

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 2006

Pre-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 9:00 AM



Family League Bowling, Nov. 5

The Lutheran Family League invites everyone to enjoy bowling Sun., Nov. 5, 3 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.

Sunday Specials

Nov. 5 is All Saints Sunday. We will remember congregation members received into God's glory during the past year.

Nov. 12, Veterans will be remembered and recognized in our worship.

Nov. 19, Lutheran World Relief Sunday will be observed, throughout our Synod.

LWML Meets Nov. 7

LWML will be meeting Tuesday, November 7 at 6:00 pm to clean the kitchen - (note time change). Business meeting, dessert and coffee to follow cleaning. Everyone welcome - come dressed to clean.

Have Fun With Fellowship Club

The Fellowship Club meets at church Sun., Nov. 19, 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.

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.

Adult Class Learns to Start Fire

“How Do You Start a Fire with Water?” is the title of a new Sunday adult study to begin Nov. 12, 9:15 AM in the Fellowship hall. Stories of God’s deliverance in the Old Testament will be the basis for learning about how God can deliver the world today through the spread of the Gospel. Bible stories include: creation, the flood, Abraham’s sacrifice, the exodus, Job, and prophecies from Isaiah, Ezekiel and Zephaniah.

Do Some Stem Cell Research

Stem Cell research is an issue in this year’s election campaigns and upcoming legislative sessions. You can “research” this topic using some basic leaflets and a DVD on “Stem Cell research and Cloning” produced by Lutherans for Life. See Pastor Becker to borrow a copy.

Bigger Bags of Better Bottle Bringers

We can continue to take more 20 oz. pop bottles to recycle for school funds, but note, only 20 oz. pop bottles can be used. 16 and 24 oz. pop bottles and water bottles cannot be used by Terracycle. Please put those in your own recycle bins.

A disposable camera was found at the church after the dedication service. If it is yours check in the office to identify and claim it.

Squeaky Church?

Does our church squeak? No, this is not about the acoustics and P.A. system, although that is something we are still working on. There is an old saying that when new shoes squeak it is because they are not paid for yet. Our new sanctuary is beautiful and we waited a long time to see and use it. But we are still a long way from paying for it, along with the rest of our church building.

Don’t forget that generous special gifts are still very much needed. Our building and debt gifts have not been keeping up with our regular mortgage payments for quite some time. You can use the pink “Building Fund” envelopes found by the mail boxes or note your gift on the “debt fund” line of your regular offering envelopes.

If you planned a special gift for the building program over several years, please do your best to keep current on your plan. If you did not plan a special gift or if you are a new member since our financial campaign, please consider helping over the next few years with gifts over and above your regular general fund and mission offerings.

K.I.D.S. Stamps in Fellowship Hall

K.I.D.S. Lutheran Church Extension Fund savings stamps are still available from Krista Warner. She will be set up in the fellowship hall before Sunday classes each week.

K.I.D.S. stamps help build LCMS churches and schools.

A good way to celebrate Thanksgiving is by giving back cheerfully because we’ve been given so much by our Lord and Savior. We can offer our time, special talents and financial blessings. Sit down with your children and choose some special ways to help others.

Dedication DVD Available

Gary Urban has made a DVD of the building and dedication of our new sanctuary. It has 1 1/2 hours of high-definition widescreen 16x9 video of the Dedication Service and acknowledgements at the end of the service as well as a Slideshows section with photos of the building process. Copies are available from Gary for a donation to the school fund.

Thanks for Your Support

The Fellowship Club would like to thank everyone who attended the Spuds and Splits Supper. And also thanks to those who donated food items for the supper. Freewill offering brought in \$578.00, plus Thrivent will be matching some of that amount. This money will given to the Sanctuary sound system fund.

Youth Sought After

Youth in grades 7 – 12, the Synod Office of Rosters and Statistics requests that Good Shepherd share your name and address so that you can directly receive information about our Concordia University System. If you do NOT wish this information to be shared, please inform Pastor Becker by Nov. 12.

