

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

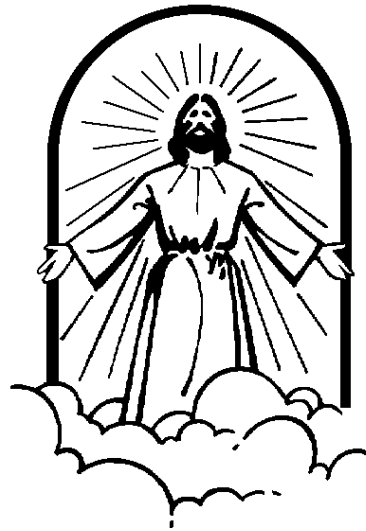
MAY 2007

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 8:00 & 10:30 AM
Sunday Bible Classes 9:15 AM



Family Fun on Wheels

All ages are invited to join with the Lutheran Family League to enjoy bicycle riding on Fri., May 18. Meet at 6 PM at the Gary Urban home,. After some riding on the Red Jacket Trail the group will go for treats at Dairy Queen.

Ascension Day Aerial Activities

Ascension Day is 40 days after Easter. This year, we will celebrate Ascension Eve on Wed., May 16, with worship at 7 PM. This service will include

Holy Communion with a liturgy sung to familiar hymn tunes.

But first, at 4 PM, The Good Shepherd Lutheran School Rocket Club will blast off rockets. Come and watch. Then, at 5:30 PM everyone is invited fly a kite on the church lawn. Wind is almost guaranteed. If you don't have a kite, the church has some for you to use.

At 6 PM, the Key City Bald Eagles model airplane club has been invited again to do a mini air show over the our field. Invite your friends.

Midweek worship and communion is also scheduled for the next week, Wed., May 23, before the Memorial Day weekend.

Fellowship Club Fun by the Yard

Fellowship Club meets at church Sun., May 20, 6 PM for a pot luck, games and singing. Bring something to grill and a dish to pass. Dessert, beverage and table service will be provided. Bocce ball will be played on the lawn, followed by picking favorite hymns for a hymn sing. There will also be a short meeting. All are welcome to join in the fun.

One Service for Summer

Sunday worship is at 9:00 AM starting May 27. The adult Bible class will meet, at 8 AM.

Special Singing Sunday

Sun, May 20, 8 AM worship will include a school song celebration. Our school choir will sing several songs.

At 9:15 AM, children and youth in the Sunday school program will present a program of songs and presentations based on what they have learned. All are invited.

Sunday classes for children and youth will not meet during the summer, until September.

Baccalaureate Service

High School and College graduates will be honored during worship on Sun., June 3. Students are invited to wear gowns, if they have them, and sit as a group in front. Please write a note or phone a message for Pastor Becker giving your name, parents' names, school, and post-graduation plans.

Spanish Services in Mankato

Rev. Martin Teigen, Our District Spanish ministry developer, has a group of people in Mankato, who are ready to begin regular group worship in Spanish at Good Shepherd. Volunteer helpers are needed: a piano player, someone who can teach a short lesson – in English – to a group of children of mixed ages. If you are interested in helping, please speak to Pastor Becker or call Rev. Teigen at 344-8087.

“FOLLOW AND DO”

illustrated Small Catechism booklets for young children (a set of 6) are available for \$6.99 until May 6. To see them, talk to Wanda Schwarz in the narthex after services or call her at 387-1660.

Double Your Gift

A donor is offering to match \$5,000 worth of gifts to Good Shepherd's building fund. Special gifts, above your regular and previously planned gifts, will be doubled by this match. This will help our building fund which continues to fall behind in covering our mortgage payments. To make a special matched gift, pick up a special envelope from the display in the narthex or see Lynn Schwarz. Remember to write your offering envelope number on it if you wish to have it recorded on your statement.

Come to See How They Learn

“See How they Learn” is the theme of a District volunteer teacher workshop being held here at Good Shepherd, Sat., June 2, 9 AM to Noon. It will be a fast-paced interactive event filled with tips and ideas for generating more excitement about Sunday School ministry. The workshop fee of \$20 includes an annual subscription to Teachers Interaction magazine. To sign up, log on to <http://sundayschool/cph.org/workshops>.

