

*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

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  
Ministry Developer: Deaconess Kathy Lock

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

### Groundbreaking Sept. 11

A groundbreaking ceremony for our new sanctuary will be Sun., Sept. 11, 10:15 AM, right after Sunday Bible classes and before the 10:30 AM service.

Bring your own shovel and gather on the edge of the "footprint" of the sanctuary behind the church.

The brief service will include scriptures, choir anthems and prayers.

A pot-luck dinner will be held after the 10:30 AM service (about noon). Bring food to share.

### Youth Events Kick Off

A season of youth activities begins Sun., Sept. 11, 6:30 PM at the church with a Bean Bag Tournament. (If you're not familiar with the game come find out how much fun it is.) There will also be refreshments, a devotion and a meeting to line up the next few months of activities. All confirmed youth of Good Shepherd, and friends, are welcome. If you have any questions contact Kathy Taylor at 387-5958. See you there; )

### Spuds & Splits Supper Served

The Fellowship Club is sponsoring a Spuds and Splits supper at the church on Sun., Sept. 25, 5 to 7 PM. The menu is baked potatoes with a choice of toppings and ice cream with a choice of toppings. There will be a free will offering. Funds raised will be supplemented by Thrivent and will support projects and benefits for the year.

Watch for a sign up sheet in the narthex for those who want to provide supplies, prepare, serve and clean up.

## School Boosters Organize

All are welcome Thurs., Sept. 7 for an organizational meeting of Lutheran School Boosters at Good Shepherd. This is a group for those interested in helping with fund raising and recruitment activities to support our LCMS elementary school in North Mankato.

## Fun in Lutheran Family League

All are welcome to participate in the activities of a new group at Good Shepherd, "Lutheran Family League". Activities will be planned with children in mind but all ages, couples and singles are welcome.

The first event is boating and water fun at the lake cabin of Joe and Beth Holtmeier near Waterville, Sun., Sept. 11, 1:30 to 4 PM. Space is limited so please sign up in the narthex on the table by the office.

## Building Loan Approved

The voters, in a special meeting, Sun., Aug. 1, approved a contract with Holtmeier Construction to build the sanctuary for a bid of \$500,000, contingent on loan approval from the Lutheran Church Extension Fund.

After an earlier bid of \$750,000 exceeded our finances and ability to get a loan, other contractors were contacted for bids. Swan Lake Woodworks, along with various subcontractors offered a bid of under \$500,000. This bid did not include a few items to be finished later, such as sacristy cabinets and a communion rail. A major part of the cost difference came from eliminating the fee for general contractor duties, including various paperwork and administrative functions. Joe Holtmeier, a member of the building committee offered to do these tasks. This is why Holtmeier is identified as the general contractor. Also not included in this bid are items such as finishing the wood for the ceiling and floor covering and P.A. system, to be installed by other church member volunteers.

LCEF has approved the loan as a 30 year loan to keep the increase in our monthly payments to a minimum. After five years the loan will be recast for 20 years.

## New Thurs. AM Study Group

A new Bible study group is beginning Thurs., Sept. 15, 10 AM at the church. All are welcome. Parents are encouraged to bring along young children. The plan is to meet on the first and third Thurs. of each month or more often if desired.

## War and Terror on Sundays

"I ain't gonna study war no more" is the chorus of an old gospel song, but we are going to study "Holy Resolve – Terror and War Today" in the Sunday morning adult Bible class in September. This study explores what the Bible says about war, justice and peace and what God calls us to do. Study guides will be provided.

## LWML Gets Together Again

All ladies of Good Shepherd are invited to the LWML meeting Sept. 7 at 7:00 PM. The program will be a speaker from the Immanuel St. Joseph Hospital auxiliary, followed by a short business meeting with refreshments. Please visit and enjoy fellowship with other Good Shepherd women!

