

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

APRIL 2006

Pre-month Newsletter

Church phone # 388-4336
e-mail: goodshepherd57@juno.com
web: <http://go.to/goodshepherd>

Our Shepherd's Staff: Pastor Vance Becker
Preschool: Tracy Mielke, Kindergarten: Alice Brase

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



Palm Sunday Plans for Families

Apr. 9, Palm Sunday, Palms will be distributed to worshippers and the service will begin with children joining in a procession.

Children's Sunday **Bible classes** will view an Easter video. The youth will be led in a special "feedback forum" to get their input on our congregation's ministry.

After the 10:30 AM service, there will be an **Easter egg hunt** for children with fun Bible questions.

All are invited to participate in a **noon pot-luck**, hosted by the Lutheran Family League.



Special Worship Times Easter Sun.

Apr. 16, Easter Sunday, worship will be at **6:30** and **9:30** AM, both services with Holy Communion. There are no Sunday Bible classes. A fun activity for Sunday School children will follow the 6:30 service. A breakfast, served by the youth for a free will offering starts at 7:45 AM. The sermon on "Connection with Christ" will climax our Lenten theme of "The Meaning of Discipleship".

Voters Meet Tues., Apr. 11

The next Quarterly Voters' Meeting is Tues., Apr. 11, 8 PM. All communicant members, age 18 and older are voting members and are encouraged to participate. In addition to reports, items on the agenda will include official approval of changes to our by-laws, introduced at the January meeting. The voters will consider a proposal to make temporary classrooms in the space that was added to the fellowship hall when building the sanctuary was postponed.

Youth Serve Lunch

The youth are serving the Salvation Army noon meal on Sun., Apr. 2. Volunteers are needed. Sign up on the youth bulletin board or talk to Kathy Taylor if you can help.

Feedback Forums Continue

Over 70 Good Shepherd members have participated in a Ministry Feedback Forum to share their view of how we do God's work together and what we should be working on for the future. Those who have not yet participated are urged to do so. Forums are scheduled for Wed., March 29 and Apr. 5, at 4:45 PM (before the Lent Soup Supper) and 8 PM (after the Lent worship) on both dates; Mon, Apr. 3, 7 PM; and Sun., Apr. 9, 1 PM, after the family pot-luck. Sign up on the sheet on the table on the south side of the narthex.

Sponsor an Easter Lily

Easter Lilies can be purchased through the LWML for \$7. You may choose a white lily or colored hybrid lily. They may be designated as memorials, etc. They will be placed in church and can be taken home after the 9:30 AM Easter worship.

Please complete a yellow form from the table by the mailboxes and write the check to Good Shepherd LWML. Karen Johnson or Kay Stewart if you have questions.

Let's Hear From Musicians

Musicians are invited to share their special talents during Holy Week and Easter worship. See Linda Becker or Peggy Pomranke if you can sing or play an instrument. Brass accompaniment of hymns is especially nice.

Musicians of all experience levels are also invited to speak to Linda Becker about playing during offering or communion.

Come to a Mystery Dinner

The Fellowship Club will be hosting a Miracles and Parables Mystery Dinner on Sun., Apr. 23, starting at 6 PM. What is a mystery dinner? You get a menu that is in code. You pick your courses from this list. This is how you will be served your dinner - all food and no utensils, or all utensils and no food or some of each. After each course the table is cleared. It's fun, good food (I hope), and great fellowship. Look for the sign-up sheet in the narthex. The cost is \$5 per person. If you have any questions, contact Bill or Wanda Schwarz at 387-1660.

April LWML Activities

The April Meeting of Good Shepherd LWML is Tuesday April 4 at 7:00. We will have a Bible Study by Pastor Becker followed

by business meeting, games and refreshments. All ladies in our congregation are invited to join us.

LWML Spring Rally is Saturday April 22 at Our Savior's Mankato, from 8:30 to 12:00. The speaker will be Rev. John Meyer. All women are welcome.

