wind and water damage. The church and school have been refurbished for use as a volunteer camp which will focus on needs of LCMS churches and members but also serves the community at large.

Roger and Betty Mielke, from Good Shepherd, are working at Camp Restore for the winter. Their latest pictures and notes can be seen on the bulletin board on the way to the fellowship hall. They write that more workers are always needed for a few days or a few weeks and the food and lodging is good. So, if you want to head south for a while, see the brochure on the bulletin board by the sanctuary.

(Clip and save this column)

# 2007 Officers & Boards

	Phone #
<u>President</u>	
Gary Mielke	345-8871
<u>Vice President</u>	
<u>Secretary</u>	
Lauri Lewis	625-8532
<u>Treasurer</u>	
Lynn Schwarz	388-3442
<u>Financial Secretary</u>	
Beth Jones	947-3233
<u>Elders</u>	
Mark Wilkowski	387-5273
Kevin Brase	726-6561
Richard Johnson	387-7129
Pat Lease	345-3108
Bob Maschke	387-5453
Lyle Olson	625-4957
<u>Board of Education</u>	
Vanessa Drill	625-3237
Cindy Wintheiser	386-0665
Krista Warner	386-7437
<u>Board of Evangelism</u>	
Karen Johnson	387-7129
Bernadette Schendel	388-3126
Sherry Sack	387-6235
Sue Schwarz	388-3442
<u>Board of Trustees</u>	
Bill Schwartz	387-1660
Scott Lassiter	934-3348
Roger Asleson	947-3535
<u>School Board</u>	
Jim Dimock	625-1288
Joe Holtmeier	389-9830
Beth Holtmeier	389-9830
Lynn Lease	345-3108
April Tordsen	546-3319
Gary Urban	386-0292
<u>S.S. Superintendent</u>	
Wanda Schwartz	387-1660
<u>Music Director</u>	
Peggy Pomranke	388-5170
<u>Head Usher</u>	
Jay Rush	625-4294

<u>Board of Finance</u>	
Dean Johnson	345-3863
Andi Lassiter	934-3348
Bill Snelson	345-6916
Steve Warner	386-7437
Jan Braam	388-1948
Brian Crock	344-0006
Dennis Kipp	345-5137
Kim Miller	386-1341

## Jan. 21 is Life Sunday

The anniversary of the 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision legalizing abortion on demand is in January. Good Shepherd joins other LCMS churches in observing Life Sunday on Jan. 21.

God's word reminds us that life is a precious gift from God.

The Epiphany story reminds us how God preserved our infant savior despite King Herod's attempt to destroy the baby who interfered with his plans.

On Jan. 7, we will hear from Isaiah 43:1, "But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: 'Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.'"

On Jan. 21, we will read from 1 Cor. 12 where Paul writes that no one can say to another, "I have no need of you." Those that seem to be weaker are indispensable.

On Jan. 28, we will hear God's words to Jeremiah, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

## All Around the Neighborhood:

### Information on Adoption

Permanent Family Resource Center invites you to a free information meeting Thurs., Jan. 18, 7 Pm at Belgrade United Methodist Church, 325 Sherman St., North Mankato, to answer questions about adoption of waiting children, infants and international adoptions.

Topics include:

- How the adoption process works.
- Types of children available.
- Home study tips.
- Care & feeding of social workers.
- Whose kid is it anyway?
- Children of all shapes, colors and sizes
- How many can you sign up for?
- Affordability.

## Thanks for the Gift

Thank you! from Pastor Becker for the Christmas cards and gifts from members of Good Shepherd. The cash gift collected and presented to Pastor Becker after the Christmas Eve service will be used partly to buy a new clergy shirt and a green stole to replace the old one that is getting worn out. (Green is the one use most often.)

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

# A Bible Tour

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

Have you ever read through the whole Bible? Maybe it is hard for you to even find some books in the Bible. Having an idea of what is in there, where it is and why may be helpful.

First, instead of picturing the Bible as just one long string of books, like beads on a string, picture it as several groups, clumped together. Bruce Wilkenson, in his “Walk Through the Bible” seminar refers to the history books of the Old Testament as the “Historical Highway”. Other Old Testament books can be seen as neighborhood streets intersecting this highway.

Try this sometime. Open your Bible right to the middle. Unless you have a lot of appendix pages in the back, you will end up in or near the book of Psalms. It is a big book, so it is hard to miss. If you know whether the book you are looking for is before Psalms (the history books) or after it (the prophets), this can make it easier to find. Next, open the second half, in your right hand, to the middle. You should end up in or near the Book of Matthew, the first book of the New Testament. The Old Testament takes up about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the Bible and the New Testament  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

Both the Old Testament and the New Testament are divided into three main groups of books. Let's start with the Old

Testament. The first group is the historical books, the “historical highway”. They are arranged pretty much in the order in which the things they describe happened, and the order in which they were written.

Genesis, the title of the first book, means “beginning”. It tells about the beginnings of the universe, human kind, sin, salvation and the people of Israel. It starts at the beginning and ends at about 1900 BC. Like the beginning of a well worn trail, it is pretty easy to follow.

