

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 2005

Pre-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

Voters' Meeting

Plan to attend the Good Shepherd quarterly voters' meeting, Tues., Oct. 11, 8:00 PM. All confirmed members, age 18 or older are voting members.

The agenda will include approval of the 2005 budget, and final approval of amendments to our congregation's constitution.

Youth Have Food and Fun

High School Youth are invited to meet Sun., Oct. 9, at 5 PM at Jakes Pizza. After eating, the group will be bowling at MSU.

Other October activities include "Rake the Town" on Sat., Oct. 29. Sign up on the youth bulletin board if you can help with this. If you want to help serve the noon meal at the Salvation Army on Sun, Oct. 16, talk to Kathy Taylor.

Hay, Join the Fun

The next Lutheran Family League activity is a hay ride, Sun., Oct. 16, 3 PM at Meadowbrook Stables, north of Mankato. The cost is \$3 per person. Sign up on the table by the church office if you want to come.

To get there, go 2 miles north of Mankato on 3rd Ave. (County Rd. 5), go left/west on 238th St. (Twp Rd. 302). The

stables are on the right/north at 23928 Jockey Lane.

Afterward there will be a bonfire near the Joe Holtmeier home on Stonehenge Dr.. To get there, go to the end of 238th St., west off of County Rd. 5 north of Mankato. Bring marshmallows or hot dogs if you want to roast them.

Everyone is welcome, especially families with children.

Sing Along

Do you like to sing? You are welcome to join our church choir, which rehearses Wednesdays at 7:00 PM (except as announced). Meet new people and enjoy singing to the Lord.

LWML Learns about Laborers

All Good Shepherd women and friends are welcome at the LWML meeting, Tues., Oct. 5, 7:00 PM. Roger and Betty Mielke will talk about Laborers for Christ, an LCMS organization with which they have worked. We will also have a brief Bible study, business meeting and refreshments.

Lutheran Hour Sunday, Oct. 9

On Sun., Oct. 9, we will celebrate the work of Lutheran Hour Ministries. October 2 is the 75th anniversary of “The Lutheran Hour” radio program, a ministry of the Lutheran Laymen’s League. This is the longest running Christian outreach radio program. It is currently broadcast on more than 800 stations and reaches more than 1.2 million listeners each week. Since 1930, Lutheran Hour ministries has branched out into TV, film, print, internet, etc., and continues to be on the cutting edge of media outreach.

New activities include “Equipping to Share” evangelism workshops and global work and witness trips, offering short term international volunteer opportunities for hands on service. To learn more, borrow the “Laymen” magazine from the rack by the mailboxes or go on line to www.lhm.org.

Lives Transformed

“Lives Transformed through Christ in time for eternity” is this year’s theme for Lutheran Women’s Missionary League Sunday, celebrated Oct. 2. 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.

All Around the Neighborhood

Rake the Town

Rake the Town is Sat., Oct. 29. Are you someone who needs your lawn raked for you? Volunteers will be glad to do it. There is no charge but donations to VINE are gratefully accepted. Call 387-1666 to register.

Would you like to help rake and enjoy lunch and prizes afterward at St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church? Call 387-1666 to sign up.

Lutheran Free Conference

The 18th Annual Lutheran Free Conference is Sat., Oct. 29, 9:45 AM – 2:45 PM, at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2719 Third Street North, St. Cloud, MN. Registration begins at 8:30 AM. The cost is \$20 per person, which covers registration, refreshments and lunch. There is no pre-

registration but if you do plan to attend, those preparing the lunch would appreciate a call at 1-320-252-8171. The event is sponsored by Minnesota North Confessional Lutherans. Both lay and clergy are welcome.

This year’s theme is “This is Not Your Grandfather’s Church”. This has been said of the LCMS. This raises questions about why and what may have changed. Rev. Dr. William Schumacher, Professor of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO, will speak about what our grandfather’s church was in time past. Rev. Edgar Rehwaldt, pastor emeritus from Nisswa, MN, will focus on what our grandfather’s church is today. Rev. Klemet Preus, pastor at Glory of Christ Lutheran Church, Plymouth, MN will speculate on what our grandfather’s church may become.