SOS - Seek, Share, Serve Our Savior is the theme of the Minnesota South District Women in Mission 31st Biennial Convention, June 15-17 at Gustavas College in St. Peter. Plan ahead - plan to attend.

"Gifts From The Heart" - Year of Yards is the Mission Service Project for LWML St. Peter Convention. Knitted or Crocheted Bandages for Tropical Ulcer Patients - notice the rack in the narthex with completed bandages and instructions on how to make them if you are interested in helping with this project. Or Sewing Fabric - Lutheran World Relief distributes thousands of sewing kits overseas each year. Many are used for vocational training programs to teach young men and women sewing skills that they can use to earn an income. Or to make clothing for themselves, or clothing to sell. The guidelines are: Fabric should be a cotton or cotton blend (no knits or polyester), no stains or holes, three yards of 44" or 45" or four yards of 36" fabric.

Soup Supplement

The last Lent Soup and Sandwich Supper is Wed., Apr. 5, 5:30 PM. Donations are being matched by Thrivent up to \$300. Thank you to all who have provided food, helped serve and contributed.

School Open House Held

The Kindergarten and nursery rooms were buzzing Mon., March 20, with children who came with their parents to the Good Shepherd Lutheran School Kindergarten Round-Up and Elementary Open House. Thank you to volunteers who provided refreshments and helped.

Over 20 families have expressed interest or are considering sending their children to Kindergarten – grade 4. One applied the night of the open house. Several have also expressed interest in upper grades.

Gift Education Seminar

We all know “you can’t take it with you,” but what will you do with it, then? Come to a gift education seminar at Good Shepherd, Sun., Apr. 30 at noon. A dinner will be provided by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Representatives from our District LCMS Foundation will explain estate planning and charitable giving options and

strategies, including the importance of an updated will. They will talk about ministries in our District and you will also learn about ways to support the ministry of Good Shepherd. The program will end by 2 PM with the distribution of door prizes.

Please sign up on the bulletin board by the church office, or call the church by Wed., Apr. 26, so we know how many to prepare for.

Streams of Water

A water fountain has been installed between the bathrooms in the classroom hallway by the plumbers working on our construction project.

New Guinea News

The latest news from Steve and Julie Lutz, medical missionaries in Papua New Guinea who have visited us, is now posted on the mission bulletin board.

All Around the Neighborhood

Homeland Security for Saints

The 18th annual S.A.G.E.S. (Saints Alive! Growing, Ever Serving) gathering of LCMS Minnesota South older adults will be in North Mankato May 1-2 at the Best Western Inn. The theme is “Eternal Homeland Security”. Pastor

Peter Meier, District Mission Executive, will be the speaker.

The schedule begins Monday at 11:45 AM with registration and closes with devotions at 2:30 PM on Tues. Six workshop options are offered along with theme sessions, entertainment, etc.. Registration for the full gathering is \$50 per person, including the banquet.

For more information, see Pastor Becker or pick up a “Sagacity” newsletter from the rack by the mailboxes.

Switchfoot at MSU

The MSU IMPACT Team is bringing the band Switchfoot to Mankato. While you may or may not have personally heard of them, your youth groups are likely to be very excited.

Switchfoot has won a number of Gospel Music Association awards over the years. Although they’re much more of a pop band now, their start was very much as a Christian band.

The concert is Sunday, April 23 at the Midwest Wireless Civic Center at 8:00 PM. Tickets are \$10 for MSU students and \$15 for non-students. Tickets for non-MSU students are available beginning this Friday, March 10 at MSU Student Leadership Development & Service-Learning, CSU 173, or 507-389-6076, the Midwest Wireless Civic Center box office and all TicketMaster outlets.

Camp Okoboji

Camp Okoboji, the LC-MS Iowa District West summer camp near Milford, IA, offers a variety of camps for all, including Basketball camp, Cross Country Track Camp, Family Bike Camp and Ginny DeWall Joy Camp for children with mental or physical challenges. Brochures are available by the church office.

