

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

September 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

We Appreciate the Help

Five volunteers are now taking turns helping out at church on weekday mornings. They keep busy in the office as receptionist and do some other duties, they do errands for the kindergarten and pre-school and they do some housekeeping. Thank you to Juanita Boldt, Ellen Matzke, Roger and Betty Mielke, Shirley Olson and Larry Salzwedel for their help.

We could use a bigger list of helpers who could do a morning or afternoon per week. No prior experience is necessary. Contact Pastor Becker if you are available.

Youth Plan Fall Program

Eleven High School youth had a blast at the kick off activity Sept. 11 and planned monthly activities for the fall.

Sun., Oct. 9, the youth will meet to eat at Jake's Pizza at 5 PM and go bowling at MSU afterward.

Sun., Oct. 16 the youth will serve the noon meal at the Salvation Army.

The youth will help with "Rake the Town" at the end of October and will go to a hay ride and bonfire at Madelia. They will join with youth from Our Savior to serve a breakfast to raise money for hurricane relief.

In November, the youth will make care baskets to take to care center residents. They have agreed to babysit for children in connection with a "Family League" activity.

See it on Reruns

Did you miss the groundbreaking service on Sept. 11? What about the opening chapel of Good Shepherd Lutheran School on Sept. 6. Both were videotaped and are being transferred to DVD by Mark Wilkowske. See Mark if you want to get a copy.

Also see Mark to have home videos put on DVD for a \$10 donation to our school.

Our Role in Hurricane Relief

A door offering of \$367 was collected after our worship on Sun., Sept. 4, and sent to Trinity Lutheran, Meridian, MS, where Roger and Betty Mielke worked on a Laborers for Christ Project in 2003. They were not hard hit but are housing refugees.

“Orphan Grain Train” is shipping food and supplies for distribution as needed. Thrivent supplemental funds, \$.50 for each \$1, are also available for donations to this relief effort. Copies of the form to use are by the mailboxes. Send donations directly to Orphan Grain Train, P.O. box 1466, Norfolk, NE, 68702. You can also go on line to www.orphangraintrain.org, e-mail: email@ogt.org, call 402-371-7393, or fax 402-372-7350.

Orphan Grain Train is program of Lutheran Hour Ministries which is also providing devotions and spiritual life resources to survivors and those ministering to them. Donations can be made to Lutheran Hour Ministries, 660 Mason Ridge Center Drive, St. Louis, MO, 63141, or on line at www.lhm.org.

LCMS World Relief has been helping especially pastors and churches get back on their feet. Thrivent members can use a form found on the table by the mailboxes to add \$.50 to each \$1 (up to \$600) for donations.

About half of the 140 congregations in the LCMS Southern District (Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi,) district are damaged or destroyed, along with damage and death suffered by congregation members. Others are hosting refugees or helping with relief in other ways. The district Office in New Orleans is currently abandoned but apparently intact. Two churches are being linked to our District for follow up support: Redeemer, Fairhope, AL (Rev. Bill Parsons) and Holy Cross, Mobile, AL (Rev. William Meyer)

Redeemer has \$12,000 in roof damage which insurance will not cover, but no water. Three families are displaced. They request these supplies: toiletries of all kinds, sheets, blankets, food supplies, towels, pillows, and socks. Bradford know what you have to contribute. They have also asked for help by plumbers, roofers, electricians, carpenters, and laborers. If you want to help, Pastor Becker will put you in touch with our District office.

All Around the Neighborhood

Eat Out Sept. 25

“Dad’s Belgian Waffles” fundraiser is being held Sun., Sept. 25, 8:30 AM to 1 PM, at Trinity Lutheran School, Janesville, in celebration of 125 years of God’s grace.

The cost is: adults: \$6, age 5-10: \$4, preschoolers free.

A Pork Chop Dinner is being served Sun., Sept. 25, 11 AM – 1 PM, by Immanuel Lutheran School PTL (rural Courtland). The cost is \$8 for one chop, \$10 for two and \$3 for a hot dog meal. Meals also include baked potato, corn, coleslaw, roll, desert and beverage. Take outs are available. The proceeds will be supplemented by Thrivent.