Redeemer Lutheran Church is north of Hiway 23 in St. Cloud, west of Hiway 10 and east of Hiway 15, on 3rd St. North, between 25th Ave. and 33rd Ave.

Theresa House Open House

Friends of Theresa House shelter for homeless families are hosting an open house Tues., Oct. 18, 1 – 4 PM at 512 Mulberry St., Mankato. There will be tours and refreshments. Call 388-1664 by Oct. 13, if you would like to go.

Military Prayer Guides

Companion prayer guides for those in the military and for their loved ones are available from Lutheran Hour Ministries. The cost is \$10 for the pair and bulk prices are available. You can see them on the table by the church office or go online to www.lutheranhour.org or call 1-800-876-9880.

Bethesda Scholarships

Bethesda Lutheran Homes and Services of Watertown WI, offers scholarships for those studying for work with people who have developmental disabilities:

- \$1,500 is available for scholastic achievement scholarships for Lutheran college students.
- \$1,500 nursing scholastic achievement scholarships for Lutheran college students.
- Developmental disabilities awareness awards for Lutheran high school students and students in Lutheran grade schools.

For more information or to receive an application, contact Thomas Heuer at Bethesda Lutheran Home, 600 Hoffmann Dr., Watertown, WI 53094, phone # 1-800-369-4626, ext. 4449; fax # 1-920-262-6513; e-mail theuer@blhs.org; or on line at www.blhs.org.

Thrivent Builds

Thrivent financial for Lutherans is partnering with Habitat for Humanity. to build up to 500 homes per year by 2008. "Thrivent Builds Giving" will contribute \$1 for every \$2 members donate to Habitat for Humanity (up to \$300 per member per year).

"Thrivent Builds Worldwide" will defray \$800 of trip expenses for individuals or teams to go on short term (5-15 day) international and domestic homebuilding trips.

"Thrivent Builds Neighborhoods" will provide six grants of up to \$1 million each annually to community organizations, coalitions and nonprofits for projects to improve poverty housing in specific neighborhoods.

For more information, go on line to www.thriventbuilds.com or call 1-800-236-3736.

What's the Difference?

This is the sixth 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.

To some, it seems that Christians act as if the worst sin of all is breaking the sixth commandment, "You shall not commit adultery". It is not worse than others, but neither, as some seem to act, has it ceased to apply to us today.

Specifically, adultery is sexual intimacy with another person's spouse. Included in the wider meaning, however is any sexual intimacy between those not married to each other. This includes fornication, often translated "sexual immorality", which is sexual intimacy by those not yet married. God's word says, "Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. (Heb. 13:4)

By this commandment, God is protecting marriage and the family. Sexual intimacy outside of marriage ruins a marriage relationship, which God intends to be a lifelong union of one man and one woman. Jesus says, "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate." (Mark 10:7-9)

God does not want marriage

to end in divorce, but God's word does acknowledge that when a marriage is already destroyed, legal divorce is permissible, though reconciliation and forgiveness, where possible, are always the ideal. Jesus said, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery." (Matt 19:8-9) Committing adultery is obviously "marital unfaithfulness" and this is may also be understood to include desertion and dangerous abuse.

The Roman Catholic Church requires those who want to remarry after divorce to have an annulment, which is a statement that the former marriage was not a real marriage, but Lutherans and others do not operate with this understanding.

Today, a major difference between churches in their understanding of God's will for human sexuality is whether or not homosexuality is wrong.

