

*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**

### **AUGUST 2006**

Pre-month Newsletter

Church phone # 388-4336  
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web: www.goodshepherdmankato.org

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

Sunday Worship 9:00 AM  
Sunday Bible Classes 8:00 AM

#### **WEDNESDAY WORSHIP**

Wednesday Worship with Holy Communion will be Aug. 31, 7:00 PM, before Labor Day weekend. Plan to come if you are unable to worship regularly on Sunday. The service will be the same as Sept. 4.

#### **School Blast Off**

Tues., Aug. 22, 6 – 8 PM is a Special Blast Off event for Good Shepherd Lutheran School. All are welcome for this grand opening celebration for the school. There will be a pot-luck supper with hot dogs provided. Bring a dish to share.

Fun will follow, including water bottle rockets and water balloon volleyball.

As part of this event, parents of students will complete and turn in registration forms.

#### **Park Worship & Pot Luck Picnic**

On Sun., Aug. 20, Good Shepherd will have a 10:30 AM service of worship at Sibley Park in addition to the 9 AM service at the church. To get there, park west of the ball diamonds and go to the bank of the Blue Earth River.

Bring a lawn chair or something to sit on. In case of rain, we will use the shelter nearby.

At noon, all are invited to a pot-luck picnic at this shelter. Bring table service and a dish to share.

#### **Help Feed the Treasure Hunters**

Snacks and Drinks are needed for VBS, Aug. 6-10. Please sign up on the table in the narthex by the water fountain if you can help provide them. Plan to bring them to the church kitchen ahead of time, marked "VBS", or bring them early that week.

#### **Boosters Sell Brats**

Good Shepherd Lutheran School has the brat stand at HyVee Hilltop of the weekend of Aug. 4-6, between 10:30 AM and 6 PM. If you can help, sign up on the table in the narthex by the water fountains.

Worship times return to 8 & 10:30 AM on Sunday, Aug. 13, with Bible classes for all ages at 9:15 AM

## God Goes to College

On Sun., Aug. 13, worship will include a responsive litany for students who will be going to college or technical school this fall.

Students who will be away from home for school are asked to give the church the name of their school, campus or off campus address and e-mail, so we can keep in touch. Drop off a note at the church office or call and leave a message.

Building progress

## Get Ready for School

There is much to do as Good Shepherd Lutheran School prepares to welcome over 45 students in Little Lambs Preschool and about 30 students in Kindergarten through grade 6. A lot of help will be needed from as many as possible. Here is what you can do:

### **Recruit students.**

We have some room for more students. Fliers and information/Registration packets are in the church office.

### **Sponsor a student.**

If you can help pay part of the tuition for a student, please speak to a School Board member. Several of our students are from low income, single parent, minority and immigrant families. This is a great mission opportunity.

### **Give a matched gift.**

Thrivent members can give up to \$600 per year to our school

and have it matched with an additional \$300. Take a "Giving Plus" brochure from the rotating rack near the front door. You can give free money!

### **Pick from the Wish**

**Tree.** Take an envelope from the Wish Tree display in the narthex, identifying material and equipment needed for our classrooms. Put the money in it and return it to the offering plate or the office, or return a note saying you will be purchase the item yourself.

**Help with a fundraising event.** The Lutheran School Boosters group meets the second Thurs. of each month at 7 PM. All are welcome.

**Volunteer in the office.** If you can help one morning or afternoon a week with receptionist, office, or light custodial work, please contact Pastor Becker.

**Clip for Cash.** Our school gets cash for HyVee receipts, 5c for Schools milk jug caps and Quick Trip Milk Moola, Campbells soup labels, General Mills boxtops for education, ink cartridge recycling, and Fantastic Sams Donation Dollars. See the coupon cart by the doors to the education wing.

BOOKSHELVES will be needed in our new school classrooms. If you might help build them, please speak to Joe Holtmeier

## **Bless You**

Thank you to Roger Mielke and his crew, including Lowell Lovelace, Lyle Olson and John Rush, who sealcoated the parking lot on a couple of hot days.

