

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

JULY 2006

Pre-month Newsletter

Church phone # 388-4336
e-mail: goodshepherd57@juno.com
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

*God Bless
Our
Native
Land*

Time is Money

If you have made plans for financial gifts to our sanctuary building program or if you are able to give a special gift at this time, now is an excellent time to do it. Our sanctuary is expected to be completed in about a month. At that time, our building construction loan will become part of our mortgage. Our monthly mortgage payment will be determined by the total size of this loan. The more we can pay down at this time, the lower our long term loan and monthly payments will be. The less money we have to pay interest on, the better!

Each month our current mortgage payments and general

fund bills are a struggle to pay and we are slipping behind, especially during the summer months. When you are gone for a week or so, please remember your regular giving plan so that the lights are still on when you come back.

Park Worship July 16

On Sun., July 16, Good Shepherd will have an 8 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, this service will be canceled.

The next outdoor worship is Sun., Aug., 20 at 10:30 AM, followed by a pot-luck picnic.

School Boosters Sell Brats Again

Good Shepherd Lutheran School will have the brat stand at HyVee Hilltop of the weekend of July 1 & 2, between 10:30 AM and 6 PM. If you can help, sign up on the table in the narthex by the water fountains.

Sun., July 9 is Good Shepherd's turn to serve the noon meal at the Salvation Army. If you can help, please see Lynn or Sue Schwarz or sign up on the table by the water fountains.

Voters Meet Tues., July 11

All communicant members, age 18 and older, are urged to attend the quarterly Voters meeting, 8:00 PM, Tues., July 11. Decisions will include staff for our school.

Join the Parade

Our church's float in the North Mankato Fun Days Parade, Sat., July 8, will reflect the "Treasure Cove" VBS theme. If you can help assemble and decorate the float Fri., July 7 or Sat. morning, please contact Karen Johnson or Cindy Wintheiser. Youth and adults are also needed to walk along and hand out information and "freebies". If you can participate, sign up on the sheet by the water fountain or call the church office. We will let you know when and where to meet.

Spread the One Message

"Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop – thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown." Mark 4:20

Investing in the Lutheran Church Extension Fund is an opportunity to increase the financial blessings you have received, but more importantly, it is also a way to help fund our LCMS churches and schools where the Good News can be heard. Call 1-800-THE LCEF or go on line to www.clef.org for current rates and more information.

Come to VBS "Treasure Cove"

All children, age 3 through grade 6 are invited to discover God's treasure for us at Vacation Bible School, Sun., Aug. 6 through Thurs., Aug. 10. Invite your friends and neighbors and bring them along.

So we can be prepared, please pre-register using the form here or found on the table by the church office, or call the church office with the information. There is no charge, but free will offerings will be received.

Sessions, 6:30 – 8 PM each evening, include Bible stories, singing, crafts, snacks and recreation. All students will have a fun time and will learn about how

Adult Bible study on the same themes and child-care for younger children of teachers and Adult participants is also being offered. Come with the whole family. If you would like to help or to provide refreshments, or have questions, contact Becky Schendel, Vanessa Drill or Cindy Wintheiser.

Learn about Growing in Christ

"Growing in Christ" is the new Sunday School curriculum from CPH we will use starting this fall. An introductory workshop will be held at Our Savior, Mankato, Sun., July 30, 3 – 5:30 PM. Teachers and parents are invited to attend at no cost.

Treasure Cove VBS Registration (one form per child, please)

Name _____

Grade completed __ Age __

Birthday _____

Parents _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____

Alt. Phone _____

Emergency contact person:

Relationship to student:

Home Phone _____

Alt. Phone _____

Food allergies or other

problems: _____

Family doctor _____

Phone _____

Siblings attending VBS
(names & ages)

Good Shepherd member? Y N

Other church affiliation or
membership: _____

Brought by _____

Picked up by _____

If you can help make banners for children who are baptized, please see Marla Kontak.