Ladies Make May Visits

LWML will be celebrating May Day by visiting the shut-ins of our congregation on Tuesday, May 1st. We will first meet at the church at 6pm to assemble the May Day baskets. We will then divide into groups and go out and visit with those that are homebound. After our visits, we will meet back at the church for our short monthly meeting and for fellowship and refreshments. We welcome all women of Good Shepherd to join us in this annual project.

Confirmation Sunday

On Sun., May 6, in the 10:30 AM service, six students will confirm the faith they received in baptism and have learned to know in two years of catechism instruction.

They are Alison Briggs, daughter of Kevin and Donna Briggs; Andrew Brase, son of Kevin and Darla Brase; Scott Taylor, son of Robert & Kathy Taylor; Chelsea Mielke, daughter of Gary and Tracy Mielke; Jacob Jewison, son of Tim Jewison; and Andrew Vollmer, son of Jim and Peggy Dimock.

Celebrate Pentecost

Sun., May 27, is Pentecost. Rev. Martin Teigen, Spanish mission developer, will be our guest preacher. How about wearing something red to celebrate this special day!

Special Sunday Offerings

Here is a longstanding practice at Good Shepherd that not everyone may know about. For special church services, your contribution will be designated to the following funds when the "special" offering envelopes are used:

- Lenten Services, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Advent Services, and New Year's Eve offerings all go to the Debt Fund.
- Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day all go to the Mission Account.

Happy May Day from K.I.D.S.

As May Day passes by, we are nearing the end of our school year (Yeah!) Fill up your savings stamp books BEFORE summer. Get your stamps before May 20 from Christa Warner in the fellowship hall before Sunday Bible classes. They are not being sold during the summer.

Camp Omega Comes to Town

The fun and blessings of Camp Omega Day Camp are returning to Mankato this summer, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM (Noon Fri.) June 25-29, at Our Savior Lutheran Church. Students entering 1st through 6th grades are invited to spend a week becoming "Weak But Strong!" in Scripture, songs, crafts and games with trained

counselors from camp, including a special "field day to the camp itself, which is just outside Waterville.

Get a registration packet from the table by the office and sign up right away. The completed health and permission forms and the registration fee, which is \$60, can be returned to Pastor Becker or to Our Savior. Only 40 students can be included. If a child brings a friend who is not from a sponsoring church, both get a \$10 discount!

Large Print Hymnals

The headline above is the same size as the words in the large print hymnals which we have just received. Our thanks to the Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Windom, which donated them to us and to Larry and Deb Salzwedel who picked them up and brought them back.

There are two books, one containing just the hymns, and another containing the liturgy. Each book has just the words, without music. We have several copies of each. They are in the cabinet just inside the sanctuary doors. If you or someone you know wants to use one, just take it or ask an usher.

National Day of Prayer: May 3

In 1982 Congress made the first Thursday in May the National Day of Prayer. This year, this is May 3. You are invited to pray for our country in two ways.

Included in this newsletter is a Lutheran Prayer Resource for the National Day of Prayer. You are invited to use it on May 3 or other days.

All are invited to an informal time of prayer at Good Shepherd May 3, 6 PM, in the "lounge"/music room. We will spend about half an hour praying together for our nation.

All Around the Neighborhood

Vocation of the Lutheran Woman

"From Cradle to Grave: the Vocation of the Lutheran Woman" is the topic of a Women's Forum, May 12, 9 am to 3:30 pm at Glory of Christ Lutheran Church, Plymouth, MN

The Keynote speaker and discussion sessions will address issues of God's design for women in:

- marriage and sexuality,
- cultivating abstinence,
- sexual ethics and teenagers (teens are not adults),
- being single,
- courtship, marriage, parenthood.

Hardly boring! There will be lunch and singing favorite hymns. Isn't it time for an honest discussion of the Lutheran woman's life?

Cost is \$20.00 before May 6 (\$25.00 after). See Pastor Becker for a registration form. If you have questions, contact Jean Small at jsmall@qwest.net or 763-525-0272.