## Missionary News

The latest newsletter from Dr. Steve and Julie Lutz, medical missionaries in Papua New Guinea is posted on the bulletin board. The Lutz's visited Good Shepherd while on furlough in 2004. They had planned to be on furlough again now but have deferred it due to many ongoing activities. One described in the newsletter is work by native people to build an air strip in a remote jungle area.

## Back to Sunday Class Sept. 11

Sept. 12 is "Education Celebration Sunday", celebrating the resumption of Sunday and midweek Bible classes and Little Lambs Preschool and the beginning of Good Shepherd Lutheran School Kindergarten.

Mrs. Alice Brase will be installed as our school teacher in the 10:30 AM service. In each service, other teachers present will be recognized and commissioned. Students in grades 5 & 6 will be invited forward to receive Bibles they will use in the midweek class.

Bible classes for ages 3 through adult will begin at 9:15 AM after fellowship time and refreshments. Children will begin studying the kings and prophets of the Old Testament. They will learn about Jesus' life and ministry through the winter.

High School students begin with a study about challenges of our culture called "Solid Truth"

## School Starts at Good Shepherd

Good Shepherd Lutheran School Kindergarten begins with opening chapel Tues., Sept. 6, 8:20 PM. The class day is 8:10 AM to 2:20 PM. Six students are fully enrolled as this is written, with more welcome and possible. Mrs. Brase, the teacher, has prepared the room – next to

the Pastor's office. Come and take a look Sunday morning or during the week before or after school starts.

Little Lambs Preschool begins Mon., Sept. 12. Morning sessions, are 9 AM to 11:30 PM, MWF or TTh. Afternoon sessions, new this year, are 12:30 to 3 PM, MWF. The preschool began in 2001 with 8 students. As this is written, 38 are signed up so far for the 3 sessions this year.

School chapel will be held each Wed. at 9:45 AM. Guests are welcome. The kindergarten class has already accepted an invitation to visit and sing at the North Point retirement home (next door) on Sept. 12.

## Remember the K.I.D.S.

K.I.D.S. (Kids Into Discipleship and Stewardship) is a fun and educational program where children can buy 25 cent and \$10 savings stamps just before Sunday Bible Classes from Krista Warner in the narthex.

Completed stamp books are sent to LCEF, creating savings accounts in each child's name. K.I.D.S. teaches the importance of saving while furthering the Lord's work. "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them" Luke 18:16.

## Weekday Eve Classes Start

FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADERS will study Bible history at 7:00 PM on Wednesday evenings, taught by Kathy Taylor. They will get an overview of Old and New Testament Bible stories in two years and will also work on memorizing parts of the catechism in preparation for the Catechism class.

SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADERS will study the Catechism during two years, taught by Pastor Becker. All are welcome. If you know of students who have not participated before but may be interested, please contact Pastor Becker.

AN ADULT BIBLE STUDY on basic Bible teachings meets Mondays at 7 PM. This class will prepare non-members for joining Good Shepherd and is also an excellent review for long-time members. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Pastor Becker soon.

## Where Did They All Go?

Parents of college students, if you know your students school address, e-mail, etc., please call or leave a message with the church office so that we can keep track of where are members are and keep in touch. Information will be shared with our campus ministry providers.

## Bulletins from the Boards

The SCHOOL BOARD met Thurs., Aug. 4. Details of the call document for Alice Brase were decided. Annual approval of a housing allowance was made. The Kindergarten school calendar was approved. Reading and math curriculum will be purchased. Financial aid and fund development was discussed.

At the SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING, Sun., Aug. 7, proceeding with the building program was approved by ballot vote, 33 to 13. Calling Mrs. Alice Brase as Kindergarten teacher was approved by a ballot vote of 38 to 7. (A 2/3 vote was required.)

## All Around the Neighborhood

### Social and Sale at Courtland

Enjoy an ice cream social and bake sale, Wed., Sept. 14, 4:30 to 8 PM at Immanuel Lutheran Church, rural Courtland (3 mi. E. on Co. Rd. 25) The menu includes Barbeques, ham sandwiches, baked beans, chips, pie, cake, ice cream and beverages. Funds are supplemented by Thrivent.