The Bible condemns homosexuality by name and by description in many places. Paul writes that it is because of sinful rebellion that "God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for

their perversion. (Rom. 1:26-27)

Some suggest that homosexual behavior is wrong only outside of a loving, committed relationship. The Bible is more clear than this. "If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable." (Lev. 20:13)

Others claim that some are born to be homosexuals and therefore God made them this way so it is actually natural for them. First, we must recognize that although God made Adam and Eve in his own image, all human nature is ruined by sin. We are all born sinful, not the way God wants us to be, and all who follow only their human nature sin. Paul writes, "Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming." (Col. 3:5-6)

Some, discounting the Old Testament and Paul as out of date or misled by their culture, claim Jesus himself never said anything against homosexuality. This denies his clear word, "at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife,' (recorded in both Mark 10:6-7 and Matt. 19:4-5) Here Jesus himself makes clear both that God makes people either male or female (not a variety of other options) and that this means that sexual intimacy and marriage is to be between a man and a woman.

Bible Bites

for eat and run Bible reading

October 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 2nd reading to finish in 3 years. For Sundays and special days, all three pericopes are given.

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 to learn. The whole piece is for youth and adults to review

1 Psal. 119:121-136

Pray for the LWML

2 20th Sun. after Pentecost

- Isa. 5:1-7; Phlp 3:12-21;
Matt. 21:33-43
3 Job 9:14-10:22; 2 Tim. 1:1-2:13
4 Job 11:1-12:25; 2 Tim. 2:14-3:9
5 Job 13:1-14:22; 2 Tim. 3:9-4:22
6 Job 15:1-35; Esth. 1:1-22
7 Job 16:1 - 17:16; Esth. 2:1-18
8 Psal. 119:137-152

The 4th Petition

Give us this day our daily bread.

What does this mean? God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

Pray for Lutheran Hour Ministries

9 21st Sun. after Pentecost

- Isa. 25:6-9; Phlp. 4:4-13;
Matt. 22:1-14
10 Job 18:1-19:29; Esth. 2:1-3:15
11 Job 20:1-29; Esth. 4:1 - 5:8
12 Job 21:1-34; Esth. 5:9 - 6:14
13 Job 22:1-30; Esth. 7:1 - 8:8
14 Job 23:1-24:25; Esth. 8:9-9:17
15 Psal. 119:153-176

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 Social Ministry

16 22nd Sun. after Pentecost

- Isa. 45:1-7; 1 Thess. 1:1-5a;
Matt. 22:15-21
17 Phlp. 1:1-2:1; Esth. 9:18-10:3
18 St. Luke, Evangelist
Isa. 43:8-13; 35:5-8;
2 Tim. 4:5-11
Luke 1:1-4; 24:44-53
19 Phlp. 2:12-3:16; Luke 13:10-35
20 Phlp. 3:17 - 4:23; Luke 14:1-34
21 Job 25:1 - 27:23; Luke 15:1-32
22 Psal. 140:1-13

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, P24/Ref As St. Paul, Titus 3 P3L/AS 3rd Petition, How?

Pray for the Mn. South District of the LC-MS

23 23rd Sun. after Pentecost

- Lev. 19:1-2, 15-18

- 1 Thes. 1:5b-10; Matt. 22:34-46
24 Job 28:1 - 29:17; Luke 16:1-31
25 Job 29:18 - 30:3; Luke 17:1-37
26 Job 31:1-40; Luke 18:1-34
27 Job 32:1-33:30; Lk.18:35-19:27
28 St. Simon & St. Jude, Apostles
Jer. 26:1-16; 1 John 4:1-6;
John 14:21-27
29 Psal. 144:1-15

as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying."
[Titus 3:5-8]

Pray for the LCMS

16 22nd Sun. after Pentecost

- Jer. 31:31-34; Rom. 3:19-28;
John 8:31-36
31 Reformation Day
Jer. 31:31-34; Rom. 3:19-28;
John 8:31-36

NOVEMBER

- 1 All Saints Day
Isa. 26:1-4, 8-9, 12-13, 19-21;
Rev. 21:9-11, 22-27; 22:1-5;
Matt. 5:1-12
2 Commemoration of the Faithful Departed: Isa. 34:3-10;
2 Pet. 3:8-14; John 5:24-292
3 Job 33:31-34:37; Lk.19:28-20:8
4 Job 35:1 - 36:21; Luke 20:8-47
5 Psal. 84:1-12

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 those Grieving