All Around the Neighborhood:

Harvest Time Camp at CSP

Concordia University, St. Paul's church career camp - "Harvest Time" - will be Nov. 3-4. This event is for high school students interested in learning more about careers in the Church. Throughout the weekend students will meet with Concordia St. Paul professors, current students and professional from various ministry career paths. More information and registration

materials can be found at <http://www.csp.edu/Admission/HarvestTime/index.html> - Office for Congregational and Community Relations.

Bonhoeffer Talk at Gustavus

Victoria Barnett will speak about "Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Legacy in a Post-Holocaust World", Tues., Nov. 7, 7:30 PM in the Heritage Room at Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-45), a German Lutheran pastor, was executed by the Nazis for participating in a plot to kill Hitler 100 years ago this year. Victoria Barnett, one of the General Editors of Bonhoeffer's complete works in English, will help us understand why this set aside his pacifist convictions and why he remains one of the most influential theologians of the 20th century.

Holiday Grief Program

A seminar on Grief and the Holidays will be sponsored by the ISJ Hospice Program Tues., Nov. 14, 1 - 2:30 PM and again Mon. Nov. 20, 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.

Thanksgiving Food Baskets

Echo Food Shelf will again be providing Thanksgiving baskets for families in need who live in Blue Earth County and North Mankato. Request forms for these baskets will be available at the Echo Food Shelf, 614 N. 2nd St., from Nov. 13 through 17.

In past years approximately 750 families have received these baskets and a similar number is expected this year. Individuals and groups wishing to contribute to these baskets may send checks to the ECHO Food Shelf, P.O. Box 3212, Mankato, MN 56001. A \$16 donation will pay for one basket, but any donation is welcome.

Care for Aging Parents

"As Families Grow Older" is the topic of a six week seminar co-sponsored by VINE at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Tuesdays, 6:30 to 8:30 PM. There is a \$15 charge for materials. Scholarships are available. Call Mary O'Sullivan, 387-1666, to register. The series began Oct. 17 and continues through Nov. 21. Remaining sessions include:
Oct. 31 - Challenging Health Issues of Ageing
Nov. 7 - Making Choices about Living Arrangements
Nov. 14 - Financial & Legal Issues Related to Aging
Nov. 21 - Living and Dying in Your Faith

Drive Winter Away

Amy Cortuem's Annual Holiday Concert, "To Drive the Cold Winter Away", is a benefit for VINE/Faith in Action, Sat., Nov. 25, 7:30 PM at St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Mankato. Admission is \$15 at the door.

Pray, Praise and Give Thanks

This is the sixth 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.

When we pray "Let us not into temptation", we can praise God that this is what he himself wants and continually does. We can thank him for continually giving us opportunities to do what is right, even though we constantly chose to do what is wrong.

There are several steps along the pathway into temptation, each one steeper and slipperier than before. This pattern is seen when Adam and Eve are in the garden, when David is with Bathsheba and when Judas goes to the Sanhedrin. The first step is doubt, being unaware or uncertain about what God says is good and right. Next comes desire. As Jesus says, all evils begin in the heart. Then is the decision, as our head agrees with our heart. This leads to the deed, and then one deed leads to another. But this is not the devil's final goal. He knows we

can be forgiven for any evil deed, although he wants us to forget this. He next wants to lead us to despair, thinking that God now angry and hateful toward us. From here the steps lead down to death and eternal damnation.

Luther, in his insightful explanation of the sixth petition, notes that we need God's help against that "axis of evil", the devil, the world and our own sinful flesh. And God can indeed help us and turn us around every step of the way.

For our doubts we pray that God would enlighten us to see and remember the truth in his word so that we see through the deceptions of the world and the devil. For the evil desires of our sinful self, we pray that God would continue to give us new and holy desires through the Holy Spirit who lives in us. For our decisions, we pray that God would give us good teachers, companions and advisors. For our deeds we pray that God would continue to open doors to do right and close off opportunities to do wrong. For our despair we pray that God would hold before our eyes his grace and mercy since Jesus, by his suffering for us, has defeated the devil and taken away his accusations.

