

*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 2006

Pre-month Newsletter

Church phone # 388-4336  
e-mail: [goodshepherd57@juno.com](mailto: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



## 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 Friday at 7 PM. The service will include Holy Communion with a special order of service set to the tunes of familiar Epiphany hymns.

## Special Guest Sun. Jan. 15

Dr. Eugene Bunkowski will bring a special message about Gospel outreach on Sun., Jan.

15. He will preach in both services and lead the Adult Bible class.

Dr. Bunkowski works with the Oslwald Hoffmann School of Christian Outreach at Concordia University, St. Paul. Previously he taught at Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN., and served many years in foreign missions.

## Help Serve at the Salvation Army

Our turn to serve the Sunday noon meal at the Salvation Army is January 8. If you can help, sign up on the table by the office or contact Lynn or Sue Schwarz. Thanks!

## Voters Meet Jan. 10

The quarterly voter's meeting, Jan. 11, 8:00 PM is expected to hear the first reading of proposed amendments to our By Laws, prepared by the Constitution Review Committee.

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

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

## Pictures Pointing to Christ

The Sunday Adult is now studying prophecies and pictures of Christ, the Messiah, in the Old Testament Historical Books. Each one shows us something about who Jesus is and what he does for us. This study concludes on Jan. 8.

## Read Mark, Learn and Take to Heart

The Gospel of Mark will be the topic of the Sunday Adult Bible study, starting Jan. 22. During 2006, many of our Sunday gospel readings will come from this book. Mark is the shortest of the gospels but is full of action and energy.

## Church Families Go Downhill

Good Shepherd's Lutheran Family League activity for January is sledding at Sibley Park, 1 PM, Sun., Jan. 15. All are welcome to come at any time. Sledding will continue until about 3 PM. After sledding, all are invited to come to the church for cookies and cocoa and games.

## Fellowship Club Fun

The Fellowship Club will meet at church, 7 PM, Sun., Jan 22, hosted by Roger and Betty Mielke. The social activity will be card games. All are welcome.

## Poinsettia Patrons

Thanks to all who purchased poinsettias beautifying our sanctuary for Christmas:

Pastor & Linda Becker  
Kevin & Darla Brase – in memory of Layne Brase.  
Kevin & Donna Briggs – in memory of Karen Briggs, Bod and Eleanor Lapham, Marshall Briggs, Art & Mildred Kroll and Anna Koster  
Dennis & Juanita Boldt – in memory of Barry Johnson  
Rich & Karen Johnson – in memory of Barry Johnson.  
Lowell & Margene Lovelace – in memory of Alvin Ruthenbeck.  
Roger & Betty Mielke  
LeaAnn Nuenfeldt  
Lyle & Shirley Olson  
Wally & Phyllis Richter  
Larry & Deb Salzwedel  
Robin & Bernadette Schendel – in memory of Robert Vaubel and Howard Schendel.  
Lynn & Sue Schwarz – in memory of Vern Schwarz.

## Thank You, Deaconess Lock

The service of Deaconess Kathy Lock as our Ministry Developer has ended. Kathy began working part time with Good Shepherd in 2004. She worked mainly with the boards of Education and Evangelism. Special projects she worked with included the Walk Through the Bible Old Testament Seminar, the sexual misconduct prevention guidelines, and the ministry participation register.

Funding for Kathy's work came from a special gift for ministry development. The balance of these funds continues to be used for our new school ministry.

We thank Kathy for her ministry and wish her God's blessings on her future service to God's church.

## LWML Meets Jan 2

Good Shepherd LWML meets Tues., Jan. , 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.

## Youth Say Thanks

The youth would like to thank everyone who made the cookie bake a success once again. From those who helped bake, donated supplies, youth, adults and parents who drove youth to and from church. Thank you all! Have a blessed Christmas!

## 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 Mark Drill. You can do it in person or put it in his box (Put it in an envelope with your name on it.)