Sign Up for School

Parents considering sending their children to Little Lambs Preschool or Good Shepherd Lutheran School Kindergarten through grade 6 are urged to sign up as soon as possible so plans can be made and materials ordered. The preschool sessions are almost full unless Tues./Thurs. afternoons are added. About 8 students are expected in kindergarten, and 10 to 14 each in the lower and upper elementary classes.

Busing is provided for students within the school district (who live over a mile from the school). Several families from south of Mankato are planning to carpool. A lunch program will be available with free and reduced lunches for those who qualify. Tuition assistance can be arranged for those any who need it. Plans are being developed for after school care.

Best of all, we have a trained, experienced, dedicated staff who are all known to be great teachers: Tracy Mielke, preschool; Alice Brase, kindergarten; Carolyn Garman, lower elementary; and Linda Becker, upper elementary.

Information and forms are available from the church office. K – 6 school supply lists are in the office. To arrange a visit with a teacher, call the church at 388-4336. Please encourage others whom you think may be interested.

Volunteers Needed for Fall

A few new volunteers are needed who can help out at Good Shepherd one half day per week. Activities include housekeeping, office help and errands for the church and school. If you would like to take a turn, speak to Pastor Becker.

The School Board is working on plans for after school care for students. This would be a paid position, for a few hours every afternoon. If you would be interested, speak with Lynn Lease or another School Board member.

All Around the Neighborhood

SNACC Picnic offered July 8

Are you caring for a child with Special Needs? Whether you are a parent of a child with special physical, emotional, mental health or behavior needs by birth, foster care, or adoption, finding people who understand isn't easy. It is especially difficult to find support that integrates Christian faith with providing care for children and teens with special needs. For this reason a few Mankato area families are putting together SNACC (Special Needs and Christian Caregiving).

The first event is a family picnic to be held at Seven Mile Creek County Park on Highway

169, 4:30 p.m., Sat., July 8. Bring a dish to share as well as something to grill, tablewear and drinks for your family. Contact Kari at 387-4226 or kari@mofas.org or Claudia at 345-6629 or at maeflye@mac.com to RSVP.

Conversations About Care

“Isn't It Time We Talk?”, Conversations about Advance Care Planning and Advance Directives will be led offered Thurs., July 20, 2-3:30 PM at Madison East Center Community Room, led by Kim Melius and Dr. Stephanie Putzier of ISJ Hospice. The program will include discussion on common treatment dilemmas and options. It is free and open to the public. Preregistration is requested by July 13. Call Monica Oberle at 385-2618.

Outreach Institute at C.S.P.

The Outreach Leadership Institute at Concordia – St. Paul is getting closer. Register now to ensure you get the two topics of your choice before they fill up – those still available include Making Disciples, Urban Outreach, Sharing Faith, Small Groups, Physically or Mentally Challenged groups, and Assimilating Newcomers. OLI starts at noon Thursday July 13 and continues to noon on the 15th. Please phone OHSCO at (651) 641-8701 or see www.lea.org

Pray, Praise and Give Thanks

This is the second 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.

The second greatest desire of the Christian is "Thy kingdom come". This includes both God's kingdom of grace, which comes when faith in the gospel spreads to all people, and God's kingdom of glory, which comes when we all hold to true faith and are taken to heaven at the end of life in this world.

We do not need to pray for God's kingdom of power to come, since he already rules everything in this world. We praise him for this and also praise him that his kingdoms of grace and glory also come by his own doing, even without our prayer. We can praise God for the power of the Holy Spirit and for the power of God's word and sacraments, which he uses to cause and strengthen faith. We can also thank God for dedicated missionaries and for giving each of us the joyful opportunity to share the Gospel with those who need to hear it.

Right away, we can ask God to give us opportunities each day to talk with someone about the Gospel. We also need to ask for insight, understanding, courage, and the right words so that we can take advantage of these opportunities.

Let us pray for each person we know who needs to have or

be strengthened in the faith, that God would help them to desire, know and trust his truth love and power.

Pray for our congregation, district and Synod that we will be active and effective in cross-cultural outreach. Pray especially for Good Shepherd that we would all be strong in witnessing, fellowship, prayer and Bible study.

