

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

JULY 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 9:00 AM
Sunday Bible Classes 8:00 AM



**Celebrate Our
Freedom to Worship**

New Sunday Class: Mission

“God’s Grace, Our Response – Getting involved in global mission” is the topic of the new Sunday morning class, starting June 24. Video segments, Bible study, and discussion will help us see how we can respond to God’s love in Jesus Christ by reaching out to the lost people of the world by being involved in learning, praying, giving, telling, sending, going and celebrating.

Park Worship Again, July 15

On Sun., July 15, Good Shepherd will have an 8 AM service of worship at Sibley Park and the service at church

will start at 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, this service will be canceled.

The 72 are Coming

...well, actually only 3 of them. “The 72, Partners on the Road” is an organization of LCMS volunteers who visit congregations to lead outreach and evangelism training programs. Bruce Manzey and John & Carolyn Boll will be coming to Good Shepherd Sept. 21 through October 11. They will meet with congregation groups, lead Bible studies and offer training. Please keep them and Good Shepherd’s outreach

ministry in your prayers and watch for more information.

Synod Meets in TX

The triennial convention of the LCMS is in Houston, TX, July 14-19. Gary Urban is our circuit’s lay delegate. Rev. Grant Bode, Redeemer, New Ulm, is our Pastoral Delegate. You can get updates on convention decisions and watch live streaming video of worship, essays, proceedings, etc., by going on line to lcms.com

Voters Meet July 17

All communicant members, age 18 and older, are urged to attend the quarterly Voters meeting, 8 PM, Tues., July 17. One item of business is electing a Congregation Vice Chairman.

Medicine Bottles for Missions

So, you don't have any soda pop bottles to recycle? How about those little bronze colored pill bottles with caps? Please dropt them off in the box under the table by the church office with the labels removed. A medical missionary group can use them for work overseas. Thanks. Doris Schumacher

One Gift

July 8 in Concordia Seminary Sunday. We will use this occasion to provide an opportunity to participate in a special offering being received at our Synod Convention this July. 1/3 of it will go to each of our LC-MS seminaries. The other 1/3 will support the seminaries of our partner churches around the world.

Happy Anniversary

The first special event of Good Shepherd's 50th Anniversary will be Sun., July 22, when Rev. Steven Bongard, a son of our congregation will be our guest preacher at 9 AM worship. A pot-luck brunch will follow at 10:30 AM. Rev. Bongard is currently Senior Pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Valparaiso, IN.

On July 22 we will also celebrate Pastor Becker's 25th Anniversary in the ministry with Root Beer Floats at the end of the pot-luck. All are invited.

In 1982, Pastor Becker graduated from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO, in

June; he married Linda nee Harstad in Mankato, MN July 10, he was ordained into the Holy Ministry at Trinity Lutheran Church, Garden City, KS, July 25, and he was installed as pastor at St. Martin's and Trinity Lutheran Churches, Alexandria and Spencer, SD, Aug. 1.

In the 25 years since then, Pastor Becker has baptized 208 children and 2 adults; instructed for confirmation 464 youth and 27 adults; conducted 91 weddings and 196 funerals.

Come to VBS "Quest for Truth"

All children, age 3 through grade 6 are invited to join in the Quest for Truth to discover important truths about Jesus in Vacation Bible School, Sun., Aug. 5 through Thurs., Aug. 9. Invite your friends and neighbors and bring them along.

So we can be prepared, please pre-register using the form here or found on the table by the mailboxes, or call the church office with the information. There is no charge, but free will offerings will be received to help with the purchase of materials.

Sessions, 6:30 – 8 PM each evening, include Bible stories, singing, crafts, snacks and recreation. All students will have a fun time and will learn about how

Come with the whole family. If you can help or provide refreshments, or paper goods, or have questions, contact Cindy Wintheiser, 386-0665.

Quest for Truth Jesus; The Way, the Truth, The Life VBS Registration (one form per family)

Name _____

1) Name _____

Grade completed __ Age ____

Birthday _____

2) Name _____

Grade completed __ Age ____

Birthday _____

3) Name _____

Grade completed __ Age ____

Birthday _____

Parents _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____

Alt. Phone _____

Emergency contact person:

Relationship to student:

Home Phone _____

Alt. Phone _____

Food allergies or other medical conditions: _____

Family doctor _____

Phone _____

Good Shepherd member? Y N

Other church affiliation or membership: _____

Brought by/Picked up by

All Around the Neighborhood

Outreach Institute at C.S.P.

The Outreach Leadership Institute at Concordia – St. Paul is getting closer. Register now to ensure you get the two topics of your choice before they fill up – those still available include Making Disciples, Urban Outreach, Sharing Faith, Small Groups, Physically or Mentally Challenged groups, and Assimilating Newcomers. OLI starts at noon Thursday July 13 and continues to noon on the 15th. Please phone OHSCO at (651) 641-8701 or see www.lea.org

Camp Omega Family Camps

Summer camp is not just for kids. Adults can join in the fun.

- Family Weekend Camp is July 20-22 or Aug. 3-5
- Mother/Daughter or Grandmother/Grandaughter retreat is July 6-8 or July 27-29.
- KinderCamp for children ages 4-6 and an accompanying adult is July 13-15 or Aug. 10-12.

For more information and registration, go on line to www.campomega.org, e-mail info@campomega.org, or call (507) 685-4266.