Mankato Children's Chorus

A Spring concert will be presented by the five choruses of the Mankato Children's Chorus, Sun., Apr. 23, 4 PM, at St. Peter & Paul's Catholic Church, 105 N. 5th St., Mankato. Repertoire includes folk, ethnic, and classical choral music. The cost for age 13 to adult is \$5, for age 4-12 and seniors is \$3, and under age 5 is free. Tickets are available at the door.

Junior High Youth Gathering at CSP

It's time to register for Concordia University, St. Paul's 23rd annual Junior High Youth Gathering to take place April 21-22, 2006. This year's gathering is titled "Show Me Your Hands!," and is based on John 20:19-31, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." The Gathering will consist of Bible studies, music, activities, faith growing experiences and more! Registration is \$40 per

participant and will be limited to 7th and 8th graders. For more information and registration materials, visit <http://www2.csp.edu/jrhigh/>

Explore Church Careers at CSP

Concordia University, St. Paul will host Exploring Careers Weekend April 21-22, 2006. This event helps high school students explore various careers like business, education, medicine, professional church work and others. The weekend will be filled with fellowship time, worship opportunities, and a glimpse of how Concordia can prepare them for their future. For more information, or to register youth for this event, visit <http://www.csp.edu/admission/undergraduate/exploringcareers/>

Pork Chop Dinner at Courtland

A Pork Chop Dinner is being served Sun., Apr. 2, 11 AM to 1 PM at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 3 miles east of Courtland on Co. Rd. 25. One chop is \$7.50, 2 chops are \$9 and a hot dog is \$2.50. The menu also includes German potato salad, corn, cole slaw, ice cream and beverages. The Dinner is sponsored by the Immanuel Men's Club and Immanuel-lites. Matching funds are provided by Thriven for Lutherans, with proceeds going to the Immanuel Building Fund.

Room Sought

John and Marilyn Carlson, LCMS members from Mountain Lake have sold their home and are retiring to Brainerd. Marilyn is teaching until the end of school and John will continue working nights at the Post Office in Mankato until September. John desires to rent a sleeping room, possibly from a fellow LCMS member for June – August. They can be contacted at their home telephone number -- 507-427-3592.

Hospice Volunteer Training

Hospice provides special care for the terminally ill and their families. Volunteers play an important role in providing respite care, friendly visiting, comfort and support.

Hospice volunteer training classes will be held Apr. 18, 20, 25 and 27 at the Madison East Shopping Center Community Room. Classes each day are 12:30 PM – 4 PM. It is best to attend all four classes. If interested, please call Marilyn Underwood at 385-2618, extension #2618.

Understand Grief

A supportive gathering for those grieving the loss of a loved one will be Thurs., Apr. 20, 5 – 6:30 PM at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. There is no charge but pre-registration is required. Call Diana Carrigan at 385-2989. The program is sponsored by Immanuel St. Joseph's Hospice.

Bulletins from the Boards

Church boards and the Council met Tues., March 14.

THE BOARD OF ELDERS reviewed the organist situation. Aleta Mueller has resigned as organist. Peggy Pomranke is lining up others to take her place. Organist pay was adjusted to \$65 for one service, \$30 for a second identical service, \$30 per week for choir rehearsals and accompaniment.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES has met with youth who vandalized the construction project. They will each repay \$100 for materials and help with snow shoveling. Fire alarms have been inspected. Our new insurance premium, with the addition, is \$6154 per year.

THE BOARD OF EVANGELISM is using a notebook to keep track of cards sent to visitors. Palms will be purchased for Palm Sunday. A subscription to a service that provides the addresses of new residents in town is being considered.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION has set VBS for Aug. 6-10 and are working on plans. The theme, which will also be used on our parade float, is "Treasure Cove". Special Easter activities are being planned.

