

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

Pre-month Newsletter

Church phone # 388-4336
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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

Have Fun With Fellowship Club

The Fellowship Club meets at church Sun., Nov. 20, 7:00 PM, for a fun evening of Bible Trivia. This is a good opportunity to meet new people and visit old friends. All are welcome.

Family League Bowling

The Lutheran Family League invites everyone to enjoy bowling Sun., Nov. 13, 4 – 6 PM at the MSU Student Union (basement). The cost is \$.75 for shoes plus \$1.50 per game. There will be at least one

lane with bumpers. Children are welcome. You can park in any gold permit spot. Call Bobbi Urban if you have questions.

Youth Waffle Brunch Aids Relief

A "Dad's Belgian Waffles" brunch will be served by Good Shepherd and Our Savior Youth on Sun., Nov. 6 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 1103 North Broad St., Mankato. Cost is \$5 per person. Ages 5 & under eat free.

All proceeds support hurricane stricken churches in Alabama, helped through our district. For more information, call Deb at 245-3206.

Sunday Specials

Nov. 6 is All Saints Sunday. We will remember congregation members received into God's glory during the past year.

Nov. 13, Veterans will be remembered and recognized in our worship.

Nov. 20, Lutheran World Relief Sunday will be observed, throughout our Synod.

Nov. 27 is the beginning of Advent, a season in which we prepare our hearts for God's coming to us in a special way.

The first Wednesday Advent service is 7 PM on Nov. 30. This year's messages will be narrative sermons about "A Quiet Week in Bethlehem"

Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Good Shepherd's Thanksgiving Worship will be Wed., Nov. 23 at 7:00 PM. The service will include Holy Communion, with a special "Hymn Setting" of liturgy for Thanksgiving.

Treasurer Reports

Our congregation treasurer shared these comments with the congregation on Sun., Oct. 16.

"As you review your (October Midmonth) newsletter, let me have you focus in on two highlights in the Treasurers Report. First of all our Current Account has received contributions this year totally \$72,000 dollars. We however, have spent \$114,000 dollars; leaving us \$42,000 in the red. Meanwhile our Debt Account has received \$27,000 dollars ; while we have spent \$77,000 dollars adding to our deficit by another \$50,000 dollars.

These two accounts do not include any special contributions, such as our Missions, Sanctuary, School or Memorials. The expenses paid from these two accounts are all budgeted items such as utilities, salaries, insurance , and educational material , not to mention the monthly mortgage payment.

So you might ask, how are we able to write checks for these expenses? By borrowing from ourselves. Monies from our other Special Funds has allowed us keep going, but this is not fair to those funds, and

we need to change the tide around.

Yes; I think we can turn the financials around! The \$92,000 dollars is not a small amount, by no means. Yet how has God truly blessed this congregation? He blessed each of us individually. He continues to provide us avenues to share those blessings. He continues to provide us avenues to express our faith, and show His love.

If you remember when we started our Preschool, we had a handful of pictures on the wall. Walking down the education wing today we have both sides of the hallway lined with smiling faces. Planning for 2006 has the school with not only the faces you see, but supporting a waiting list for additional classes to be added. Just imagine what lies ahead for our kindergarten !

Anyone is welcome to stop by the Church during the week and see the work being done. Hear the voices and laughter of the children, the energy present in the rooms and hallways, the learning taking place. Let's catch something infectious, other than the routine cold or flu."

Lynn Schwarz, Treasurer

Help With Breakfast

We have an opportunity to raise funds for our school program by serving an omelet breakfast at Ray's Market. We would need 3 to 4 volunteers to make toast and clean up. If you could help, speak to Sue Schwarz or another member of the Lutheran School Boosters or School Board.

K.I.D.S. Savings Update

Since Sunday classes begin this fall, we have 12 new savers! It's great to see new faces on Sunday mornings, using savings stamps to invest in the Lutheran Church Extension Fund. All K.I.D.S. stamp savers have saved a total of \$172 this fall. Great job and keep saving! To get stamps, see Christa Warner in the narthex between the first service and Sunday Bible classes.