Camp Omega Work Weekend

Families and all ages are invited to come to Camp Omega for free May 25-27 and enjoy Christian fellowship, great food, and fun recreation while assisting to prepare camp for the summer programs. Arrive any time after 7 PM, Fri., and leave by 1 PM, Sun. Bring your own camper/tent or stay in a cabin.

Bring work clothes, gloves, rakes, shovels, hammers, drills and other tools. Work includes hauling firewood, painting and cleaning but there will be plenty of time for recreation.

Get a registration form at church or call 507-685-4266.

Cannon Valley LHS Visit Days

May 14th & May 15th, CVLHS will host a Shadow Day where 7th & 8th graders have the opportunity to follow a CVLHS student to their classes. Please call the school office to reserve your day.

May 20th, CVLHS will host an Open House for all interested parents and students. The Open House will start at 1 pm and end at 3 pm. Teachers will be available to talk. This event is for information about CVLHS and registration will also be available.

Scripture & Life

“Moved by the Spirit of Christ: Into All the World!” is the theme of the Scripture & Life Bible Studies study of the book of Acts, June 25-28 at Concordia University, St. Paul.

This annual study series is like VBS for grown-ups. This year’s focus is on Paul bringing the Gospel out to the Gentile world. Join fellow Christians in a good deep look into the heart of God and good look out into the world He has redeemed.

There are three study sessions each day. You may attend mornings, 8 AM – Noon or evenings, 6:30 – 9:30 PM. The cost is only \$30 until May 15 or \$35 before June 10. Air conditioned dorm rooms are available at a small cost.

See Pastor Becker for a registration form or contact Dr. Thomas Trapp at ttrap@scp.edu

Outreach Institute

Revitalizing people and the church for outreach is the theme of the Outreach Leadership Institute, July 12-14 at Concordia University, St. Paul, presented by the Oswald Hoffman School of Christian Outreach.

Participants will chose from these special sessions:

- Revitalizing people through worship and preaching
- Revitalizing leaders for outreach and mission
- Revitalizing people through mission connections
- Revitalizing partnerships in the gospel
- Revitalizing leaders for transitioning societies
- Revitalizing witness to our friends and family
- Revitalizing witness across cultural boundaries

The cost, before May 30 is \$185 (\$200 after), including meals, materials and dorm lodging. See pastor Becker for

more information and a registration form or go on-line to www.csp.edu/ohsco or e-mail vasterling@csp.edu.

Sign Up for Summer Camp

LCMS Summer camps offer programs for children, youth, families and the handicapped, including camps focused on special outdoor and sports activities. See the table by the church office or Pastor Becker for information Camp Omega, our District camp near Waterville, or Camp Okoboji in Iowa, or go on line to www.campomega.org or www.campokoboji.org

Int'l LLL Coming to Duluth in July

“Let Your Light Shine” is the theme of the 90th International Convention of the Lutheran Laymen’s League, July 26-29 in Duluth. This is a great opportunity to participate in this exciting event.

Workshops include: Communicating Electronically, Forming a Church Ministry Action Team, Fundraising Best Practices, Providing Hope in the Wake of Disaster, Life in the Mission Field, Global Mission Partnerships, Effective Outreach, Congregational Outreach Training, and more.

Registration is \$75 for adults and \$50 for children. Meals and lodging are extra. For more information and registration forms, go on line to www.lhm.org/convention or call (800) 876-9880.

Bethany Concert

Bethany Lutheran College Concert Choir, Mary Martha Singers and Handbell Choir presents a concert May 24, 7 PM at Trinity Chapel, featuring the works of Gabrieli, J.S. Bach, Mendelssohn, Stanford, Elgar, Pepping and others.