(Clip and save this column)  
**2005 Church  
 Officers, etc.**

	Phone #
<u>President</u>	
Robin Schendel	388-3126
<u>Vice President</u>	
Gary Mielke	345-8871
<u>Secretary</u>	
Lauri Lewis	625-8532
<u>Treasurer</u>	
Lynn Schwarz	388-3442
<u>Financial Secretary</u>	
Larry Salzwedel	388-5002
<u>Elders</u>	
Lowell Lovelace	387-3898
Bud Nase	386-0802
Mark Wilkowski	387-5273
Kevin Brase	726-6561
Richard Johnson	387-7129
Pat Lease	345-3108
<u>Board of Education</u>	
Becky Schendel	625-6782
Vanessa Drill	625-3237
Cindy Wintheiser	386-0665
<u>Board of Evangelism</u>	
Karen Johnson	387-7129
Bernadette Schendel	388-3126
Sherry Sack	387-6235
<u>Board of Trustees</u>	
Mark Drill	625-3237
Bill Schwartz	387-1660
Scott Lassiter	934-3348
<u>Board of Finance</u>	
Adam Schendel	625-6782
Jamie Tordsen	546-3319
Loren VanGrootheest	387-1220
Tony Wiederhoeft	625-1510
Dean Johnson	345-3863
Andi Lassiter	934-3348
Bill Snelson	345-6916
Steve Warner	386-7437
<u>S.S. Superintendent</u>	
Wanda Schwartz	387-1660
<u>Head Usher</u>	
Jay Rush	625-4294

## Bulletins from the Boards

THE VOTERS met Wed., Dec. 7 to elect the officers and board members.

The boards met Tues., Dec. 13, but there was no council meeting. Boards individually approved the ending of Kathy Lock's service as ministry developer. Factors include developments in her work and family as well as developments in Good Shepherd's ministry.

THE ELDERS discussed the proposal to have a single Sunday service in the summer. Since straw poll indicated many were interested in this and a decision needed to be made soon so that the proper times could be included in upcoming directories, it was decided to have summer services at 9 AM, with the adult Bible class at 8 AM. Discussion will continue on the possibility of outdoor services and the rest of the year.

Procedures for the candle light portion of the Christmas Eve services were discussed. A guest preacher was approved for Sun., Jan., 15, when Pastor Becker expects to be gone.

THE TRUSTEES thank Roger Mielke and Pat Lease who worked long and hard on a plugged bathroom stool in the education wing. Keys of outgoing officers will be collected by Mark Drill.

THE BOARD OF EVANGELISM worked on plans for this coming summer's North Mankato Parade, for which we have received a grant.

## **All Around the Neighborhood:**

### **Jan. 22 is Life Sunday**

The anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision legalizing abortion on demand is being recognized on Life Sunday, Jan. 22. Rev. Dr. James Lamb, Executive Director of Lutherans For Life has said, "From the womb of the Virgin Mary to the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, Jesus took our place. From the womb to the tomb, he showed how much God values human life. We too value life from the womb to the tomb. WE do so not just because it is fun to say. We do so not just because it is the right thing to do. As Christians, we do so because God does so."

### **Let's Talk**

Thurs., Jan. 19, 5:30 – 7 PM, ISJ Hospital hosts a program on Positive Parenting and Sexuality focused skill building for adult-youth communications with on grades 5-8. It will be in the lower level conference room 0310.

The program led by Kathy Oberle, School Counselor, and John Benson, Family practitioner. It is sponsored by the Council for Health Action and Promotion.

The program is free, along with a free spaghetti dinner and childcare available, but reservations are necessary and enrollment is limited. Call 389-4618.

# What's the Difference?

*This is the ninth in a series of articles about the ten commandments explaining differences between our church and others in understandings of the difference between right and wrong.*

Some will question, "What is the difference between the ninth and tenth commandments?", especially protestants who combine the two into one commandment: "You shall not covet", because they see two commandments in what we consider to be the first one. The simple answer is that the 9<sup>th</sup> commandment, "You shall not covet your neighbor's house", concerns objects we might "scheme to get...in a way that only appears right". The 10<sup>th</sup> commandment, "You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant, etc." concerns individuals we may not take but could "entice" to come to us.

A close look at the wording of Ex. 20:17 or Deut. 5:21 shows that these are indeed two separate commandments, but the wording is inverted between the two places. This is why Lutherans, who number them according to the wording in Exodus, have them in reverse order from Roman Catholics, who number them according to the wording in Deuteronomy.

Several commandments, speak specifically to actions, while they are also to be kept with thoughts and words. The eighth is specifically about our words. Having these two commandments specifically

about thoughts emphasizes that sinful thoughts are indeed as wrong as sinful actions or words.

Also, it is sinful thoughts that lead to sinful actions. James points out: "Each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death... You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures." (Jas. 1:14-15; 4:2-3)

So what does it mean to covet, anyway? Coveting is wanting what is not right for you. It may be wrong because you can have it only as a result of another's loss, such as having your neighbor's wife. It may not be right because it is wrong for anyone, such as having more than one wife. It may be wrong because it is more than is good for you, as in greed, avarice and a constant desire for more.