Since no one is immune from sin, it is important that we pray especially for ourselves and those we know are vulnerable to entrapping addictions such as alcohol, drugs, pornography, gambling, etc., that God would free their minds and keep these dangers away from them.

We may well know others who need our prayers that God would keep them from common temptations that so often ruin lives all around us in these days, such as sexual promiscuity and marital infidelity. We can pray that in their relationships God would keep them from anger, hatred, violence and adultery. May God give them instead opportunities for intimacy and understanding, compassion, and cooperation; that he would give them courage, wisdom, strength, peace, hope, endurance, provision for all their needs and protection from harm.

For our children and others, we should especially pray that God would continually keep them from all immorality and unbelief. Immorality is the tripstring, but unbelief is the trap. We all need God's constant protection to deliver us from both. Again, Luther insightfully identifies false belief and despair as foremost among the temptations from which we need to be delivered. An important way God keeps from such temptations is his assurance that no matter how far we have fallen, he is able to lift us up again.

Bible Bites

for eat and run Bible reading

November 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, 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 Faithful Departed
Isa. 34:3-10; 2 Pet. 3:8-14;
John 5:24-29
- 3 Prov. 29:1-27; 2 Ch. 30:1-27
- 4 Psal. 107:23-43

The Third Petition

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

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

5 22nd Sunday after

Pentecost

- Isa. 53:10-12; Heb. 4:9-16;
Mark 10:35-45
- 6 Josh. 13:1-33; 2 Ch. 31:1-21
 - 7 Josh. 14:1-15:12; 2 Ch. 32:1-33
 - 8 Josh. 15:13-63; 1 Th. 1:1 - 2:20
 - 9 Josh. 16:1-17:18; 1 Th. 3:1-4:12
 - 10 Josh. 18:1-28; 1 Th. 4:13 - 5:28
 - 11 Psal. 15:1-5; 16:1-11

The 2nd Petition

Thy kingdom come.

What does this mean? The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.
How does God's kingdom come?
God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by his grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.

Pray for world peace

123rd Last Sun. after

Pentecost

- Dan. 12:1-3; Heb. 12:26-29
or Heb. 10:11-18; Mark 13:1-13
- 13 Josh. 19:1-31; 2 Kg. 21:1-26
 - 14 Josh. 19:32-20:9; 2 Kg. 22:1-20
 - 15 Josh. 21:1-42;
2 Kg. 23:26-24:7
 - 16 Josh. 21:43-22:9; 2 Kg. 23:1-25
 - 17 Josh. 22:10-34; 2 Kg. 24:8-25:7
 - 18 Psal. 13:1-6; 14:1-7

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 Relief

19 2nd Last Sun. after

Pentecost Dan. 7:9-10; Heb. 12:1-2 or

Heb. 13:20-21; Mark 13:24-31

20 Josh. 23:1 - 24:5; 2 Kg. 25:8-30

21 Josh. 24:6-44; 2 Ch. 33:1-34:7

22 Ruth 1:1-22; 2 Ch. 34:8-33

23 Thanksgiving Day

Deut 8:1-10; Philip. 4:6-20 or 1 Tim. 2:1-14; Luke 17:11-19

24 Ruth 2:1-23; 2 Ch. 35:1-27

25 Psal. 39:1-13

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 the poor, abused and homeless

26 Last Sun. after Pentecost

Isa 51:4-6 or Dan. 7:13-14;

Jude 20-25 or Rev. 1:4b-8;

Mark 13:32-37 or Jn. 18:33-37

27 Ruth 3:1-14; 2 Ch. 36:1-23

28 Ruth 4:1-22; 2 Pt. 1:1 - 2:11

39 Jude 1-25; 2 Pt. 2:12 - 3:18

30 St. Andrew. Apostle

Ezek. 3:16-21; Rom. 10:1-18;

John 1:35-42

DECEMBER

1 Isa. 40:1-20; Judg. 1:1-36

2 Psal. 25:1-22

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 Board of Elders