THE SCHOOL BOARD met Tues., Feb. 28 and Thurs., March. 2. After narrowing a list of teacher candidates to three and interviewing two, Linda

Becker was chosen to be the new elementary class teacher. As when Mrs. Brase was called last year, she will work on an hourly basis on recruitment and development until August. If there are sufficient students, finances, etc., hiring her to a full time position will be proposed to the July voters' meeting.

Elementary tuition was set at \$3000 per child. Kindergarten tuition remains at \$2700. School finances are in the black at this time.

Plans were finalized for Advertising, Lutheran Schools week and the Kindergarten/Elementary Open House.

THE TREASURER reported that we are in the black in the General Fund for each month of 2006 so far. We still have a deficit left from 2005 in the General Fund and a deficit in the Building Fund.

THE BUILDING COMMITTEE met Wed., Mar. 8 & 15. Flooring selected was Kasota stone for the aisles, wood laminate for the chancel, and woodgrain vinyl tile for under the pews. Exterior siding will be cement board (as the existing building) on the bottom and shingle textured steel on the top, with a cross on the end wall. Shingling and windows are done. Ductwork and plumbing under the floor is being installed before concrete is poured. The plan is to have the project completed by the beginning of summer.

THE CHURCH COUNCIL approved having the worship guidelines, approved by the elders printed in the newsletter before approval by the council.

Pastor Becker reported on the proper procedure for handling conflict, criticism or charges regarding any paid or volunteer worker. Individuals shall be directed to resolve the issue directly with the worker as much as possible. An officer or board member may assist and accompany them. Only after this has failed to resolve the issue is it to be referred to the board most directly responsible for that worker. The council may serve as a board of appeals. The workers involved shall be kept fully informed and involved in the process. Discipline or removal of a called worker requires approval of the Voters' assembly to remain binding.

Our Way of Worship

This is the first part of worship and music guidelines, approved by the Board of Elders and pending approval by the Church Council. If you have questions, comments or suggestions, please speak to an elder or Pastor Becker.

1. Worship should speak to the hearts and spirits of people

a. The means through which God speaks to the heart are his word and sacraments.

b. Worship rightly involves experience and feeling but these are a result of faith, in response to an understanding of God's word, and not the source or means through which God speaks to the heart. The absence of feelings at times does not necessarily indicate a lack of faith.

c. Recognizing the presence of God in worship is not based on experience or feelings but on accepting his word and promises as they are given in worship.

d. It is good for those with holy feelings to express them appropriately, but not every expression of feelings is appropriate in every setting. God is a God of decency and order.

2. Worship should draw people into God's presence.

a. Worship should draw the unchurched as the Holy Spirit moves them to respond to the gospel but worship itself is primarily a function of

believers. The initial contact with unbelievers is expected to come from individual believers reaching out from the church.

b. Worship is an encounter with God in which God first speaks to us in his law and gospel and through the sacraments and then we respond to what we have received in corresponding words and actions. The content and order of worship should not imply that we first seek out God and call for his response, or that we are prepared for worship by our own actions.

c. By its very nature as a transformational event, the content of worship cannot be expected to be familiar to those who are not yet familiar with the transcendent God, his works and his ways.

d. It should be understood that a primary goal is to get people into the church, that is not just into a church building or a worship service, but into the church itself, that is the people of God on earth in union with those who have kept the faith and are in heaven. This will involve thorough training, including that done through worship.

3. Worship should involve all the worshippers.

a. A variety of responses should be part of worship, including sung and spoken words and physical movement (standing, sitting, kneeling, processing, etc.).

b. The specific content of worship does not always have to be the same, but it should be the same or similar enough for much of the regular service to

be learned by heart. This will allow participation by those who may have difficulty reading such as the very young, the very old, parents holding children, etc.

c. In worship we are primarily receivers of God's action and then responders. The pastor, as the church's spokesman should present the sacramental aspects of worship in which God is speaking to the people, and the congregation as a whole and as individuals should be involved in the sacrificial aspects, in which we respond to God.

d. All presentations in worship should draw attention primarily to the message, not to the messenger as a performer. Both presenters and worshippers should avoid giving the impression that it is a performance rather than an act of worship.

e. The service of worship should have much in common with the whole church throughout the world and throughout the ages. This allows participation by guests here and in other congregations.

f. Those with musical talents should be encouraged and enabled to use them in worship in coordination with other musicians and in a way that is most appropriate for the service of worship.

