

*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**

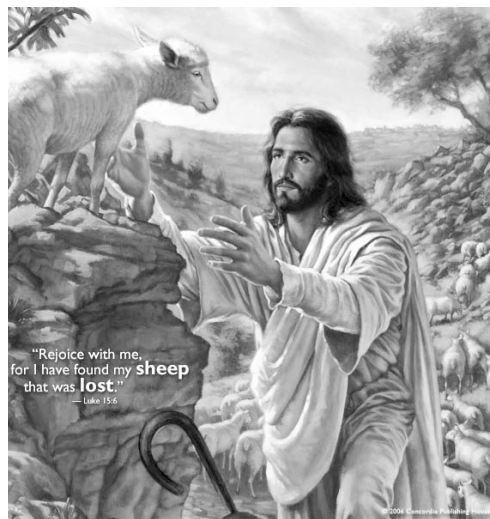
### **MAY 2006**

Pre-month Newsletter

Church phone # 388-4336  
e-mail: [goodshepherd57@juno.com](mailto:goodshepherd57@juno.com)  
web: [www.goodshepherdmankato.org](http://www.goodshepherdmankato.org)

**Our Shepherd's Staff:** Pastor Vance Becker  
Preschool: Tracy Mielke, Kindergarten: Alice Brase  
Elementary: Linda Becker

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



### **May 7 - Family Fun on Wheels**

All ages are invited to join with the Lutheran Family League to enjoy bicycle riding on Sun., May 7. Meet at 3:30 PM at the Gary Urban home, 337 Blue Earth St.. After some riding on the Red Jacket Trail the group will go to eat at T.J. Finnegans.

### **One Service for the Summer**

Sunday worship will be at 9:00 AM starting May 28. The adult Bible class will continue to meet but other Sunday classes will end until fall.

### **Fellowship Club Fun by the Yard**

Fellowship Club meets at church Sun., May 22, 7 PM to enjoy croquet and bocce ball on the lawn. Afterward we will pick favorite hymns for a hymn sing and enjoy refreshments around an outdoor fire. Bring marshmallow toasting sticks if you have them. There will also be a short meeting. All are welcome to join in the fun.

### **Ascension Day Arial Activities**

Ascension Day is Thurs., May 25, 40 days after Easter. We will celebrate it with

worship at 7 PM. This service, which is also the pre-Memorial Day midweek worship, will include Holy Communion with a liturgy sung to familiar hymn tunes.

Everyone is invited to come fly a kite on the church lawn any time between 3 and 6 PM. Wind is almost guaranteed. If you don't have a kite, the church has some for you to use.

At 6 PM, the Key City Bald Eagles model airplane club has been invited again to do a mini air show over the our field. Invite your friends.

The next midweek worship and communion is Wed., June 28, before the Independence Day weekend.

## Sunday School Closing Program

Sun, May 21, at 9:15 AM, children and youth in the Sunday school program will present a program of songs and presentations based on what they have learned. All are invited.

Sunday classes for children and youth will not meet during the summer, until Sept. 10.

## Baccalaureate Service

High School and College graduates will be honored during worship on Sun., May 28. Students are invited to wear their gowns, if they have them, and sit as a group in the front. Please write a note or phone a message for Pastor Becker giving your name, parents' names, school, and post-graduation plans.

## National Day of Prayer: May 4

In 1982 Congress made the first Thursday in May the National Day of Prayer. This year, this is May 4. You are invited to pray for our country in two ways.

In the rack by the church mailboxes is a Lutheran Prayer Resource for the National Day of Prayer. You may take a copy to use for personal prayer.

All are invited to an informal time of prayer at Good Shepherd May 4, 6 PM. We will spend about half an hour praying together for our nation.

## Ladies Make May Visits

The LWML will visit with shut-in members and deliver May baskets Tues., May 2. All ladies of the congregation are invited to join them. Meet at the church at 6:00 PM (Note the earlier start time). The ladies will return the church around 8 PM for a short business meeting and refreshments.

## Camp Omega Comes to Town

The fun and blessings of Camp Omega Day Camp are returning to Mankato this summer, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM (Noon Fri.) June 26 – 30, at Hosanna Lutheran Church. Students entering 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades are invited to spend a week "Beyond Borders" in Scripture, songs, crafts and games with trained counselors from camp, including a special "field day to the camp itself, which is just outside Waterville.

Get a registration packet from the table by the office and sign right away. The completed health and permission forms and the registration fee, which is \$60, can be returned to Pastor Becker or to Hosanna. Only 40 students can be included. If a child brings a friend who is not from a sponsoring church, both get at \$10 discount!

Volunteer drivers or snack providers and host homes for the counselors are also needed. If you are interested in helping, pick up a Day Camp packet or see Pastor Becker.