Exodus picks up the trail about 400 years later as the Israelites leave Egypt, in the Exodus, and takes us down the road to Mt. Sinai.

Leviticus is named after the tribe of Levi, which led the worship. This book is like a roadside park along the highway. Here we camp at Mt. Sinai for about a year while getting all the details about the tabernacle, sacrifices, etc. You can drive right on by this book without losing your way.

Numbers brings to mind the number 40, the years Israel wandered in the wilderness. This book gets its name from the census taken at the beginning and end of this period. It takes us along a winding road to the border of Canaan.

Deuteronomy is another roadside park with a scenic overlook. Here we find a series of sermons by Moses as he repeats the law for the children of Israel born after they left Mt. Sinai and reminds them of the

lessons they were to have learned.

These first five books, called the Pentateuch (five books) or Torah (law) by Jews, were written by Moses.

Joshua is the book written about the one who took over in leading the trip after Moses died. It brings us into the promised land.

Judges is about twelve great leaders who led some of the loosely organized tribes from time to time during the first 200 years in the promised land.

Ruth is a historic marker along the highway. It tells the story of a woman, living during the time of the judges, who became the ancestor of King David.

1 and 2 Samuel is not about two guys named Samuel but about the one considered the last of the judges and the first of the prophets. When the Bible was written on scrolls, this long book was divided into two parts, “volume one” and “volume two”. Part one tells about the first king Samuel anointed, Saul, and part two tells about the second king he anointed, David.

To this point, the historic highway has traveled through the “mainland” of the Old Testament, past many commonly known Sunday School stories. Still ahead is the “dark continent”, full of characters and stories less known to many readers.

## Bible Bites

...for eat and run Bible reading

January 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.*

## 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.

- 1 - Circumcision & Name of Jesus  
Num. 6:22-27; Gal. 3:23-29;  
Luke 2:21
- 2 Luke 3:1-22; John 1:1-42
- 3 Luke 3:23-4:13; John 1:43-2:25
- 4 Luke 4:14-41; Isa. 54:1-17
- 5 Psal. 106:1-12
- 6 Epiphany of our Lord  
Isaiah 60:1-6; Eph. 3:2-12;  
Matt. 2:1-12

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Article, part b

...[He] suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into Hell. **The third day he rose again from the dead.** ...

...who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,

*Pray for church executive officers*

### **7 Baptism of our Lord**

- Isa. 43:1-7; Rom. 6:1-11;  
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
- 8 Luke 4:42 - 5:26; Isa. 55:1-13
  - 9 Luke 5:27 - 6:19; Isa. 56:1-12
  - 10 Luke 6:20-49; Isa. 57:1-21
  - 11 Judg. 8:29 - 9:21; Isa. 58:1-14
  - 12 Judg. 9:22-57; Isa. 59:1-21
  - 13 Psal. 106:13-31

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Article, part c

**...He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

...that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

*Pray for foreign missions*

### **14 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany**

- Isa. 62:1-5; 1 Cor. 12:1-11;  
John 2:1-11
- 15 Judg. 10:1-18; Isa. 60:1-22
  - 16 Judg. 11:1-28; Isa. 61:1-11
  - 17 Judg. 11:29-12:15;  
Isa. 62:1 - 63:6
  - 18 Confession of Peter  
Acts 4:8-13; 2 Pet 1:1-15;  
Mark 8:27 - 9:1
  - 19 Judg. 13:1-25; Isa. 63:7 - 64:12
  - 20 Psal. 106:32-48

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Commandment

**You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.**

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

*Pray for the Board of Evangelism*

### **21 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany**

- Neh. 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10;  
1 Co. 12:12-31a; Luke 4:16-30
- 22 Judg. 14:1-20; Isa. 65:1-16
  - 23 Judg. 15:1-20; Isa. 65:17 - 66:4
  - 24 St. Timothy: Acts 16:1-5;  
1 Tim. 6:11-16; Matt 24:42-47
  - 25 Conversion of St. Paul  
Acts 9:1-22; Gal. 1:11-24;  
Matt 19:27-30
  - 26 St. Titus: Acts 20:28-35;  
Titus 1:1-9; Luke 10:1-9
  - 27 Psal. 40:1-17

*What is Baptism?* Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's word.

*Which is that word of God?*

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."  
[Matt. 28:19]

*Pray for the troubled and lawless in society*

### **28 4th Sunday after the Epiphany**

- Jer. 1:4-10, 17-19;  
1 Co. 12:31b - 13:13;  
Luke 4:31-44
- 29 Judg. 16:1-17; Isa. 66:5-24
  - 30 Judg. 16:18-31; Jonah 1:1-2:10
  - 31 Judg. 17:1 - 18:13  
Jonah 3:1 - 4:11
- FEBRUARY
- 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

*What benefits does Baptism give?*

It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

*Which are these words and promises of God? Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."* [Mark 16:16]

*Pray for the unchurched and new members*