The ninth commandment speaks to the issue of gambling. Some would say that investing in the stock market or even farming is a form of gambling. But these are simply honest ways of using money, time and labor in a way that benefits others with the goal of making a fair profit. Gambling is an attempt to get an unearned benefit resulting from the loss of another who does not desire to lose it, without providing a

comparable benefit in return. When people gamble, they hope to win more than they deserve because others have lost. This is coveting.

Some say the benefit gained in gambling is the fun, which is worth the money spent; or that the money is just a way to keep score in a game of chance, like cards. Such games can be played innocently, for the fun of it. But when, in honesty, the only real fun comes from the winning, it is the wicked kind of "fun", in which grief always outweighs joy.

The tenth commandment speaks specifically to pornography. Like gambling, this disorder is pervasive, progressive, addictive and destructive, even though those trapped by it may claim it is harmless. It is based on a wrong desire for what one does not have a right to. Jesus points to the reality of this sin in the mind, "But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (Matt. 5:28) This kind of coveting also too often leads to finding ways to get or ruin what belongs to others.

The good gift from God protected by these commandments is desires and ambitions. God made us to have ambitions for property, a spouse, etc., but he wants us to have desires for what is truly good and to seek to get these things in honest ways. As with the other commandments, coveting is a sin against God. It is saying "You are not good enough to give me what I should have."

## **Bible Bites**

...for eat and run Bible reading

**January 2005** (series A1, C2)

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 to review

### **1 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas**

Isa. 45:22-25; Col. 3:12-17;  
Luke 2:25-40

- 2 (1) Circumcision of our Lord  
Num. 6:22-27; Rom. 1:1-7 or  
Phil. 2:9-13; Luke 2:21
- 3 Mark 1:35 - 2:17; 2 Ch. 7:1-22
- 4 Mark 2:18 - 3:19; 2 Ch. 8:1-18
- 5 Lev. 13:1-29; 2 Ch. 9:1-31
- 6 Epiphany of our Lord  
Isa. 60:1-6; Eph. 3:2-12;  
Matt. 2:1-12
- 7 Psal. 87:1-7

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

**...He ascended into heavn 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*

### **8 Baptism of our Lord**

Isa. 42:1-7; Acts 10:34-38;  
Mark 1:4-11

- 9 Lev. 13:30-59; 1 Co. 1:1-31
- 10 Lev. 14:1-32; 1 Co. 2:1 - 3:23
- 11 Lev. 14:33-57; 1 Co. 4:1 - 5:13
- 12 Lev. 15:1-33; 1 Co. 6:1 - 7:16
- 13 Lev. 16:1-28; 1 Co. 7:17 - 8:12
- 14 Psal. 93:1-5

*2nd 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*

### **15 2nd Sunday after Epiphany**

1 Sam. 3:1-10; 1 Co. 6:12-20 ;  
John 1:43-51

- 16 Lev. 16:29-17:16; 1 Co. 9:1-27
- 17 Lev. 18:1-30; 1 Co. 10:1-33
- 18 Confession of St. Peter  
Acts 4:8-13; 1 Cor. 10:1-5  
Matt. 16:13-19
- 19 Lev. 19:1-37; 1 Co. 11:1-34
- 20 Lev. 20:1-27; 1 Co. 12:1-31
- 21 Psal. 94:1-23

*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*

### **22 3rd Sunday After Epiphany**

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; 1 Co. 7:29-31;  
Mark 1:14-20

- 23 Lev. 21:1 - 22:16  
1 Co. 13:1 - 14:19
- 24 St. Timothy, Pastor/Confessor  
Ezek. 34:11-16; 1 Peter 5:1-4 ;  
John 21:15-17

- 25 Conversion of Paul: Acts 9:1-22  
Gal. 1:11-24; Luke 21:10-19
- 26 St. Titus, Pastor: Acts 20:17-35  
Eph. 3:14-21; Matt. 24:42-47
- 27 Lev. 22:17 - 23:14  
1 Co. 14:20 - 15:11
- 28 Psal. 63:1-11; 67:1-7

*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*

### **29 4th Sunday after Epiphany**

Deut. 18:15-20; 1 Co. 8:1-13;  
Mark 1:21-28

- 30 Lev. 23:15-44; 1 Co. 15:12-49
- 31 Lev. 24:1-23  
1 Co. 15:50 - 16:24  
FEBRUARY
- 1 Lev. 25:1-34; Matt 1:1 - 2:12
- 2 Presentation of our Lord  
1 Sam. 1:21-28; Heb. 2:14-18;  
Luke 2:22-40
- 3 Lev. 25:35-55; Matt 2:13 - 3:17
- 4 Psal. 62:1-12

*How can water do such great things? Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit,*

*Pray minorities*