Next Month:

4. Worship should be uplifting.
5. Worship should include variety.
6. Worship should be done decently and in order.

Bible Bites

...for eat and run Bible reading

April 2006 (series B1, A2)

In each reading, pick a memorable verse for yourself.

Family Catechism

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 Psal. 18:1-19

Where is this written?

The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke and St. Paul write: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me."

Pray for health care and service workers

2 5th Sunday in Lent

Jer. 31:31-34; Heb. 5:7-9;
John 12:20-33

3 Mark 14:1-31;

Matt. 27:61 - 28:20

4 Mark 14:32-72; Hos. 1:1-2:13

5 Mark 15:11-41;
Hos. 2:14 - 4:14

6 Mark 15:42 - 16:20;
Hos. 4:15 - 5:15

7 John 11:1-37
Hos. 6:1 - 7:16

8 Psal. 18:20-36

Where is this written? (continued)

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pray for Pastors

9 Palm/Passion Sunday

Zech. 9:9-10; Phlp. 2:5-11;
Mark 15:1-39

10 Jn. 11:38 - 12:11; Hos. 8:1-9:9

11 John 12:12-50; Hos 9:10-10:15

12 John 13:1-38; Hos. 11:1-12:14

13 Maundy Thursday
Exod. 24:3-11; 1 Co. 10:16-21

Mark 14:12-26

14 Good Friday
Isa. 52:13-53:12 or Hos. 6:1-6;

Heb. 4:14-16; 5:7-9;
John 19:17-30

15 Resurrection Eve
Dan.3:1, 3-9, 12-29;
1 Pt. 3:17-22; Matt. 27:57-66

What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?

These words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

Pray for instrumental musicians

16 Resurrection of our Lord

Isa. 25:6-9; 1 Co. 15:19-28;
Mark 16:1-8 or John 20:1-18

17 John 14:1-31; Hos. 13:1 - 14:9

18 John 15:1 - 16:4; 1 Pt. 1:1-25

19 John 16:5 - 33; 1 Pt. 2:1-25
20 John 17:1-26; 1 Pt .3:1 - 4:6

21 John 18:1-27; 1 Pt. 4:7 - 5:14

22 Psal. 18:37-50

What is the office of the Keys?

The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His Church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent. *Where is this written?* This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in

chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said. Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven. [John 20:22b-23]

Pray for Choirs

23 2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:13-15, 17-26;

1 John 5:1-6; John 20:19-31

24 John 18:28 - 19:16;

1 Kg. 5:1-18

25 St. Mark, Evangelist

Isa. 52:7-10; 2 Tim. 4:6-11,
18 Mark 1:1-15

26 John 19:17-42; 1 Kg. 6:1-38

27 John 20:1-31; 1 Kg. 7:1-22

28 John 21:1-25; 1 Kg. 7:23-51

29 Psal. 139:1-24

What do you believe according to these words?

I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.

Pray for Colleges and Seminaries

30 3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:8-12; 1 Jn 1:1 - 2:2;
Luke 24:36-49

May

1 St. Philip & James, Apostles
Isa. 30:18-21; 2 Cor. 4:1-6;
John 14:8-14

2 2 & 3 John; 1 Kg. 8:1-21

3 Num. 13:1-33; 1 Kg. 8:22-53

4 Num. 14:1-25; 1 Kg. 8:54 - 9:9

5 Num. 14:26-45;

1 Kg. 9:10 - 10:13

6 Psal. 22:1-24

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