## Support the School with Scrip

Spring is here. It is time for those new home and garden projects, fishing trips and Mothers' Day. Be prepared with pre-purchased scrip. These cards are used like cash and return a percentage to our school when used at local merchants. We are able to get scrip for Bath and Body Works (18% return), Menards (4%), Home Depot (3%), Gander Mountain (8%), Pier 1 (9%) and more. A full list is by the church mailboxes or can be seen online at [www.glscrip.com](http://www.glscrip.com). Orders can be given to Sue Schwarz or put in her mailbox.

## Now Available: The Fire and The Staff

The Fire and the Staff is a new book by Rev. Klemet Preus, published by CPH, which is one of those books every Lutheran should read. Pastor Preus explains how Lutheran doctrine is like the fire to light your way and warm you, and how it is tightly knit together with church practice which guides and leads you to follow the biblical truths of doctrine.

Many have already enjoyed this very readable book and recommended it to others. You can look at a copy of it on the table by the church office. Now you can get this \$26.99 book for just \$20 until May 14. Just sign up on the poster by the church office or see Wanda Schwarz. Write your check payable to Good Shepherd and give it to Wanda or put it in her mailbox.

## Thanks for Coming to Supper

The 2006 Lenten Soup and Sandwich Suppers took in a free-will offering total of \$998.50 from those attending. Good Shepherd's LWML wishes to thank everyone who attended and supported missions! This mission money will be distributed next December to a variety of worthy organizations, including our own Good Shepherd youth group. Also, thank you to those who brought bars and deserts or those who worked at the suppers. It was greatly appreciated.

## Sorting Facts and Fiction

Have you heard of the Da Vinci Code and the Gospel of Judas? Both claim to reveal hidden truths about Jesus which are quite different from the truth in the Bible. Both also have in common a revival of an ancient heresy based on Greek dualistic philosophy called Gnosticism. If you are interested in learning more about the real facts of history hidden behind these two fictional writings, pick up one of the fact sheets from the periodical rack by the mailboxes. There is one on "The Da Vinci Code" and one on the "Gospel of Judas".

**SIGN UP** to help with **lawn care** on the table by the office

FUNDRAISERS for our preschool and kindergarten include mail in inkjet recycling and collecting HyVee receipts, "Milk Moola" coupons, Boxtops for Education and Campbells soup labels. See the cart by the church office.

## LCEF & Laborers for Christ = Growth

Laborers for Christ is now joined as part of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund. Both work at helping build others up and building up the church. Laborers for Christ are dedicated Christian men and women who volunteer a portion of their retirement time to help our LCMS churches and schools reduce their construction cost. Have you looked into joining the LFC team? Call 1-800-843-5233 (1-800-THE-LCEF) or talk to Roger Mielke or Pastor Becker. "By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it." 1 Cor. 3:10

## Sanctuary Building Progress

Electrical wiring, insulation and exterior siding are being worked on in the new sanctuary. More framing and ductwork is to be completed before drywall and the wood on the ceiling. A completion date has not been set but the target is the end of June.

## All Around the Neighborhood

### Understand Grief

A supportive gathering for those grieving the loss of a loved one is Thurs., May 18, 5:00 – 6:30 PM at Bethlehem Lutheran, 720 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Mankato. There is no charge for this seminar but pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, call Diana Carrigan at 385-2989. The program is sponsored by Immanuel St. Joseph's Hospice.

### Honor Mothers with Theresa House

Send your mom, wife, daughter, grandmother, sister or any other special person a unique greeting on Mothers' Day. When you make a monetary contribution to the Theresa House shelter, they will send the person you designate a custom Mothers' Day card specially designed by one of the children of Theresa House. Your contribution helps provide stable housing for women and children who seek refuge at Theresa House. All gifts are tax deductible. Call Theresa House at 3-88-1664.

# Our Way of Worship

*This is the second part of worship and music guidelines, approved by the Board of Elders and pending approval by the Church Council. If you have questions, comments or suggestions, please speak to an elder or Pastor Becker.*

## **4. Worship should be uplifting.**

a. The uplifting power of worship music should come primarily from the meaning of the message in the words rather than simply from the musical style.

b. The message should not focus on a person's own feelings, thoughts or actions, but on God's attitudes and actions, which are the source of uplifting power.

c. Through the content and form of the worship, people should experience positive change. This is first of all a change of heart in repentance and faith. This happens when the impact of the law makes them conscious of their sin and then the renewing power of the gospel reaffirms their faith in God's grace.

d. The tone of the musical accompaniment should fit well with the theme of the words. Music that provokes a strong physical response (such as through backbeat), or that is associated with non-Christian settings tends to distract from the message of the words and should be avoided.

## **5. Worship should include variety.**

a. It is important that each service of worship include the whole message of God, with a proper balance of law and gospel. Elements of worship should include a good balance of instruction, comfort, praise, intercession, encouragement, etc.. The primary focus should be on what God has done for us through Jesus Christ.

b. Songs and other worship elements should be chosen with the first consideration given to the message they contain. The musical style should fit the message. The instrument(s) used to accompany it should fit the style of music.

c. Worship should cause people to grow and learn, including both simple elements for those who are young or new in the faith and also challenging elements to help those who are more advanced to keep growing.

d. All music and other elements of worship should be as high quality as is available. Songs, etc. should not be the type one easily gets tired of but the type that will continue to be used over the years as an aid in holding on to the gospel message.

e. Through repetition, good new elements of worship should be taught and ancient treasures of worship preserved.

f. When changes are being considered, the meaning of old forms should first be well understood and the corresponding meaning and implications of the new forms evaluated so that the overall

effect of the change can be carefully considered.