Nominating Committee Meets

A nominating committee will meet Tues, Nov. 9, 6:00 PM to prepare a slate of candidates for election at the voters' meeting in December. This committee consists of outgoing church council members. This includes President Dave Wintheiser, who chairs it, Lynn and Sue Schwarz, Billy and Peggy Pomeranke, Lyle Olson, Dorothy Nase, Floyd Backstrom, Linda Schwager, Bob Maschke, Greg Rosevold, Roger Mielke

Positions up for election include Vice President, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Director of Music, Chief Usher, Members of the Boards of Elders, Education, Evangelism, Trustees and Finance, and Sunday School Superintendent.

If you want to volunteer or suggest someone for office or have any questions, please contact Dave Wintheiser or the church office.

Building Update

Latest Developments in the sanctuary building project are (first the bad news) KOY Architects, with whom we have been working, are going out of business, but (then the good news) the project is being transferred to the RL Engebretson firm which now includes Eric Oleson, the architect we started with, who designed our project. He has met with the subcontractors and work will begin soon.

Thanks from the Heart

Thank you to all those who donated and worked at Good Shepherd's first Red Cross blood drive in November. Our goal was 35 and 40 people came to donate.

Scrip Success

Scrip orders have already netted \$160.60 for our school. Thank you to all who ordered. The next order goes in Nov. 13. A list of stores and order forms are on the table by the mailboxes. Put the order with your payment in the box of Lynn and Sue Schwarz. A complete list of available scrip is on line at www.glscrip.com, or call Sue at 388-3442.

THANK YOU to Ashley Schendel, Trevor & Marla Kontak, Jacob, Alison & Kevin Briggs, Jennifer & Darla Brase, and Scott & Kathy Taylor for all their help in serving the noon lunch at the Salvation Army on October 23.

Help with Hurricane Relief

Hurricane relief is being provided through our district through Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fairhope, AL. A truck will be parked at Good Shepherd Tues., Nov. 8, 9 AM-5 PM to collect donated supplies from area churches, including: toiletries of all kinds, sheets, blankets, food supplies, towels, pillows and socks. If you can donate any of these items or cash, you can bring them on that day or place them before hand in the box under the table by the office.

CHOIR has begun preparing music for Advent and Christmas. All are welcome.

All Around the Neighborhood:

Craft Sale at Good Thunder

A craft sale and Bazaar at St. John Lutheran, Good Thunder, is Sat., Nov. 5, 10 AM – 6 PM and Sun., Nov. 6, 10 AM – 4 PM. Lunch will be available along with baked goods, crafts, books, gifts, cookbooks, cards, calendars, candles, collectibles and outdoor décor.

Can We Know God?

A debate of atheism vs. Christianity will be Thurs., Nov. 4, 7 – 8 PM at the MSU student union ballroom, sponsored by Intersivity Christian Fellowship.

Eclectic Concert

Minnesota Valley Chorale presents choral classics by J.S. Bach and Dietrich Buxtehude and American spirituals on Sat., Nov. 5, 8 PM at Christ the King Lutheran and Sun., Nov. 6, 3 PM at Grace Lutheran, Mankato. Tickets are \$10 at the door, students half price.

Health Care Talk

Conversations on advance care planning and advance directives is the theme of the seminar "Isn't It Time We Talk?", sponsored by ISJ Hospice on Mon, Nov. 14, 6 – 7:30 PM at the Madison East Center Community Room. People are encouraged to discuss with their family and healthcare providers the care they want when they cannot speak for themselves.

Ken Tate Anniversary

Ken Tate, remembered as an organist and choir director at Good Shepherd, is celebrating 40 years as a church musician. He plans to record a CD of his favorite piano and organ music used for worship service, which should be available within a few months. Ken can be reached 2268 Northridge Dr., North Mankato, phone # 388-3963, e-mail: kennaud@hickorytech.net.

Ken has served at Trinity Lutheran, Walnut Grove, Grace Lutheran and Good Shepherd Lutheran in Mankato. He currently serves at First Presbyterian Church, Mankato. He chartered the Sioux Trails Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and served as chapter Dean for several years.

Hurricane Relief Benefit at Bethany

Students at Bethany Lutheran College are presenting a hurricane relief benefit on Sun., Nov. 6, 4 – 7 PM at the Country Inn and Suites, 1900 Premier Drive, Mankato. There a live and silent Auction, bake sale, food, entertainment, and babysitting. Babysitting will be available 3:30 – 7 PM for those participating in the event or those who want to go shopping.