## Building Update

The stone floor is now being laid in the new sanctuary and other finishing work is to be done. Completion is expected sometime in September.

Because classrooms, to be built where the current chancel area is in the fellowship hall, will be needed before the new sanctuary is in use. The worship space will be shifted back while the classroom walls are being built.

Now is the most beneficial time to make gifts to the sanctuary building fund, since the mortgage interest will depend on the amount of the loan needed when construction is complete.

## *All Around the Neighborhood*

## Computer Needed for Mission Ministry

James Ruey, the vicar at Our Savior, Mankato, working with Sudanese ministry, is in need of a computer to help him in his work. Ability to run Windows XP is a basic requirement. If you have one you can donate, contact Our Savior at 345-5112.

## Installation Worship Services

Stephen Girard will be installed as the new pastor at Salem Lutheran, Madelia, on Sun., Aug. 6, 3 PM. All are invited to welcome this new pastor in our circuit.

Those elected at the 2006 Minnesota South District Convention to serve for the next triennium will be installed in a special service of worship Sun., Aug. 27, 3 PM at Our Savior, Mankato. All are welcome at this joyous service of dedication and praise.

## Fun with "Church Basement Ladies"

You are invited to join members of Our Savior's in seeing the play "Church Basement Ladies" at the Plymouth Playhouse, Sept 17, 6 PM. The cost of the play and bus ride is \$35. The bus leaves at 3 PM sharp. A reserved dinner buffet, with fried chicken and corn on the cob, is \$13.95, including tax and gratuity, or you may bring a sack lunch. To register, call Trudy Wiechmann at 345-2138 before Aug. 9 or Marvel Danzer at 388-5254 after Aug. 9. Make checks payable to Our Saviors Lutheran Church Evening Guild.

## Camp Omega Honors Kevin Hall

A Celebration In Honor Of Kevin Hall for his 18 Years of Serving as the Camp Omega Director will be Sun., Aug. 13, at 1:00 pm at the Outdoor Worship Center of Camp Omega, Waterville. Kevin has accepted a call to serve at Concordia University St. Paul, as the Director of the DCE Program.

## Golf For a Good Cause

A Golf Tournament to benefit Camp Omega campers will be Sat., Aug. 19, at Rich Valley Golf Club, Hiway 42 & Co. Rd. 42 near Rosemount. Check in is 11 AM, with shotgun start at 12 noon. Entry fee is \$240 per team for 18 holes, 2 carts and supper. To register, call Curt at Camp Omega at 507-685-4266 by Sat., Aug. 12.

## Understand Mental Illness

"Beginning the Dialog: Understanding the Myths and Realities of Mental Illness" will be held at Jehovah Lutheran Church 1566 Thomas Ave., St. Paul, Sat., Aug. 26, 8:30 AM – 12 Noon. Receive accurate information about the symptoms of serious mental illness and the impact on the person and the family. Learn ways churches can respond to and support those whose lives are touched by mental illness. Registration is \$10. Call 651-603-6279, or e-mail [jdicke@blhs.org](mailto:jdicke@blhs.org) for more information.

If you are interested in hosting a Christian foreign exchange student for this coming year, please speak to Pastor Becker for more information.

## Garage Sale Helps Habitat

Habitat for Humanity annual garage sale at St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church is Sat., Aug. 12, 8 AM to 1 PM.

If you have good saleable items to donate (household items, knick knacks, etc. – NO adult clothing), please leave them at the parking lot entrance of St. Joe's, Mon. Aug. 7 through Fri., Aug. 11, 8 Am to 7 PM (ending at noon on Aug. 11), or call Carolyn Kanysik

at 345-3270 to arrange for pickup. Donations are not accepted the day of the sale. Please label all donations clearly for Habitat for Humanity. Then, come and shop at St. Joe's on Sat., Aug. 12. You will find some terrific bargains. A sack sale begins at noon.