We need to pray that God would sustain and defend all missionaries, their homes and families, their strength and health, their zeal and their resources. May God give them fellow workers with great spiritual wisdom and power, and lead those with whom they work to have a hunger and thirst for the gospel and a distaste for false teaching.

We can pray for missionaries on every continent. For those in Africa, such as Ron Mudge, we can pray that God would show them the way to accomplish the great work of showing the way of salvation to many who are wandering, that he moves refugees to share the gospel and that he overthrows the power of the devil.

For those in Europe and Asia, such as Amy Kashenov, we can ask God to open doors for their ministry and give them the ability to enter through them. For those in Moslem and Communist countries, let us pray that God would open doors that cannot be shut.

For North American missionaries, such as those who work in the inner city and with native Americans, we can pray that God gives them power in their words and actions to help

people escape from the power of the devil. For those who work in Spanish ministry, such as Pastor Teigen, we can pray that God would give them resources for their work and lead them to those that God would have them lead to him.

For medical missionaries, such as Steve and Julie Lutz, we can pray that God gives them opportunities and abilities to bring health and eternal life to those who are hurting.

We can pray for missionaries of other Christian groups that God enlightens them with the truth so that they can enlighten those who sit in darkness.

For volunteer missionaries, we can pray that God gives them words and wisdom to share. For missionaries in our own district, such as Monte Meyer and James Ruey, we can pray that God helps them plant seeds that bear good fruit.

We can pray for mission societies, such as the Lutheran Heritage Foundation, that God would help them spread his powerful truth to the entire world. For the People of the Book Lutheran Outreach (our Synod's ministry to Muslim people) and the Apple of His Eye Mission Society (our outreach to Jewish people), we can pray that God would open their eyes to the true Messiah.

For those around the world who are persecuted for their faith, we need to pray that God would preserve their strength and courage, health and hope, homes and families, lives and churches, and that the purpose of their ordeals might soon be accomplished.

Bulletins from the Boards

Church boards and Council met Tues., June 13.

THE BOARD OF ELDER prepared for upcoming outdoor worship. There was a consensus that we would return to two Sunday services of worship in the fall and that we should get information on introducing the new hymnal but probably would not plan to get it right away.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES is working on misc. repairs and has reset thermostats for the summer. Trustees will look at options for keeping offering money secure between services.

THE BOARD OF EVANGELISM will recruit volunteers to hand out materials with the parade float and will decorate the float Fri, July 7. Pastor will get information for the Board on "Harvesters for Christ" volunteers.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION is preparing for VBS. It was noted that the end of the year Sunday School program was a good idea and went well. Having adult mentors as part of the confirmation program is being looked at.

THE SCHOOL BOARD met Thurs., June 1. An open house and cook-out will be hosted Wed., June 21, for prospective students and families, especially those from St. John's, Good Thunder. School Board leaders have met

with leaders from Good Thunder, which will not have elementary classes next year. They may loan us classroom equipment and materials.

THE BUILDING COMMITTEE met Wed., June 14. Despite many unexpected expenses, we are very close to budget. Some items are being deferred, as planned. Unbudgeted items such as the P.A. system and balcony railing, which need to be finished will be paid for out of the memorial fund.

THE CHURCH COUNCIL did not act on any business items.

District Convention Report

The Minnesota South District Convention was held June 8-10 in St. Paul, with the theme "It's Time to Fish: Catch Equip, Release". Voting delegates from Good Shepherd were Pastor Becker and Gary Urban. Teacher, Alice Brase was an advisory delegate serving on the Doctrine and Administration Floor Committee.

At the recent convention, Rev. Lane Seitz was reelected District President, Rev. Evan Schiller was reelected Vice President for our region. Pastor Becker was elected Circuit Counselor for our Circuit, effective in September, replacing Rev. Jack Dahl of Madelia, who is retiring.

A realignment of circuits, conferences and regions in the District was approved, to take care of some circuits which had become smaller than allowable.

When this takes effect three years from now, Redeemer, New Ulm, and Immanuel, Courtland will be moved into the Arlington Circuit. St. Paul, Amboy and St. John, Willow Creek, will be moved into the Mankato Circuit. Routine updates of the District Handbook were approved.