### Chief's Challenge at Good Thunder

The annual Chief's Challenge Run is Sat., Sept. 24, starting at 9:15 AM at St. John Lutheran Church and School, Good Thunder. There is a 10K course for runners and a 2 mile run/walk.

Register in advance or on race day between 7:30 and 8:45 AM. The first 200 runners registering by Sept. 5 receive a shirt. There is a free will donation or \$10 per runner on race day to support education programs at St. John. There are awards for winners.

For more information see pastor Becker for a brochure or call mark at 340-7041 or Tracy at 278-3635.

### VINE Faith in Action

A garage sale at VINE, 1618 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Mankato, is Fri. Sept. 9, 3 – 7 PM and Sat., Sept. 10, 8 AM – Noon. Good quality donations are accepted Sept. 1 – 7, 8 AM to 4:30 PM.

Dad's Belgian Waffles are being served to benefit VINE, Sun. Sept. 11, 8 AM to 12:30 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church, 511 S. 5<sup>th</sup> St., St. Peter. Tickets are \$6 in advance, \$7 at the door, children under 5 free.

A free health check up for older adults is offered Wed., Sept. 21, Mon, Oct. 3 and 11 at VINE. Call 387-1666 for a

reservation and to get a ride if needed.

A Caregiver Support Group meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Wed. of each month. Caregiver Education, Wed. Sept. 14, 1:30 – 3 PM is "What you can do to prevent falls".

Wheelchair donations are needed by VINE. Walkers, canes, etc. are available to loan to those who need them. New volunteers are always needed at VINE. Call 387-1666 to learn more.

### LutherHostel

LutherHostel is a learning adventure especially for adults age 55 and above who enjoy interacting with others. The program offers a mix of educational events and fun activities on the campus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. It is Sat., Oct. 1 through Tues., Oct 4, with an optional tour of Perry County, MO (birthplace of the LCMS) on Wed., Oct. 5.

"Joy in the Journey" is the 2005 theme. The main presenter is Rev. Thomas Zehnder, former missionary to Japan and president emeritus of the Florida Georgia District LCMS.

The cost is \$150 per person for all class materials and scheduled social events and an additional \$150 for meals and refreshments. Lodging is in addition, available on campus or in nearby hotels. See Pastor Becker for a brochure with full information.

## Golf for Habitat For Humanity

The annual Hoffrogge Golf Tournament to benefit Mankato Habitat for Humanity is Sept. 12 at north Links. For \$75 you can enjoy lunch, dinner, an afternoon of golf and possible prizes. Pick up an application at the Habitat Office, 512 Mulberry, or Hoffrogge Development Co., 724 Madison Ave..

## Riverblenders Guest Night

The Mankato Riverblenders Barbershop Chorus sang at our church earlier this summer. They invite men of the area to "come sing with us" at a guest night, Tues., Sept. 13, 7:17 PM at First Lutheran Church, 1114 Traverse Rd., St. Peter. For more information, call Bruce Gray at 934-2372.

## NAMI Family to Family Course

The national Alliance for Mental Illness in Mankato offers a free course to family members or caregivers who have an adult loved one who suffers from a serious and persistent mental illness. Classes are about 2 ½ hours on Monday nights for 12 weeks, Sept. 12 to Nov. 18 at the St. Peter Community Center. Trained family members will share from their own experience how to better understand, cope and help. Call Julie Soper at 317-3595.

## LHM Volunteer Mission Trips

Are you interested in making a difference in Thailand, Kenya, Brazil, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Cambodia, Vietnam, Russia, Latvia, Slovakia, Lebanon, or Madagascar? Lutheran Hour Ministries is planning short-term volunteer trips during the next 18 months to all these countries through its Global Work & Witness trips.