See “The Miracle Worker”

Bethany Lutheran College Theatre department presents “The Miracle Worker”, a touching play about Helen Keller and her teacher, Annie Sullivan. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays, Nov. 11, 12, 18 and 19 at 7:30 PM, and Sun., Nov. 13 at 2 PM. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children, students and seniors. To reserve tickets, call 344-7374 (M – F, 1 – 5 PM).

Holiday Grief Program

A seminar on Grief and the Holidays will be sponsored by the ISJ Hospice Program Mon, Nov. 7, 1 – 2:30 PM and again Tues., Nov. 15, 6 – 7:30 PM at Christ the King Lutheran Church, Mankato. The seminar will explore grief issues, ways to help those who are grieving and offer suggestions for new ways to enjoy the holiday season. If you have questions, call Monica at 385-2618.

Elegant Evening

Mankato Habitat for Humanity presents “An Evening of Elegance” benefit holiday dinner Tues., Nov. 15 at the Mankato Golf Club. Hors D’oeuvres will be served for the social hour, starting at 6:30 PM. The Dinner at 7:30 PM offers a choice of grilled flat iron steak or seared Alaskan Halibut plus a special desert. A silent auction and caring tree will follow until 9:15 PM. The cost is \$80 per person (\$50 tax deductible). Make a reservation by contacting Sally Coomes at 625-9279.

Point of Truth Program on Web

“Point of Truth” is a half hour television worship program produced by the LCMS. It can be seen on DIRECTV, the Church’s Channel, 371 at 2 PM Sundays and on that channels’ web site www.churchchannel.org. During Oct. 30 through Dec. 18 Dr. John Nunes will deliver insightful sermons on the call to share the Good News of Christ with all people. The episodes re designed to teach Christians to share their faith with the unchurched in a specific setting or to witness to a specific category of people. Learn more at www.pointoftruth.com.

Thanksgiving Baskets

ECHO Food Shelf will provide Thanksgiving food baskets for families in need who live in Blue Earth County and North Mankato. Families may

sign up at the food shelf, 614 N. 2nd St., Nov. 14–18, 1:30–4 PM.

Contribute toward the food baskets by sending checks to ECHO Food Shelf, P.O. Box 3212, Mankato, MN 56001. \$16 pays for one basket but any donation is welcome.

Good Shepherd members can leave donations for the food shelf in the boxes by the water fountain in the narthex.

Look for Life on Line

Log on to *Notes for Life*, the latest e-newsletter from LCMS World Relief and Human Care! Go to <http://www.lcms.org/graphics/assets/media/WRHC/NotesforLife%20I-1.pdf>. This quarterly newsletter from the Life Ministries division includes in-depth discussion and helpful resources by noted scientists and theologians, and tackles tough questions surrounding the sanctity of human life. Each issue concentrates on a particular life topic, such as end-of-life issues or unplanned pregnancy care.

The first issue sorts through complex bioethical questions about the lives of humans designed “in the image of God”. Subscribe via LCMS e-News, to receive future issues.

What's the Difference?

This is the seventh 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.

There is little disagreement about the meaning of God's clear commandment, "You shall not steal".

A few church groups, believing that Christians should have no private property at all, have practiced communal living. They have pointed to the practice described in the Book of Acts, "No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had." (Acts 4:32). First, they make the common mistake of misunderstanding a description of what some believers did as a prescription for all believers to follow. Second, they disregard what Peter says to one who sold his land to donate it, "Didn't it belong to you before it was sold And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal?" (Acts 5:4). This shows they did still have private property.

Each of the ten commandments protects something good God has given us. The seventh commandment protects personal possessions. God does want us to have possessions and so wants to protect me and my neighbor from losing them.

As with life itself, it is because God is the giver of all we have that we are to respect

what he has chosen to give to others and we are also responsible to him for how we use what he has given to us. Everything in the world belongs to God and we are simply his managers, using what he entrusts to us in ways that that he wants. We are reminded by a scripture commonly heard at Thanksgiving time, "You may say to yourself, 'My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.' But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth," (Deut. 8:17-18a)

Paul writes, "He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need." Here we learn both how God intends us to get what we have, that is by earning it, and also how God intends for our neighbor to have what they need, that is by our sharing with them.