## Seminary Retreats for Adults

Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN., offers several teaching retreats for lay people this fall. Included are:

Lay Leadership Retreat: "Equipped to Serve", Sept. 29 – Oct. 1.

Enter The Biblical World Retreat: "God's Saving Presence Throughout the Scriptures", Oct. 6-7

Lutherhostel Retreat: "What is a Lutheran? Reading A Reader's Edition of the Book of Concord with the Sem Faculty", Oct 9-13.

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, offers Luther Hostel 2006 with the theme "Living Well in Christ", Oct 7-11

For more information, see Pastor Becker

## Immanuel Offers Grades 7 & 8

Immanuel Lutheran School of rural Courtland/ Nicollet welcomes all children through grade 8 to register for 2006/2007. There is an after school program until 6 PM, a hot lunch program, athletics, music and other extra-curricular opportunities for students. Busing is provided by Nicollet bus services. Registration is Thurs., Aug. 3. Call Principal Dan Erdman at 359-2534 or 359-4575.

## God's Gazebo

Do you have experience building a deck or gazebo? Camp Omega, our district youth camp by Waterville, would like to build a "Prayer Gazebo". If you can help with design or construction, please speak to Pastor Becker or call Kevin Genz or Carol Becker at 507-685-4266.

## Pray, Praise and Give Thanks

*This is the third in a series of articles, based on Pastor Becker's personal prayers, noting how the Lord's Prayer can be used as a basis for praying for all our concerns.*

Luther notes that the third petition, "Thy will be done", includes the ideas of the first and second. God's will is done when he defeats the plan of the devil, who does not want us to hallow God's name or let his kingdom come. So, while Jesus includes this petition when he teaches the Lord's Prayer as part of the sermon on the mount, he has not neglected when he omits it as he teaches his disciples to pray, as recorded in Luke 11. These variances in the Lord's Prayer show us that it is not a magic formula in which we simply speak certain words, but a flexible pattern which gives us a framework for including all our needs.

This petition, like the first two, is certainly done even without our prayer. We can begin by praising God that this is so. In his wisdom, love and power, he causes all things to work together for good to those

who love him and are called according to his purpose. (Rom. 8:28)

We must confess that we are the ones who do not do God's will. Again, our first request must be that God change us ourselves, through the work of his word and sacraments, so that we are led to know and do the right things. This is a good point to consider whether there are particular decisions or difficulties in our lives at this time that call for God's special guidance or for obedience to his revealed will.

There are others who need God's constant guidance, starting with our church leaders. God reveals that he wants especially for "all people to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth." (1 Tim. 2:4) We can pray for leaders in our congregation, district and synod that God would help them to be in tune with his will and to act according to it. Churches and schools calling church workers and the pastors and teachers considering those calls need God's help to discern his will and to be prepared for the servants and the service God has prepared for them. All church workers need prayer for God's guidance in their desire to serve him effectively.

Congregations like ours, which are doing new things, need constant prayer for our building plans, school plans and worship plans, etc., that God would give us wisdom, courage, support, resources, good leadership and effectiveness in glorifying God in all things.

Paul writes to Timothy, "I urge that supplications, prayers,

intercessions and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceful life in all godliness and holiness." (1 Tim. 2:1-2)

We can pray for our local state and national leaders that God would give them wisdom, ability, understanding and resources to do their work well. Prayer for God's guidance is especially important when elections are approaching.

We can pray for our school leaders that God would give them wisdom and guidance as they seek to guide students to true wisdom and virtue. We can pray for our legislators and administrators that God would use them to provide well for such things as health care, with respect for life; for education, with respect for godly values; for welfare programs, with respect for families; for taxes, the economy and jobs, with respect for the environment; for justice, crime control and national security, with respect for individual human rights; etc.

So that we may indeed live "quiet and peaceful lives", we can appeal to God, who controls all history, to act to bring peace to the many places in the world where there is war and armed conflict.