If you are looking for a way to share your faith and are willing to work hard while doing so, a Global Work & Witness trip is just right for you. Many opportunities are available to share personal testimony with local people while working alongside them on projects such as in evangelism, building projects, vacation Bible school, children's events, medical clinics, and much more. With more than 40 ministry centers worldwide, LHM provides many ways to discover how God uses ordinary people to make an extraordinary difference.

In Thailand, for example, Global Work & Witness is building boats for fishermen who have had their livelihood decimated by last December's tsunami. Local Thai Lutheran volunteers are helping to build 20 boats, but three American teams are needed to help build another 15 boats.

In Brazil, LHM ministry along with Global Work & Witness, is helping a local Lutheran church renovate a

training center. The facility allows the church to teach young people from the slums real-life work skills that help them get jobs.

*A Life-Changing Experience* - For volunteers, a Global Work & Witness trip often has a significant impact on their lives. The countries where LHM has ministry centers have distinctly different cultures. Volunteers get an insight into that country, which expands their way of looking at people, and often get the chance to visit local congregations and schools. Time is also set aside for some sightseeing and shopping.

*Help Form a Team* - More than 1,200 people have discovered the power of simple service through Global Work & Witness trips. You may know of others who would like to participate in Global Work & Witness - it may be a team from your congregation, school, youth group, or even a group of friends (LHM prefers that people register as a team, not as individuals). Teams of 10-20 people usually travel for two weeks and are responsible for the cost of their own transportation and field expenses. They also contribute toward the purchase of materials needed for the project.

More information about this program is available at [www.lhm.org/globalmission](http://www.lhm.org/globalmission), by calling us at 1-800-944-3450, ext. 4168, or by sending an e-mail to [GlobalMission@lhmint.org](mailto:GlobalMission@lhmint.org).

# What's the Difference?

*This is the fifth 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.*

The fifth commandment, "You shall not murder", is probably the most universally recognized laws of God among the religions of the world, yet there are still some differences in understanding of what this means.

The King James Version translation is "You shall not kill." A few take this to mean that we also should not kill animals, as we do for food. This is not a teaching of either the Christian or Jewish religions, since it is recorded that God said to Noah and his family after the flood, "Everything that lives and moves will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything." (Gen. 9:3).

Some, including Christian groups, take this as a prohibition of capital punishment and of war. God repeatedly makes clear that this is not his intent, from the words in Genesis, "'Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed'" (Gen. 9:6) to Paul's words about the government, "...he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrong doer." (Rom 13:4)

As last month's discussion on the fourth commandment noted, God gives the government authority to wage just war. Repeatedly in the Old Testament, God directly instructs the Israelites to go to war against various enemies to defend themselves. Without a direct command from God, however, it remains difficult to discern which wars are truly just and acts of defense and which may be based more on our own sinful desires.

Within the last half century, a new disagreement has arisen about this commandment, and that is whether it applies to abortion and euthanasia.

A basic principal is that we have no individual right to decide for ourselves who should live or die, even ourselves. God says, "You are not your own; you were bought at a price." (1 Cor. 6:19-20) God reserves that right to himself and his representatives. He says "There is no god besides me. I put to death and I bring to life," (Deut. 32:39)

A question debated today is whether an unborn child is equal to a living, breathing person. God answers this in verses shortly following the 10 commandments. After prescribing capital punishment for murder, he explains, "'If men who are fighting hit a pregnant woman and she gives birth prematurely but there is no serious injury, the offender must be fined whatever the woman's husband demands and the court allows.

But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life.'" (Exod. 21:22-23) Causing the death of an unborn child is treated the same as murder.

The value God places on an unborn child is described in the Psalms: "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be." (Psal. 139:13-16)

An example of euthanasia is in 2 Sam. 1. A man reports that when Saul was mortally wounded and was dying, he killed him. King David, recognizing this as equal to murder, sentences the man to death. When the jailer in Philippi was in despair and about to kill himself, Paul called out words that apply to us also, "Don't harm yourself" (Acts 16:28)

Lutherans are not as rigid as some others in absolute prohibitions against drinking alcohol or smoking tobacco, but it is true that such things which clearly hurt the health of us or others, including illegal drugs, wrongfully damage and even destroy the life which God has given.