Outreach Events in the MNS District

Please mark your calendar for the following Mission/Outreach events. For more details, contact Rev. Peter Meier, 952-223-2151, or peter.meier@mnsdistrict.org

June 9 "Ablaze! in the City" 2nd Annual Mission Summit at Concordia University, St. Paul, 9 AM to 3 PM, is sponsored by MNS District, CUSP, OHSCO, and Partners in Mission. It features Rev. John Nunes, pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church, Chicago and professor at Concordia University Chicago. The Summit also showcases several of our MNS Urban and Ethnic ministries. Worship, learn and be inspired, network and share together at this Ablaze! event. Early registration is \$10/person; after May 15, \$15. Pre-registration is requested, however, walk-ins are welcome. To register, send your check along with your name, address, and e-mail (or phone #) to MNS District, 14301 Grand Ave S., Burnsville, MN 55306. Contact Rev. Meier for more information.

August 18 "Mission Outpost Training Event - Mankato"— sponsored by the Mission Committee, MNS District, 9 AM to 1 PM at Hosanna Lutheran Church in Mankato. This is a witness workshop event for pastors and lay persons. This event is also offered August 25 in Worthington and Sept. 22 in Owatonna.

Reintegration Seminar

You are invited to a seminar on welcoming home and helping to reintegrate family members, friends, neighbors and fellow congregation members who are returning from an overseas deployment in our Armed Forces. It will be Sat., June 9, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2500 7th Ave. NE, Owatonna.

The leader will be Pastor John Meyer, who serves Trinity Lutheran, Trimont, and is a US Army Chaplain. He will explain what service members may experience as they readjust back to life in the US. He will also discuss what we may experience when they return and what we can do to make their return home as positive and helpful as possible.

Register by May 10. For further information and to register, contact Linda Bradford at our District Office, (952) 223-2157 or linda.bradford@mnsdistrict.org.

Internet Site for Kids and Families

Lutheran Hour Ministries has created JCPlayZone.com, and the response from parents and educators has been overwhelming!

Parents, grandparents, and teachers are looking to the site as a user-friendly and age appropriate place for children to play on the Internet. Comments are streaming in daily proving that the PlayZone is making a difference not only in homes, but in the classrooms as well.

JCPlayZone continues to evolve. The next phase of development will include a music section featuring Christian music that kids are sure to love. Also in the works is "Country of the Month," a section devoted to teaching about children in various countries and cultures around the world. Of course the ever-popular activities, coloring pages, and interactive games will continue to be updated regularly! JCPlayZone is fast becoming a favorite site for new and returning users.

In addition, JCParentZone features relevant articles on parenting from a Christian perspective, spiritual questions and answers, a single-dad blog, and more. If you haven't had a chance to visit yet, now is a perfect time.

CORRECTION to the Mid-April Newsletter: Two articles got mixed together. \$341 was raised by the youth at the Easter breakfast, not the Luau, sponsored by the Lutheran Family League, which was free.

Be a Missionary

LCMS World Mission is seeking to place 250 people in volunteer mission positions. No experience is necessary, only a love for people and adventure and a heart for the lost and for the Lord. Length of service is negotiable – anywhere from a week to a year or more. To learn more, visit the web site ww.lcmsworldmission.org and click on “Service Opportunities”. To talk with a placement counselor, call (800) 433-3954.

Retirement Seminar

A free seminar on planning for retirement is offered the 2nd Thursday of each month, 5:30 PM at the Holiday Inn by Blake Hahn, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans representative. If you have some investments and sources of income but are not sure if they will be enough how to manage them, you can have many questions answered. No products will be sold at this informational meeting. If you are interested contact Blake Hahn at 345-3588.

Mother's Day

Quote

“I am one woman who is ready to say that raising children is a good socially constructive thing to do. Having more than one or two children can be a lot of fun. And it is for certain that raising a large family to productive adulthood will use all the gifts of even the most gifted woman. Having a family is a worthy life endeavor, deserving the

educated woman's most serious consideration.”

Jennifer Roback Morse, columnist and Research Fellow at the Action Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty.
A Life Quote from Lutherans for Life / www.Lutheransforlife.org / 888-364-LIFE

Bible Tour

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

After traveling through the “Old Country” of the Old Testament patriarchs and the less familiar “Dark Continent” of the Kings and Prophets, the “Historical highway” of the Bible comes to the “Mainland” of the Gospels and becomes a “four lane”.

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are parallel lanes that take us rapidly through the ministry and the passion of Jesus, slowing down at the end so that we can get a good look at Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection.