Bible Tour

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

In the New Testament, the

neighborhood of Paul's epistles intersects with route of Paul's journeys as recorded in the book of Acts, although several were written after Paul's first imprisonment with which Acts concludes. On the other side of the historical highway is another neighborhood, the general epistles, written during the same time period by various writers to Christians in general, not a specific location.

Hebrews begins the second group of New Testament epistles, the general epistles. This group is also arranged in order from longest to shortest, so Hebrews, with 13 chapters, is easier to find than most books in this part of the Bible. When looking up a book, it is helpful to note if it is a letter from Paul to a town or person, which would be before Hebrews, or a letter named after another apostolic writer, which would be after Hebrews.

Hebrews, unlike the rest of the general epistles, is not named after the author, because the author is unknown. It may have been Apollos, a brilliant pastor in churches also served by Paul. It is written especially for Jewish believers (Hebrews) to remind them that Jesus gives complete salvation, which keeping Jewish regulations cannot.

James was not written by the disciple who was the brother of John, (He was killed early in the book of Acts) but by James, the brother of Jesus who became leader of the church in Jerusalem. It explains that living faith leaves behind sinful worldliness.

1 and 2 Peter were written toward the end of his life when he was in Rome. In his first letter he encourages fellow believers to trust in Jesus for power in persecution. In the second letter he urges them to watch out for false teaching and to watch for Jesus' return.

1, 2 and 3 John were written toward the end of his long life (as was his Gospel and the book of Revelation) when he was at Ephesus. As in his Gospel, he uses simple words full of profound meaning and emphasizes the important combination of truth and love.

Jude was likely written by the brother of Jesus and James (not the disciple who shared a name similar to Judas). He warns about false teaching and presents the true gospel as the antidote.

Revelation (note, there is no "s" on the end) is often thought of as the single New Testament prophecy book but is written in the form of a letter, like the Epistles it follows. This book, on the edge of our Bible roadmap, is like a road that goes over the hill into the sunrise. From this hilltop, John is given a view not only into the future, not yet seen by us, but also back over the road leading back to the beginning of history.

Though often seen as a time chart of the end times, the Book of Revelation is actually a series of visions, each of which is a way of picturing the whole sweep of history on earth and in heaven; the big picture, from God's perspective, of what God is doing through Christ and his church, leading to the final victory.

Bible Bites

....for eat and run Bible reading

July 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.*

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 5th Sunday after Pentecost

- 1 Kings 19:9b-21
- Gal. 5:1, 13-15
- Luke 9:51-62
- 2 Luke 7:36 - 8:15;
Jer. 22:24 - 23:15
- 3 Luke 8:16-39; Jer. 23:16-40
- 4 Independence Day
Deut. 8:1-10
Phlp. 4:6-20 or 1 Tim. 2:1-4
Luke 17:11-19
- 5 Luke 8:40-9:17; Jer. 24:1-25:14
- 6 Luke 9:18-50; Jer. 25:15-38
- 7 Psal. 43:1-5

The 4th Commandment

Honor your father and your mother.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

Pray for Seminaries

8 6th Sunday after Pentecost

- Isa 66:10-14;
Gal. 6:1-10, 14-16;
Luke 10:1-20
- 9 Luke 9:51 - 10:20; Jer. 26:1-24
 - 10 Luke 10:21-42; Jer. 27:1-22
 - 11 Col. 1:1-29; Jer. 28:1-17
 - 12 Col. 2:1-23; Jer. 29:1-32
 - 13 Col. 3:1-4:1; Jer. 30:1-24
 - 14 Psal. 73:1-28

The 5th Commandment

You shall not murder.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.

Pray for manufacturing and sales workers

157th Sunday after Pentecost

- Lev. 18:1-5, 19:9-18;
Col. 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37
- 16 Col. 4:2-18; Jer. 31:1-22
 - 17 1 Sm. 25:1-22; Jer. 31:23-40
 - 18 1 Sm. 25:23-44; Jer. 32:1-25
 - 19 1 Sm. 26:1-25; Jer. 32:26-44
 - 20 1 Sm. 27:1 - 28:2; Jer. 33:1-26
 - 21 Psal. 74:1-23

The 3rd Commandment

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

Pray for the Board of Trustees.

Pray for the Board of Education>

228th Sunday after Pentecost

- Gen. 18:1-14; Col. 1:21-29;
Luke 10:38-42
- 23 (St. Mary Magdalene)
Prov. 31:10-31; Acts 13:26-31;
John 20:1-2, 10-18
 - 24 1 Sm. 28:3-25; Jer. 34:1-22
 - 25 St. James, the elder
Acts 11:27 - 12:5
Rom. 8:28-39; Mark 10:35-45
 - 26 1 Sm. 29:1 - 30:10; Jer. 35:1-19
 - 27 1 Sm. 30:10-3; Jer. 36:1-26
 - 28 Psal. 79:1-13

Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. **Let Your Holy angel be with me,** that the evil Foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Pray for neighbors

299th Sunday after Pentecost

- Gen. 18:17-33; Col. 2:6-19;
Luke 11:1-13
- 30 1 Sm. 31:1-13; Jer. 36:27-37:21
 - 31 2 Sm. 1:1-27; Jer. 38:1-28
- AUGUST
- 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.