

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

DECEMBER 2006

Mid-month Newsletter

Church phone # 388-4336
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Our Shepherd's Staff: Pastor Vance Becker
Preschool: Tracy Mielke, Kindergarten: Alice Brase
Elementary: Linda Becker, Carolyn Garman

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



Election Results

The annual election meeting was Wed., Dec. 6, 8:00 PM. Newly elected officers are:

- Treasurer: Lynn Schwarz
- Financial Secretary: Beth Jones
- Board of Elders: Bob Maschke, Lyle Olson
- Board of Education: Krista Warner
- Board of Evangelism: Sue Schwarz
- Board of Trustees: Roger Asleson
- School Board: Jim Dimock, Joe & Beth Holtmeier, Lynn Lease, April Tordsen, Gary Urban

- Board of Finance: Jan Braam, Brian Crock, Dennis Kipp, Kim Miller

Sunday School Supt.: Wanda Schwartz

- Head Usher: Jay Rush
- Music Director: Peggy Pomranke

A nominee for Vice President was not found. One or more candidates are still needed for this position so that it can be filled by election at the next Voters' meeting.

LWML Meets Jan. 2

Good Shepherd women meet Tues., Jan. 2, 6 PM. They will take down the Christmas trees and have a Bible study. All are welcome.

Christmas Break Work Project

The floor in the Fellowship Hall and adjacent classrooms need to be refinished during the end of the week after Christmas. Furnishings will be moved out to one side of the Fellowship hall while the floor is stripped and waxed, then moved back to finish the other side.

If you can help move furnishings, strip or wax on one or more days, please talk to Dennis Boldt or Bill Schwarz.

The Lutheran Hour is heard each Sunday, 6:00 PM, on KJLY, 107.1 FM.

Thanks For Your Support

THE LWML FUND-RAISER, with Martin Bros./ Rada kitchen utensils, candles, etc., raised \$300 toward the new sanctuary sound system. The LWML also received \$50, also donated to the sound system fund as a memorial for Harvey Kopischke.

THE ADVENT SUPPERS raised over \$600, which will be matched by Thrivent and used for the sanctuary sound system.

THE SCHOOL spaghetti feed and silent auction has a final tally of \$7,387, including Thrivent supplemental funds.

POP BOTTLE RECYCLING, through Terra Cycle, raised \$100.80 from May through October.

THANKS to all who helped and participated. Keep up the good work.

Have You Met Your Match Yet?

Thrivent members can give up to \$600 per year to the school or other qualifying institution of their choice and have it supplemented by \$.50 on the dollar by Thrivent. If you have not taken full advantage of this yet in 2006, there is still time to do it. Just pick up a "Giving Plus" brochure from the rack by the front door or a form for our school from the table by the office.

Directory Update

Address Changes:

Art & Phyllis Rosin
1540 Pleasant View Dr. #201
North Mankato, MN 56003

Betty Sandry
c/o Tim Sandry
9840 Colorado Rd.
Bloomington, MN 55438
(Betty is now at Martin Luther Manor, Bloomington, MN)
Tim's phone: 763-442-4589

Transferred out:

Dan Aakre, to Redeemer Lutheran, Bagley, MN

Welcome New Members

Robert Lenz has lived in the Mankato area for two years and has visited Good Shepherd occasionally since finding it through the Yellow Pages. Bob works as a graphic designer and illustrator.

Bob transferred from Grace Lutheran of Dodge Center, MN. He enjoys the friendly congregation, strong pastoral leadership and warm facility. He hopes Good Shepherd will be a good place to grow a stronger faith and have opportunities to fraternize with fellow believers. He is interested in getting involved in worship, Bible studies, choir and fundraisers.

Sharry Severson has lived in the Mankato area for most of her life. She is a sales representative for Coughlan Publishing which produces

children's books. She was invited to Good Shepherd by Bob Lenz. Sharry, formerly a member of Our Savior's Lutheran, Butternut, (rural Lake Crystal) MN, joined Good Shepherd by affirmation of faith.

Sharry was attracted by the teachings of Pastor Becker and the congregation. She hopes it will be a good place to worship and share her faith with others. Sharry doesn't have other friends or relatives at Good Shepherd, so if you see a new person with dark brown hair, go up and introduce yourself.

What to Give?

This is a time of year when most think about gift giving. Recipients may fall into two kinds of groups. One group is charities, like the Salvation Army Kettle, or service people, like the paper boy. As we think about how much or whether to give, we may ask ourselves, "how much do they need or how badly do they need it?", "What is my fair share?", "What is expected of me?", or even "How little will do?".

Another group is family and friends whom we love. Here, other questions often apply: "What is the most I can afford?", "What would give them joy?", "What will show how much I love them and how important they are to me?", or even "How much have they given me?"

Which group of questions guides your Sunday offerings? Is God a service person or a loved one? Is your church a charity or family?

New News from New Orleans

See the bulletin board in the fellowship hall hallway for the most recent notes from Roger and Betty Mielke at Camp Restore in New Orleans. On the bulletin board by the sanctuary is a brochure they sent with the note that if anyone can come down for a week or two, they can sure use the help. They say the beds are clean and the food is good.