Matthew is the lane we find ourselves in first. It was written especially for Jewish people to show that Jesus is the promised Messiah. It begins with an “on ramp” of genealogy, connecting the Old Testament to Jesus' birth, and includes many references to fulfilled prophecy.

Mark is a fast lane, full of action and excitement. It was written by Mark, a boy at the time of Jesus' ministry, especially to show Roman readers that Jesus is the amazing savior.

Luke, like Matthew it begins with an account of Jesus' birth. Luke, a convert from Asia Minor, paved a wide lane for everyone by doing research to show other gentiles that Jesus is the savior of the whole world.

John, like a truck lane, does not move quickly, but carries a heavy load of Jesus' teachings. John wrote to explain to Christians how Jesus is both true God and true Man.

Why do we have four gospels that are so different? Imagine people standing in four corners of a room, taking pictures of an object in the middle. Each picture would look different, but all together they would give a fully rounded picture.

The road now narrows as the lane of Luke continues on with “volume 2” of Luke's writing, the book of Acts. This book leads us into the “New World” of the Bible as we see what Jesus continued to do and teach through his apostles. Jesus own words show us the road map for this book, the spread of the gospel from Jerusalem through Judea and Samaria to the ends of the earth.

As the Old Testament history books of Kings and Chronicles pass through neighborhoods where they are intersected by the streets of major and minor prophets, the New Testament history book, Acts, is also intersected by two neighborhoods of epistles, written during this period of history. Read more about the epistles next month.

Bible Bites

...for eat and run Bible reading

May 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 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

6 5th Sun. of Easter

- Acts 11:1-18; Rev. 21:1-5
John 16:22-23 or 13:31-35
7 Rev. 12:1 - 13:10; Jer. 2:1-19
8 Rev. 13:11-14:20; Jer. 2:20-3:5
9 Rev. 15:1 - 16:11; Jer. 3:6 - 4:4
10 Rev. 16:12 - 17:18; Jer. 4:5-31
11 Rev. 18:1-24; Jer. 5:1-17
12 Psal. 145:1-21

3rd Article meaning "a"

I believe in the Holy Spirit

What does this mean? I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

Pray for mothers and the homebound.

13 6th Sun. of Easter

- Acts 16:9-15
Rev. 21:10-14, 21-27
John 16:23-33 or 5:1-9
14 Rev. 19:1-21; Jer. 5:18 - 6:8
15 Rev. 20:1-15; Jer. 6:9-30
16 Rev. 21:1-27; Jer. 7:1-27
17 Ascension of our Lord
Acts 1:1-11; Eph. 1:15-23;
Luke 24:44-53
18 Rev. 22:1-21; Jer. 7:28 - 8:12
19 Psal. 21:1-13

3rd Article meaning "b"

[I believe in ...] the Holy Christian Church, the communion of Saints..

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

Pray for those in the military and for non-resident church members.

20 7th Sun. of Easter

- Acts 16:6-10; Rev. 22:12-17, 20
John 17:20-26
21 Acts 11:19-12:19; Jer. 8:13-9:6
22 Acts 12:20 - 13:16; Jer. 9:7-26
23 Acts 13:17-41; Jer. 10:1-25
24 Acts 13:42-14:20; 1 Jn. 1:1-2:23
25 Psal. 133:1 - 134:3
26 Pentecost Eve: Exod. 19:1-9;
Rom. 8:12-17, 22-27;
John 16:23-33 or 5:1-9

3rd Article meaning "c"

[I believe in] ... the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

Pray for youth.

27 Day of Pentecost

- Gen. 11:1-9;
Acts 10:34a, 42-48;
John 3:16-21
28 Acts 14:21-15:21; 1 Jn. 2:24-4:6
29 Acts 15:22-16:10; 1 Jn. 4:7-5:21
30 Acts 16:11 - 40; Jer. 11:1-23
31 The Visitation: Isa. 11:1-5;
Rom. 12:9-16; Luke 1:39-56

JUNE

- 1 Acts 17:1-34; Jer. 12:1-17
- 2 Psal. 81:1-16

The 1st Commandment

You shall have no other gods.
What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.