## **6. Worship should be done decently and in order.**

a. The special parts of each service of worship should fit with a unified theme for the occasion so that the main message is clear.

b. Both members and guests are helped to worship by knowing what to expect. A regular pattern of worship, common to all services of the congregation and to sister congregations, will help them worship with confidence.

c. The pastor, along with the elders, is responsible for spiritual leadership in the congregation and is to have overall supervision of the services of worship.

d. The congregation must abide by the conditions of membership in the LC-MS, including "Exclusive use of doctrinally pure agenda, hymnbooks, and catechisms in church and school." (LC-MS Constitution, Article VI, Par. 4)

e. All printed or recorded material used in worship must be used legally, respecting copyright regulations.

## **Bible Bites**

...for eat and run Bible reading

### **May 2006** (series B1, A2)

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. *In each reading, pick a memorable verse for yourself.*

## **Let us Pray...**

...For all people according to their needs. Each week our prayers during worship include special groups. Please also remember them in your daily prayers.

## **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 St. Philip & James, Apostles  
Isa. 30:18-21; 2 Cor. 4:1-6;  
John 14:8-14
- 2 2 & 3 John; 1 Kg. 8:1-21
- 3 Num. 13:1-33; 1 Kg. 8:22-53
- 4 Num. 14:1-25; 1 Kg. 8:54 -  
9:9
- 5 Num. 14:26-45;  
1 Kg. 9:10 - 10:13
- 6 Psal. 22:1-24

### *The 8th Commandment*

#### **You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.**

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

*Pray for Broken homes*

### **7 4th Sun. of Easter**

- Acts 4:23-33; 1 Jn 3:1-2;  
John 10:11-18
- 8 Num. 15:1-41;  
1 Kg. 10:14 - 11:13
  - 9 Num. 16:1-40; 1 Kg. 11:14-43
  - 10 Num. 16:41 - 17:13  
1 Kg. 12:1-24
  - 11 Num. 18:1-24  
1 Kg. 12:25 - 13:10
  - 12 Num. 18:25 - 19:22  
1 Kg. 13:11-34
  - 13 Psal. 22:25-31

### *The 9th Commandment*

#### **You shall not covet your neighbor's house.**

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

*Pray for mothers and the homebound.*

### **14 5th Sun. of Easter**

- Acts 8:26-40; 1 Jn 3:18-24;  
John 15:1-8
- 15 Num. 20:1-29; 1 Kg. 14:1-31
  - 16 Num. 21:1-35; 1 Kg. 15:1-24
  - 17 Num. 22:1-40  
1 Kg. 15:25 - 16:20
  - 18 Num. 22:41 - 23:26  
1 Kg. 16:21 - 17:16
  - 19 Num. 23:27 - 24:25  
1 Kg. 17:17 - 18:19
  - 20 Psal. 66:1-20

### *3<sup>rd</sup> Article meaning "a"*

#### **I believe in the Holy Spirit**

What does this mean? I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

*Pray for those in the military and for non-resident church members.*

### **21 6th Sun. of Easter**

- Acts 11:19-30; 1 Jn 4:1-11;  
John 15:9-17
- 22 Num. 25:1 - 26:18;  
1 Kg. 18:20-46
  - 23 Num. 26:19-65; 1 Kg. 19:1-  
21
  - 24 Num. 27:1-23; 1 Kg. 20:1-22
  - 25 Ascension of our Lord  
Acts 1:1-11; Eph. 1:16-23;  
Luke 24:44-53
  - 26 1 Jn. 1:1 - 2:23; 1 Kg. 20:23-  
43
  - 27 Psal. 9:1-20

### *3<sup>rd</sup> Article meaning "b"*

#### **[I believe in ...] the Holy Christian Church, the communion of Saints..**

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

*Pray for workers in agricultural industries.*

### **28 7th Sun. of Easter**

- Acts 1:15-26; 1 Jn. 4:13-21;  
John 17:11b-19
- 29 1 Jn. 2:24 - 4:6; 1 Kg. 21:1-29
  - 30 1 Jn. 4:7 - 5:21; 1 Kg. 22:1-28
  - 31 The Visitation: Isa. 11:1-5;  
Rom. 12:9-16; Luke 1:39-47

### **June**

- 1 Num. 28:1-31; 1 Kg. 22:29-53
- 2 Num. 29:1-31; Rom. 1:1-32
- 3 Psal. 104:1-23

### *3<sup>rd</sup> Article meaning "c"*

#### **[I believe in] ... the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

*Pray for youth.*