We can also pray for others in our family, community and place of work that God would provide the sound advice, opportune circumstances and good examples which will lead them to make decisions and follow through in ways that best glorify God and serve other people.

## Bible Bites

for eat and run Bible reading

**August 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.*

- 1 Deut. 20:1-20; Kg. 10:12-36
- 2 Deut. 21:1-23; 2 Kg. 11:1-21
- 3 Deut. 22:1-30; 2 Kg. 12:1-21
- 4 Deut. 23:1-25; 2 Kg. 13:1-25
- 5 Psal. 86:1-17

*The 5th Commandment*

**You shall not murder.**

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.

*Pray for Vacation Bible School*

### 6 9th Sunday after Pentecost

- Jer. 23:1-6; Eph. 2:13-22;  
Mark 6:30-34
- 7 Deut. 24:1 - 25:10  
2 Kg. 14:1-29
  - 8 Deut. 25:11 - 26:19  
2 Ch. 22:1 - 23:11
  - 9 Deut. 27:1-26  
2 Ch.23:12 - 24:14
  - 10 Deut. 28:1-32  
2 Ch. 24:15 - 25:4
  - 11 Deut. 28:33-68  
2 Ch. 25:5-28
  - 12 Psal. 86:1-17

*7th Commandment*

You shall not steal.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

*Pray for neighbors*

### 13 10th Sunday after

**Pentecost**

- Exod. 24:3-11;  
Eph. 4:1-7, 11-16;  
John 6:1-15
- 14 Deut. 29:1-29; 2 Ch. 26:1-23
  - 15 St. Mary, Mother of our Lord  
Isa. 61:7-11; Gal. 4:4-7;  
Luke 1:46-55
  - 16 Deut. 30:1 - 31:8  
2 Kg. 15:1-31
  - 17 Deut. 31:9-29  
2 Kg. 15:32 - 16:20
  - 18 Deut. 31:30 - 32:22  
2 Kg. 17:1-23
  - 19 Psal. 89:1-18

*Asking a Blessing*

Lord God, Heavenly Father, **bless us and these Your gifts which we receive from your bountiful goodness,** through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Pray for the Board of Education*

### 20 11th Sunday after

**Pentecost**

- Exod. 16:2-15; Eph. 4:17-24;  
John 6:24-35
- 21 Deut. 32:23-47  
2 Kg. 17:24-41
  - 22 Deut. 32:48 - 33:17  
Amos 1:1 - 2:3
  - 23 Deut. 33:18 - 34:12  
Amos 2:4 - 3:10
  - 24 St. Bartholomew  
Exod. 19:1-6;  
1 Cor. 12:27-31a  
John 1:43-51
  - 25 Eph. 1:1 - 2:10  
Amos 3:11 - 4:13
  - 26 Psal. 89:19-37

*The 4th Commandment*

**Honor your father and your mother.**

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

*Pray for Lutheran School Teachers*

### 27 12th Sunday after

**Pentecost**

- 1 Kings 19:4-8;  
Eph. 4:30 - 5:2;  
John 6:41-51
- 28 Eph. 2:11-3:21; Amos 5:1 -27
  - 29 Eph. 4:1-32; Amos 6:1 - 7:9
  - 30 Eph. 5:1-33; Amos 7:10-8:14
  - 31 Eph. 6:1-24; Amos 9:1-15
- SEPTEMBER**
- 1 Prov. 23:1-35; Isa. 13:1-22
  - 2 Psal. 89:38-52

*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*

## 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

## Tour Germany

A tour "In the Steps of Martin Luther" is offered Nov. 11-21 by Concordia Theological Seminary, hosted by Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence Rast. The cost, including round-trip air fare from Chicago is \$2099. For more information, see Pastor Becker or go on line to [www.ctsfw.edu/luther](http://www.ctsfw.edu/luther) or call 1-877-287-4338, ext. 2204, or e-mail [ctstours@ctsfw.edu](mailto:ctstours@ctsfw.edu).