The child of God recognizes that here are many ways of "stealing" that are not necessarily illegal. "One who is slack in his work is brother to one who destroys." (Prov. 18:9). Being careless or lazy is equal to stealing what we may appear to have earned.

A clear and complete understanding of this commandment is what leads the Christian to be a good steward of the environment and natural resources. When God told Adam, "fill the earth and subdue it." (Gen. 1:28a) he did not intend for him to use it selfishly and ruin it but to take

good care of it so that it remained "very good" for the future generations that are implied in God's command. Even if we have worked hard for the many luxuries we enjoy, the high demand our consumer culture places on the earth's resources can end up "stealing" them from the disadvantaged and poor around the world today who can no longer afford them and from future generations who pay the price of depleted resources and pollution.

The fulfillment of this commandment includes contentment with what God has chosen to give us and care for our neighbor also.

Bible Bites

for eat and run Bible reading

November 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 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 5:24-29
- 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

6 3rd Last Sun. of Church

Year

- Job 14:1-6 or Mal. 2:12-2, 4-10;
1 Thes. 3:11-13 or 1 Th. 2:8-13;
Matt. 24:15-28 or Matt. 23:1-12
- 7 Job 36:22-37:24; Luke 21:1-38
- 8 Job 38:1-41; Luke 22:1-46
- 9 Job 39:1-30; Luke 22:47-23:12
- 10 Job 40:1-24; Luke 23:13-49
- 11 Job 41:1-34; Luke 23:50-24:27
- 12 Psal. 90:1-17

The Sixth Petition

And lead us not into temptation.

What does this mean?

God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

Pray for world peace

13 2nd Last Sun. of Church

Year

- Jer. 25:30-32 or Jer. 26:1-6;
1 Thes. 1:3-10 or 1 Th. 3:7-13;
Matt. 25:31-46 or Matt 24:1-14
- 14 Job 42:1-17; Luke 24:28-53
- 15 1 Th. 1:1 - 2:20; Malachi 1:1-14
- 16 1 Th. 3:1 - 4:12; Malachi 2:1-17
- 17 1 Th. 4:13-5:28; Malachi 3:1-18
- 18 Matt. 19:1-30; Malachi 4:1-6
- 19 Psal. 80:1-19

Lord's Prayer Doxology

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

What does this mean? This means that I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven, and are heard by Him; for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us. Amen, amen means "yes, yes, it shall be so."

Pray for World Relief

20 Last Sunday/ Fulfillment

- Isa. 65:17-25 or
Ezek. 34:11-16, 23-24;
2 Pt. 3:3-4, 8-10a, 13
or 1 Co. 15:20-28;
Matt. 25:1-13 or Matt. 25:31-46
- 21 Matt. 20:1-34; 2 Th. 1:1 - 2:12
- 22 Matt. 21:1-27; 2 Th. 2:13 - 3:18
- 23 Matt. 21:28-22:14; Pr. 26:1-28
- 24 Thanksgiving Day
Deut 8:1-10; Philip. 4:6-20 or
1 Tim. 2:1-14; Luke 17:11-19
- 25 Matt. 22:15 - 46; Prov. 27:1-27
- 26 Psal. 130:1 - 131:3

The Seventh Petition

But deliver us from evil.

What does this mean?

We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.

Pray for the poor, abused and homeless

27 1st Sunday in Advent

- Isa. 63:16b-17; 64:1-8;
1 Co. 1:3-9;
Mark 13:33-37 or Mark 11:1-10
- 28 Matt. 23:1-36; Prov. 28:1-28
- 29 Matt. 23:37-24:28; Pr. 29:1-27
- 30 St. Andrew. Apostle
Ezek. 3:16-21; Rom. 10:1-18;
John 1:35-42

DECEMBER

- 1 Mt. 24:29-25:13; Prov. 31:1-31
- 2 Matt. 25:14-46; Isa. 1:1-31
- 3 Psal. 38:1-22

What is Confession?

Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

Pray for the Board of Elders