

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

OCTOBER 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
Spanish Worship 2:00 PM



LWML Rocks

“ROCK: Rest on Christ the King” is this year’s theme for Lutheran Women’s Missionary League Sunday, celebrated Oct. 7.

We will recognize and celebrate the ministry of the LWML in congregations, districts and around the world.

Our LWML is providing a special printed order of service for our worship this Sunday.

Come Enjoy Spuds & Splits

Spuds and Splits will be served by the Fellowship club Sun., Oct. 28, 5-7 PM. Enjoy a baked potato with your choice of toppings and then have a make-your-own ice cream

sundae or split for desert. Bring your friends.

There will be a free will offering. Proceeds are used for Fellowship Club projects. Watch for a sign up sheet to help serve and donate items.

Life Plan Sunday

On Sun., Oct. 14, we will take time to fill out an annual “Life Plan” during worship. A few did this earlier, in the Spring, but most have not this year.

Included with this newsletter are sample “Life Plan” pages. You are encouraged to study them ahead of time and talk it over with your spouse as you consider how you will grow in your faith

and live it out. If you are not able to be in worship on Oct. 14, you may return them by mail or place them in the gift wrapped box by the church office.

The colored pages will be sealed in an envelope and placed in the box under the altar until returned next year. The white pages will be used to organize activities in which members are interested.

Youth Hay Ride

High School youth are invited to a hay ride at Immanuel, Courtland next Sun., 6 PM. Hot dogs will be sold for \$1. Please let Pastor or Kathy Taylor know right away if you want to go.

Voters' Meet

Plan to attend the Good Shepherd quarterly voters' meeting, Tues., Oct. 16, 7:00 PM. All communicant members, age 18 or older are voting members.

The agenda includes the 2005 budget and a motion to return voters' meetings to the second Tuesday, after Board meetings.

Learn about Outreach

Bruce Manzey, John and Caroline Boll, volunteers with "The 27- Partners on the Road" will be at Good Shepherd through Thurs., Oct. 11, training and leading in outreach activities. You can still sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex and join in the following activities. Also, join us for a celebration pot-luck Thurs., Oct. 11, 6 PM, to thank them for their work and bid farewell.

Sun., Oct. 7, 9:15 AM

Join the Sunday adult class for the conclusion of a series on "Contagious Christianity".

Mon., Oct. 1 & 8, 7 PM

Strategic Growth for Small Groups: Learn about being part of a small group that meets regularly for fellowship, prayer, study and service, and that reaches out to welcome new people.

Mon., Oct. 1, 7 PM

Outreach through Education
Teachers of Sunday classes, VBS, and day school classes will learn about how to more

intentionally and effectively reach out to children and unchurched families with the good news.

Wed., Oct. 3, 7 PM

Welcoming Church

Learn how to best welcome and integrate new people into congregational life in an intentional way that connects them to what the church can offer and connects what they have to offer to others.

Thurs., Oct. 4 & 11, 6:30

AM: Men's Study

Learn about God's word and each other as part of a new ongoing study group.

Tues., Oct. 9, 8 PM

Congregational Leadership for the 21st Century: All church leaders (past, present and future) will better learn to understand vision, planning, change and managing conflict.

LWML Meets

This month's LWML meeting is Tues., Oct. 2, 7pm. Pastor Becker will leading a brief Bible study followed by our meeting and refreshments. We will make final plans for the Fall Conference Rally held here on Oct. 13. Our hostesses for the evening are Shirley Olson and Linda Becker. All women of the congregation are invited to come.

50 Days of Prayer

As part of our celebration of Good Shepherd's 50th anniversary, everyone in the congregation is encouraged to join in 50 days of prayer for God's work through our church. Pray for our ministries every

day for 50 days. As a help, sample prayers are being distributed to your church mailbox every two weeks. The themes of these sample prayers are:

Sept. 17-23	Outreach
Sept. 24-30	Faith
Oct. 1-7	Fellowship
Oct. 8-14	Service
Oct 15-21	Education
Oct. 22-28	Families
Oct. 28 – Nov. 3	Worship

Everything that happens in our church depends on God and prayer is the way he has given us to access the blessings he is eager to give us. Please join your fellow members in calling on God with praise, requests and thanks.

Bless You

Thank you to Roger Asleson for building the new playground equipment, to Joe Holtmeier for groundcover supplies, and to all who helped put it in.

News from Japan

Carol Becker, from our congregation, is serving as a missionary in Japan for the next 2 ½ years. If you would like to receive her monthly newsletter, sign up with your e-mail or postal address on the page in the narthex or send her an e-mail to goodshepherd57@juno.com

CORRECTION: Thanks to Lynn and Sue Schwarz for their work on the Anniversary Committee, not Pat and Lynn Lease, as mentioned in the last newsletter.

All Around the Neighborhood

Learn About Islam

Islam Basics from a Christian Perspective -- will be the topic explored by Rev Farrukh Khan on Sunday evening, Oct. 7, 7:30 pm. The presentation will be held on the campus of Concordia University, St Paul, in the Buenger Education Center.