Equipping to Share Workshop

Grace Lutheran Church, Rochester, will offer Equipping to Share: A Workshop for Everyday Evangelism on Sun., Oct 9, 1:30 to 5 PM. Registration begins at 1 PM. A meal will be served afterward.

This training program developed by Lutheran Hour Ministries will help participants be more comfortable sharing the Gospel. Learn about sharing the story of God’s grace in your life and about everyday “mission moments”.

Grace Lutheran is at 800 E. Silver Lake Drive in N. E. Rochester. A suggested donation of \$5 will help offset expenses. Advance registration is preferred but not required. Contact Diane at the church, -1-507-289-7833 or e-mail gracerochester@aol.com, or call Joanne Rosener at 1-507-266-7782.

Hoffmann Memorial Service at CSP

Join the Concordia, St Paul community in praising God for the life and ministry of Rev. Dr. Oswald Hoffmann on Thurs., Sept. 22, 1:15 p.m. in the Buetow Music Center Auditorium at Concordia University. Dr. Hofmann died Thurs., Sept. 8. He is remembered especially as a speaker on the Lutheran Hour.

Disability Ministry Conference

Hope Baptist Church, Mankato, is hosting a "Cracked Pots Disability Conference" Sat., Oct. 1, 10 AM to 3:30 PM, led by representatives from "Joni and Friends". Scotty Rogers, an above-the-knee amputee who hiked the Appalachian Trail, will speak as will individuals from local churches in ministry with people with disabilities.

Bring your own lunch or arrange for one delivered. There is no charge but please pre-register by e-mailing djv@hickorytech.net. Put "Cracked Pots" in the subject box, mention how many are coming and if you have special diet needs for lunch. Or Pastor Becker has more details and a mail-in form.

A Sunday School Superintendent is needed to help coordinate on Sunday mornings, take attendance, arrange supplies, etc. Please speak to Pastor, Wanda

Bulletins from the Boards

The SCHOOL BOARD met Thurs., Sept. 8. Sub-committees are being formed to prepare and recruit for next year, including grades 1 and 2. "Good Shepherd Lutheran School" will be added to the "Little Lambs" preschool signs. A separate bank account is set up to receive school donations. Our students are getting sack lunches prepared at Dakota Meadows so they can participate in the free and reduced lunch program.

Curriculum and other start up costs have been less than \$5000 (about \$10,000 less that originally expected) It was decided that since costs for running the classroom are the same, regardless of the number, hurricane Katrina refugees would be welcomed without tuition if necessary.

Mrs. Brase will be paid per hour for work done before her salary began in August and will be reimbursed quarterly for work mileage. The pay for substitute teachers will be the same as in Mankato District 77.

A Lutheran School Boosters organizational meeting met after the school Board and included members from the three LCMS churches in Mankato.

Church boards and Council met Tues., Sept. 13

The BOARD OF ELDERS will do an annual

review with the Pastor, based on the job description developed last year. There will be no October Wed. this year. Since Christmas comes on a Sunday this year, the elders are considering having the Children's program on the Wed. before, two services on Christmas Eve., and one 9 AM service on the Sunday of Christmas day.

The TRUSTEES have arranged a second container for added preschool and kindergarten trash. A heating/air conditioning malfunction in the classroom wing will be worked on. A spring-ride playground toy which was broken before is now missing and will be replaced.

The BOARD OF EVANGELISM is applying for a \$1000 grant from the District LCEF for outreach at next year's North Mankato parade. A directional sign will be placed at the corner of Hiway 14 and County Rd. 6 pointing toward the church.

The BOARD OF EDUCATION has registered over 50 children for Sunday School classes. There are a lot of little ones. A Superintendent is still needed.

The BUILDING COMMITTEE has not met but the Treasurer is working on papers for the loan closing and drawings are being finished for the building permit application.

A MEMORIAL COMMITTEE has contacted donors and applied non designated memorials to outstanding balances and current projects.