Several resolutions were passed calling for the next Synod Convention to consider reconsider changes made and actions approved at the last Synod Convention. This includes returning to the former dispute resolution process, which allowed for involvement by lay people; overruling the Commission on Constitutional Matters decision that Rev. David Benke cannot be disciplined for actions which had the permission of Synod President Kieschnick; and clarifying the Synod President's power to "call up for review", which was used to overturn the decision of Rev. Wallace Schulz about the errors of Rev. David Benke.

Resolutions were also passed which encourage congregational outreach, urge uniformity in worship practices, and support the District's "It's Time to Fish" Mission campaign.

Watch the bulletin and mid-month newsletter for information on a date and time for the dedication of our new sanctuary, or call the church office to request e-mail notification.

Bible Bites

....for eat and run Bible reading

July 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 2nd 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 Psal. 58:1-11

Duties of Citizens

Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience...for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. give everyone what you owe him; If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect, if honor, then honor. (Rom. 13:5-7)

Pray for officials in local, state and national government.

2 4th Sun. after Pentecost

- Ezek. 17:22-24; 2 Co.5:1-10;
Mark 4:26-34
3 Deut. 7:1-26; 2 Ch. 13:1-22
4 Independence Day
Deut. 8:1-10; Phlp. 4:6-20
or 1 Tim. 2:1-4; Luke 17:11-19
5 Deut. 8:1-20; 2 Ch. 14:1-15:19
6 Deut. 9:1-29; 2 Ch. 16:1 - 17:19
7 Deut. 10:1-22; 2 Ch. 18:1-27
8 Psal. 59:1-17

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean? I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

Pray for Seminaries

9 5th Sun. after Pentecost

- Job 38:1-11; 2 Co. 5:14-21
Mark 4:35-41
10 Deut. 11:1-32;
2 Ch. 18:28 - 19:11
11 Mark 3:20-4:20; 2 Ch. 20:1-30
12 Mark 4:21 - 5:20;
2 Ch. 20:31 - 21:20
13 Mark 5:21 - 6:13; 2 Kg. 1:1-18
14 Mark 6:14-44; 2 Kg. 2:1-25
15 Psal. 35:1-28

1st Article meaning "b"

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil.

Pray for manufacturing & sales workers

166th Sun. after Pentecost

- Lam. 3:22-33; 2 Co. 8:1-9, 13-14;
Mark 5:24b-34 or 5:21-24a,35-43
17 Mark 6:45 - 7:23; 2 Kg. 3:1-27
18 Deut. 12:1-28; 2 Kg. 4:1-31
19 Deut. 12:29 - 13:18;
2 Kg. 4:32 - 5:7
20 Deut. 14:1-29; 2 Kg. 5:8 - 6:7
21 Psal. 143:1-12
22 St. Mary Magdal.
Psalm 73:23-28
Ruth 1:6-18
or Ex. 2:1-10
Acts 13:26-33a
John 20:1-2, 11-18

1st Article meaning "c"

All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. **For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.**

Pray for the Board of Trustees

23 7th Sun. after Pent.

- Ezek. 2:1-5; 2 Co. 12:7-10;
Mark 6:1-6
24 Deut. 15:1-23; 2 Kg. 6:8 - 7:2
25 St. James, the elder, Apostle
1 Kings 19:9-18;
Acts 11:27-12:3a; Mark 10:35-45
26 Deut. 16:1-22; 2 Kg. 7:3 - 8:6
27 Deut. 17:1-20; 2 Kg. 8:7-29
28 Deut. 18:1-22; 2 Kg. 9:1-26
29 Psal. 132:1-18

What should admonish and encourage a Christian to receive the Sacrament frequently?

First, both the command and the promise of Christ our Lord.

Second, his own pressing need, because of which the command, encouragement, and promise are given.

Pray for neighbors

308th Sun. after Pent.

- Amos 7:10-15; Eph. 1:3-14;
Mark 6:7-13
31 Deut. 19:1-21;
2 Kg. 9:27 - 10:11

AUGUST

- 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 neighbors

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