Pro-Life Evening

All are welcome at a pro-life evening, Mon., Oct. 15, at St. Peter & Paul Catholic Church's Xavier Hall, 4th floor. at 6 PM finalists in the Minnesota Concerned Citizens for Life High School oratory contest will speak.

7 – 9 PM, a speaker from Minnesota Concerned Citizens for Life will share about embryonic stem-cell research, euthanasia of disabled persons, human cloning and abortion on demand and other crucial issues and how you can make a difference to save lives. Refreshments will be served.

Marriage Maintenance

Preventative maintenance makes sense in marriage too. Marriage encounter weekends or for husbands and wives, from newly weds to those married over 50 years, who love each other and desire to better their communication. Upcoming Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekends are Nov. 2-4 or March 7-9, 2008, both at Good

Samaritan Retreat Center, Sioux Falls, SD. The cost is \$45 to register and a freewill offering at the end of the weekend. To learn more, contact Milton & Donna Kaufman at 606-651-3231 or miltkauf@tnics.com; or Pastor Bob & Aimee Moeller at 605-526-33572 or seelsorge8@aol.com.

Take the Chief's Challenge

St. John's Lutheran Church, Good Thunder, invites you to the Chief's Challenge 10 K run and 2 mile run/walk, Sat., Oct. 13, 4 PM.

Registration 2:45 – 3:45 PM. The cost is \$10 per runner. Participants receive a shirt. Pre register to assure a shirt in your size. Pick up a form from the table by the church office. Proceeds support St. John's education programs.

There are awards for the top finishers in each age group. A chili supper with a free will offering will follow at 5 PM.

If you have questions, pick up a registration form or contact Mark DeVitz at 507-340-7041.

SHOUTlife for Youth.

SHOUTlife.com is a cleaned up version of myspace.com, offering youth a place to hang out with friends without all the suggestive advertising and the like. It is free. For more information, contact Craig McCourt at Trinity Lutheran Church, Waconia, craig@studentfire.org.

Taste of Ethnic Missions

Enjoy authentic foods of ethnic groups served by Minnesota South District missions Fri., Oct. 26, 6:30 PM, at Family of Christ Lutheran Church, 16345 Polk St., N.E., Ham Lake, MN. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. RSVP to Linda Bradford at the District Office, 952-223-2157. You will also hear stories of cross-cultural mission work and have a chance at a silent auction featuring ethnic items. Proceeds support ethnic mission work.

Rake the Town

Rake the Town is Sat., Oct. 27. Join volunteers in raking leaves for older adults, those with disabilities, etc.. Then enjoy lunch and prizes at St. Joseph Catholic Church. Call 387-1666 to sign up or watch for the sign up sheet on the youth bulletin board.

Do you need your lawn raked for you? There is no charge but donations to VINE are gladly accepted. Call 387-1666 or contact Pastor Becker for a registration form.

Help Sharing Tree

Holiday Open House for Arbonne International botanically based skin care products at the Fairfield Inn Marriot (behind Red Lobster) on Sun., Oct. 7, 1 - 5pm. All proceeds of 35% will go to The Sharing Tree. Help us give gifts back to the community while you purchase holiday gifts. Free gift wrapping!

Sharing Jesus from Generation to Generation

As Good Shepherd celebrates its anniversary, this is the 3rd in a series of articles on church history.

A History of the Lutheran Church

In 1505, a young German Roman Catholic responded to his soul's struggle with the guilt of sin by becoming a monk and a priest. As his struggle continued, he became Professor of Bible at the University of Wittenberg. Through his study of the Bible, this monk, Martin Luther, finally discovered in the gospel the peace with God for which he had been searching.

The turmoil was only beginning. Along with other tensions in the Church and society, the sale of "indulgences" promising forgiveness for the living and the dead provoked opposition. On October 31, 1517, Luther posted for debate 95 statements about repentance and forgiveness. This is considered the birthday of the protestant reformation. At the same time, however, it became apparent only slowly, and to Luther's dismay, that the church had moved far from the teachings of scripture and was abusing its powers. Luther worked for change through his many writings, including a popular translation of the Bible into German, the "Small Catechism" – a summary of Christianity for lay people – and a "Large Catechism" for pastors.

Luther and those with him pointed out that their faith was the same as historical Christianity. The "Augsburg Confession," an explanation of their teaching prepared for the meeting called by the emperor at Augsburg in 1530, was written by Philip Melancthon, Luther's closest coworker. He also wrote a further defense of these teachings, the "Apology to the Augsburg Confession". Luther himself wrote the "Smalcald Articles" in 1536 as a statement of his teachings. Nevertheless, Luther was expelled from the church and, at the Council of Trent, concluding in 1563, the Roman Church condemned as heresy the teaching of justification through faith alone.