More Hymnals

Now that we have pews, the hymnals are in pew racks instead of being handed out and returned. This has meant having more space in the pews than people – or hymnals. But now the hymnal racks are filled thanks to several dozen copies of Lutheran Worship donated to us by Trinity Lutheran Church, Roselle, IL (a suburb of Chicago), and brought to us by Carol Becker. Now we are ready to fill the pews with people too!

Charting the Cleaning

A chart has been posted on the inside of the door of the closet by the fellowship hall. It lists various church cleaning tasks and has a column for each day of the week. Various volunteers who clean are asked to initial

what they did and when so that others can see what has been done and what has not.

Some tasks are identified as needing to be done daily, others weekly, etc.

This chart can be amended and improved and may help our workers be more efficient and keep our church cleaner.

Anyone is welcome to do any cleaning that needs doing. Then just initial the chart so others know it is done.

All Around the Neighborhood

Camp Omega Sr. High Retreat

Camp Omega hosts a High School retreat, Fri., Dec. 29, 6:30 PM to Sat., Dec. 30, 3 PM. This year's theme is "Not Ashamed". Students will focus on Rom. 1:16 "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes." They will examine people throughout history who were not afraid to share their faith and then apply it to their lives, confronting some of the difficult issues that attack faith in schools today. Summer counselors will be back for this reunion event.

Participants will also enjoy winter fun including snow tubing with a tow rope on the big hill by the lake, broomball, spiritual growth & worship, outdoor games canteen.

The cost is \$25 per person. Pick up an information/ registration page from the table by the church office.

Winter Daze for Jr. High Youth

Winter Daze is day long fun event at Camp Omega, Waterville, for 7th and 8th grade youth, Thurs., Dec. 28. The event begins at 10 AM and ends at 3 PM.

Activities include snow tubing with a tow rope on the big hill by the lake, broomball, spiritual growth, outdoor games and lunch.

The cost is \$10 per person. Adult drivers and chaperones will be needed and get to participate for free. Those who are interested should contact Pastor Becker as soon as possible. The registration deadline is Fri., Dec. 22.

Father Son Ice Fishing

Camp Omega hosts a three day opportunity to get out onto the ice for one of Minnesota's great winter sports., Fri., Jan 19 6:30 PM to Sat., Jan. 21, 10 AM. Saturday will allow for two time periods for fishing on Rice, LeSueur or Waseca County Lake. Curt Stoltenow and Jerry Kokoschke will lead the event. Bait, tip-ups for northerns, jiggle sticks for sunnies and crappies and portable shelters will be available but you are also invited to use your own "favorites".

The cost is \$75 per person. Registration deadline is Fri., Jan 12. Pick up an information/ registration form from the table by the church office.

JCPlayZone.com

Lutheran Hour Ministries has an exciting new way for you to entertain your children and grandchildren during the holiday season and beyond! Check out LHM's new children's Web site, www.jcplayzone.com.

JCPlayZone.com engages children through interactive games, crafts, recipes, and other activities in a safe, Christian environment. Games, activities, and coloring pages will change often to encourage children to return and check out what's new. JCPlayZone is a great home page for your family's computer so that when your children sign on to the Internet, it is the first Web site they see. Created especially for children ages 2 through 6, JCPlayZone will rapidly become one of your child's favorites!

A companion Web site for parents, "JC ParentZone" provides parents access to relevant information on helpful parenting articles and answers to their spiritual questions from a spiritual question. The articles and spiritual questions will be updated regularly.

Help at Echo

Volunteers are needed Wed., Thurs., and Fri., 1:30 to 4:30 PM to help sort and distribute food at ECHO Foodshelf. If you are interested and have time to help on any of those days, please call Barb at 345-5426

See the Rose Parade Float

Watch the annual Tournament of Roses Parade on Jan. 1 to see the Lutheran Hour float, hosted by the Southern California District of the International Lutheran Laymen's League. It is once again the only religious float in the parade. Volunteers, called Petal Pushers, from across North America, have worked and continue to work to decorate the LHM float.

The theme for this year's float is "God's Great Nature," and LCMS President Gerald Kieschnick and his wife, Terry, will ride on the float.

Most network channels (ABC, CBS, and NBC) carry the Tournament of Roses Parade, but the LHM float is not guaranteed coverage due to commercials and/or other TV commitments. For best viewing of the parade, cable's Home and Garden Television (HGTV) channel shows the parade without interruption. Check your local listings for time and channels. The LHM float will appear in the back third of the parade lineup.

The LHM float project is independently funded and is not included in any budgets of LHM, the Int'l Lutheran Laymen's League, or the LCMS.

Bulletins from the Boards

Church boards and council met Tues., Dec. 12.

THE BOARD OF ELDERS will coordinate ending the Christmas Eve services with candlelight.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES is arranging to have locks at the church rekeyed to be uniform. Bill has installed a second railing on the balcony steps; Mark has put up a new, larger mailbox; and a cleaning checklist has been posted in the closet by the fellowship hall.

THE BOARD OF EVANGELISM is completing an extensive information and application form for a Harvesters for Christ team to train and help with outreach in 2007. The pen holders on the friendship registers are being repaired.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION is coordinating practice for the Children's Christmas service. Apples will be handed out after the service.

THE BUILDING COMMITTEE is waiting for gutters and speakers to be installed. The stone floor will be sealed in 2007 and the flooring under the pews worked on. A report on church acoustics has been received with recommendations.

THE CHURCH COUNCIL approved having the Constitution Committee look at updating the Articles of Incorporation.