## **Bible Bites**

for eat and run Bible reading  
**September 2005** (series A1,  
C2)

- 1 Prov. 6:1-35; Neh. 1:1 - 2:10
- 2 Prov. 7:1-27; Neh. 2:11 - 3:16
- 3 Psal. 119:25-48

### *Duties of workers*

...obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. (Eph. 6:5-6)

### *Pray for Public Schools*

#### **4 16th Sun. after Pentecost**

- Ezek. 33:7-9; Rom. 13:1-10;  
Matt. 18:15-20
- 5 Prov. 8:1-36; Neh. 3:17-4:23
  - 6 Prov. 2:1-22; 9:1-18  
Neh. 5:1 - 6:14
  - 7 Pr. 10:1-32; Neh. 6:15-7:45
  - 8 Pr. 11:1-31; Neh. 7:46-8:18
  - 9 Prov. 12:1-28; Neh. 9:1-21
  - 10 Psal. 119:49-72

### *The 5th Petition*

**And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

*What does this mean?* We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace. for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

### *Pray for Sunday Bible classes*

#### **11 17th Sun. after Pentecost**

- Gen. 50:15-21; Rom. 14:5-9;  
Matt. 18:21-35
- 12 Prov. 13:1-25; Neh. 9:22-38
  - 13 Prov. 14:1-35; Neh. 10:1-39
  - 14 Prov. 15:1-33; Neh. 11:1-36
  - 15 Holy Cross Day: Is. 45:21-25  
1 Co. 1:18-24; John 12:20-33
  - 16 Prov. 16:133; Neh. 12:1-47
  - 17 Psal. 119:73-96
- Introduction to the Lords Prayer*  
Our Father who art in heaven.  
*What does this mean?* With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.

### *Pray for men's ministry*

#### **18 18th Sun. after Pentecost**

- Is. 55:6-9; Phlp. 1:1-11,19-27  
Matt. 20:1-16
- 19 Prov. 17:1-28; Neh. 13:1-30
  - 20 Prov. 18:1-24; Philemon
  - 21 St. Matthew: Ezek. 2:8-3:11;  
Eph. 2:4-10; Matt. 9:9-13
  - 22 Pr. 19:1-29; 1 Tim. 1:1-2:15
  - 23 Job 1:1-22; 1 Tim. 3:1-4:16
  - 24 Psal. 119:97-120

### *The First Petition*

**Hallowed be Thy name.**

*What does this mean?* God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.

*How is God's name kept holy?*

God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of

God among us. Protect us from  
this heavenly Father!

*Pray for midweek Bible classes*

### **25<sup>19</sup>th Sun. after Pentecost**

Ezek. 18:1-4, 25-32;  
Phil. 2:1-11; Matt. 21:28-  
32  
26 Job 2:1 - 3:26; 1 Tim. 5:1-  
25  
27 Job 4:1 - 5:27; 1 Tim. 6:1-  
21  
28 Job 6:1 - 7:10; Prov. 24:1-  
34  
29 St. Michael and All Angels  
Dn. 10:1-14; 12:1-3;  
Rev. 12:7-12; Luke 10:17-  
20  
30 Job 7:11 - 9:13; Prov. 25:1-  
28

*The 2nd Petition*

#### **Thy kingdom come.**

*What does this mean?* The  
kingdom of God certainly comes by  
itself without our prayer, but we  
pray in this petition that it may  
come to us also.

*How does God's kingdom come?*

God's kingdom comes when our  
heavenly Father gives us His Holy  
Spirit, so that by his grace we  
believe His holy Word and lead  
godly lives here in time and there in  
eternity.

*Pray for ladies societies*

October

1 Psal. 119:121-136

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.

### ***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