

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

NOVEMBER 2005

Mid-month Newsletter

Church phone # 388-4336
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Our Shepherd's Staff: Pastor Vance Becker
Preschool: Tracy Mielke, Kindergarten: Alice Brase
Ministry Developer: Deaconess Kathy Lock

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

Advent Begins Nov. 30

The first midweek Advent worship is 7 PM, Wed., Nov. 30. Services this year will feature a series of narrative sermons: "It's been a quiet week in Bethlehem." Hear little known but true Bible stories that give insight into God's work through Jesus' birth in Bethlehem

Holy Communion will be included in the service Wed., Dec. 7. It will be followed by the annual Voters' Assembly election meeting.

Suppers will be served by the LWML 5:30 – 6:30 PM preceding services Nov. 30, Dec. 7 and Dec. 14. Anyone interested in donating bars please sign up on the table by the water fountain in the narthex.

LWML Sets up Giving Tree

LWML is celebrating the Christmas season by collecting items to be given to CADA House, Welcome Inn and Theresa House. A Christmas tree will be up in the narthex for this. We will collect through Dec. 18. Some

of the most needed items are:
Gloves
Hats & scarves
Personal Care Products
Toilet paper
Disposable diapers & pull ups-size 4 & 5
Bath towels, wash cloths
Dishtowels, dishrags
Calling cards & postage stamps

Invitations to Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas worship at Good Shepherd are available on the tables by the mailboxes. Take some to share with your friends, neighbors, relatives and co-workers.

Visit the Book Table

A selection of Christian books is on display in the narthex for a couple of weeks. This is a good time to purchase a book as a gift or for yourself. See Wanda Schwarz.

Also see Wanda if you would like to make a contribution toward the new Bible commentary series being purchased for the church library.

Help for Gift Planning

As stewards of the blessings bestowed upon us, it is appropriate to consider gifts in addition to our regular tithe to support God's kingdom. Gifts to the church and its mission are often part of one's financial and estate plan. Given the complexity of tax law and financial planning considerations, the church has gift planning assistance available. Roger Kontak has trained to become our congregational gift plan coordinator. In this role, he can serve as your liaison with the LCMS foundation, accountants and attorneys. As our congregation grows, he will also guide us in considering the establishment of a congregational endowment fund. Feel free to contact Roger for information regarding gift planning.

Give Someone A Lift

If you can provide a ride to Sunday classes and worship for an elementary age girl who lives in the Avalon mobile home neighborhood, please see Pastor Becker.

Free Cash for School

Scrip sales have netted a profit of \$400 so far. A list of participating businesses is on the school support bulletin board in the narthex. Order forms are on the table by the mailboxes. Return them to the mailbox of Sue Schwarz, who is coordinating this. You can pick up your scrip the following Sunday. You get a prepaid card to use like cash and the school gets a percentage of the purchase.

20 oz. pop bottles are worth 5 cents each through a new recycling program. Watch for a special box to return them to. They are reused as bottles so do not crush them.

Outreach Grant to Good Shepherd

Good Shepherd has been awarded a \$1,000 grant from the Lutheran Church Extension Fund for an outreach event to help our church share God's love with our community. These funds will be used for the 2006 North Mankato Parade and are made possible thanks to LCEf investors and

borrowers. LCEF is a nonprofit ministry of the LCMS providing investments, loans and services to members and organizations. Call 1-800 THE LCEF for more information or go on line to www.lcef.org.

Calendar for Kids

Advent calendars are a fun way for children to look forward to and get ready for Christmas. Copies of an Advent and Christmas Coloring Calendar are on the tables by the mailboxes. Children color can color a part of the picture each day from Nov. 30 through January 6. When the pages are put together they make a poster as wide as a refrigerator (hint, hint).

Attached are pages giving a Bible reading and family discussion question for each day, related to the picture to be colored.

Weather or Not, We Worship

During bad weather you can expect scheduled worship will be held as long as Pastor can get to church. Please use your own good judgment on whether you should go out. If worship must be canceled, it will be announced on KXLP.

The Lutheran Hour is heard each Sunday, 6:00 PM, on KJLY, 107.1 FM.

Read All About It

In a rack by the mail boxes are Lutheran publications you can borrow or take copies of if there are multiple copies. Let Pastor know if you would like to get your own subscription.

Lutheran Witness, in the Nov. issue, features what Lutherans are doing in hurricane relief and an article by a Lutheran pastor who grew up Jewish.

Sagacity, the newsletter of our District older adults group has useful information and news of activities you can participate in.

Good News features beautiful Christian art with articles about Lutheran teachings. It comes from the Concordia Mission Society and is edited by Wallace Schulz.

All Around the Neighborhood:

Living Nativity is Dec. 4

The annual Living Nativity, an outdoor play, is 5:30 PM., Sun., Dec. 4, at the Blue Earth County Fairgrounds in Garden City. Admission is free. Non-perishable food items will be accepted for the ECHO Food Shelf.

The play lasts 45 minutes. Dress warmly. Limited handicapped seating is available. All are invited to supper immediately after at the Wellcome Community

Room, sponsored by Formerly Crane's and the Wellcome Trust.

Feel like a visitor in Bethlehem as the story unfolds with music, scripture, cattle lowing and a baby's cry, closing with a candle light service. For more information go on line to www.wisemenstillseek.com or call Roxie at 546-3661 or Karen at 549-3574.

Bulletins from the Boards

Church boards and Council met Tues., Nov. 8.

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE met Tues., Nov. 1, and identified several potential candidates for each open position. Outgoing officers will contact them about their willingness to serve.

THE BOARD OF ELDERS also met Tues., Oct. 25 for an annual job review with Pastor Becker. It was approved for Pastor to carry over a few days of unused vacation into early January 2006. Postcards are now being sent to those who will be included in the prayers for those with baptism anniversaries. Elders continue to make calls to find out about baptism dates not yet recorded.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES has had a ductwork problem in the school hallway taken care of. Trustees noted that the north outside door of the fellowship

hall has been found unlatched and needs to be pulled shut again when opened.

Insurance costs have gone up because of increased school programs. Bill Schwarz and Joe Holtmeier will do snow removal this winter.

THE BOARD OF EVANGELISM is studying exactly how to use the \$1000 LCEF grant for outreach at next year's North Mankato parade. Paperwork has been sent in for a directional sign on Hiway 14.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION agreed that there will be no Sunday classes on Christmas Day, Dec. 25, or New Year's day.

THE YOUTH helped serve a waffle fundraiser for hurricane relief, with 7 adults and 8 youth participating. They will take orders Dec. 4 and 11 for a Christmas cookie bake and will bake cookies on Sat., Dec. 17.

THE SCHOOL BOARD met Thurs., Nov. 3. discussion focused on how much staff and grades can be increased in 2005/2006.

Mrs. Brase reports first quarter of classes has ended for the kindergarten class and the students are now reading already.

Kindergarten students will present a brief program as part of the Advent worship, 7 PM, Dec. 14.

THE COUNCIL approved having Roger Kontak be a Congregational Gift Planning Coordinator. He will receive training through district staff with the LCMS Foundation.