As a result, a separate church body slowly developed, often called the Evangelical Church (The nickname "Lutheran" also stuck, as names often do which are given rather than chosen.) In those times, religion and politics were joined by the expectation that those who lived in each feudal territory would follow the faith of their prince. The terrible warfare accompanying these developments was almost inevitable. As the "Thirty Years War," one of the most destructive wars of history, raged across Europe, it appeared for a time that Lutheranism would be wiped out.

Meanwhile, the teachings of those agreeing with Luther became more specifically defined. In addition to the three Creeds accepted by all of Christianity, the Small and

Large Catechisms, the Augsburg Confession and its Apology, the Smalcald Articles, and Luther's "Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope," the "Formula of Concord" was developed after Luther's death by those seeking common agreement on Lutheran teaching. These confessions of faith, gathered into the Book of Concord in 1580, are the point of unity for all Lutherans.

Lutheranism eventually became the official religion of Germany and Scandinavia and spread to other areas. The early focus on pure teaching was followed by a swing toward "Pietism", an emphasis on right living over right teaching. This allowed the rise of rationalism, which looked to human reason as the ultimate judge of truth. As a reaction, a move back to confessionalism followed.

Lutherans spread around the world with the early explorers and joined in colonizing America as early as 1623. American Lutheran churches united in various groups along local and ethnic lines under such leaders as Rev. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg and others who followed. Lutherans in both America and Europe continue to struggle with issues of faith and practice, such as the tension between loyalty to the Lutheran Confessions vs. assimilation by Protestantism in general, the question of Biblical inspiration and authority, etc..

Bible Bites

for eat and run Bible reading

October 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.

In each reading, identify 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. The whole piece is for youth and adults.

- 1 1 Ch. 4:24 - 5:22; Jas. 4:1- 5:20
- 2 1 Ch. 5:23 - 6:48; Prov. 19:1-29
- 3 1 Ch. 6:49-81; Heb. 1:1 - 2:9
- 4 1 Ch. 7:1-29; Heb. 2:10 - 3:19
- 5 1 Ch. 7:30-8:40; Heb. 4:1-5:14
- 6 Psal. 78:32-55

The 5th Petition **And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.**
What does this mean? We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

Pray for the LWML/Ladies' Aid

7 19th Sunday after Pentecost

- Habak. 1:1-4; 2:1-4;
2 Tim. 1:1-14; Luke 17:1-10
- 8 Luke 13:10-35; Heb. 6:1 - 7:11
 - 9 Luke 13:10-35; Heb. 6:1 - 7:11
 - 10 Luke 14:1-34; Heb. 7:12 - 8:13
 - 11 Luke 15:1-32; Heb. 9:1-28
 - 12 Luke 16:1-31; Heb. 10:1-39

13 Psal. 78:56-72

What is meant by daily bread?

Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

Pray for the Stewardship Committee

14 20th Sunday after Pentecost

- Ruth 1:1-19a; 2 Tim. 2:1-13;
Luke 17:11-19
- 15 Luke 17:1-37; Heb. 11:1-40
- 16 2 Tim. 1:1 - 2:13; Heb. 12:1-29
- 17 2 Tim. 2:14 - 3:9; Heb. 13:1-25
- 18 St. Luke, Evangelist
Isa 35:5-8; 2 Tim. 4:5-18;
Luke 10:1-9
- 19 2 Tim. 3:10 - 4:22;
Mark 7:24 - 8:21
- 20 Psal. 46:1-11; 47:1-9

Lord's Prayer Introduction

Our Father who art in heaven.

What does this mean? With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.

Pray for the Minnesota South District, LC-MS

21 21st Sunday after Pentecost

- Gen. 32:22-30;
2 Tim. 3:14 - 4:5; Luke 18:1-8
- 22 Prov. 31:1-31; Mark 8:22 - 9:13
- 23 St. James of Jerusalem, Martyr
Acts 15:12-22a; James 1:1-12;
Matt. 13:54-58
- 24 1 Ch. 9:1-34; Mark 9:14-50
- 25 1 Ch. 9:35 - 11:9; Mark 10:1-31
- 26 1 Ch. 11:10-47;
Mark 10:32 - 11:11
- 27 Psal. 111:1-10

The First Petition

Hallowed be Thy name.

What does this mean? God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.

How is God's name kept holy?

God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this heavenly Father!

Pray for the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

28 23 Sunday after Pentecost

- Gen. 4:1-15;
1 Tim. 4:6-8, 16-18;
Luke 18:9-17
- 29 (St. Simon & St. Jude)
Jer. 26:1-16; 1 John 4:1-6;
John 14:21-27
- 30 1 Ch. 12:1-40
Mark 11:12 - 12:12
- 31 Reformation Day:
Rev. 14:6-7; Rom. 3:19-28
John 8:31-36 or Matt. 11:12-19
- NOVEMBER
- 1 All Saints' Day: Rev. 7:2-17;
1 John 3:1-3; Matt. 5:1-12
 - 2 1 Ch. 13:1 - 14:17;
Mark 12:13-44
 - 3 Ps. 121:1-8; 122:1-9

The Third Petition **Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

How is God's will done?

God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.

Pray for the Grieving