

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 2007

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 8:00 & 10:30 AM
Sunday Bible Classes 9:15 AM
Spanish Worship 2:00 PM



All Saints / Anniversary Sunday

On All Saint's Sunday, Nov. 4, Good Shepherd's 50th Anniversary Celebration concludes with Dr. Douglass Rutt as our guest preacher. Dr. Rutt, a son of the congregation, is serving as Associate Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions and Dean for Distance Learning at Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN. During the Sunday adult class on that Sunday, Dr. Rutt will talk about mission work.

A noon pot-luck dinner will follow the services.

Remember that anniversary Christmas ornaments, with pictures of the old and new church building, are still for sale, \$10 each or two for \$15.

Veterans Honored

On Sun., Nov. 11, military veterans of our congregation will be remembered and recognized in our worship.

LWML Meets early Nov. 6

LWML will be meet Tues., Nov. 6, 6:00 pm to clean the kitchen - (note the time change). A business meeting, dessert and coffee will follow cleaning. Everyone is welcome. Come dressed to clean.

Have Fun With Fellowship Club

The Fellowship Club meets at church Sun., Nov. 18, 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. 21 at 7:00 PM. The service will include Holy Communion, with a special "Hymn Setting" of liturgy for Thanksgiving.

Scrip is always for sale, and with Christmas coming soon, place orders with Sue Schwarz. People always enjoy receiving gift cards as gifts, but also remember to do your other shopping with them to earn money for our school

Family League Bowling Nov. 11

Everyone is invited to join the Lutheran Family League for bowling on Sun., Nov. 11, 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.

Accurate News

As a way to improve accuracy in the newsletter and bulletin, there are now forms on the tables by the mailboxes to be used for submitting information. It is very helpful to have newsletter and bulletin announcements written down. Please return announcements to the desk in the office by Wednesday before they are to be published. You may also send an e-mail to goodshepherd57@juno.com.

Book Fair

Good Shepherd Lutheran School is sponsoring a book fair, Nov. 6- 18, at the church. Books will be available from Bethany Lutheran Bookstore and CPH catalog. Books will be sold for the regular price (without shipping) and a

portion of the sales will be given to our school.

If you don't need any books for yourself, you may purchase All God's People Sing songbooks for our school and Sunday school to use.

This is a good time to get Christmas gifts and if you will need confirmation Bibles, baptism and birthday gifts, now would be a great time to buy. We will even get a percentage of special orders like imprinted Bibles. Approximately 20-25% (and in some cases even more) is what our school will benefit.

Also available during this sale are decorations and greeting cards, including Christmas cards. The turn around time is very quick. If you have questions about this sale, call Lynn Lease at 345-3108.

School Walk-a-thon

Students at Good Shepherd Lutheran School will do a Walk-a-thon Sat., Nov. 17, to raise money for the school. Along with the walk, if weather permits, students and parent volunteers will be cleaning the hill top at Sibley Park. Students will be given a form to collect cash donations. Matching funds from Thrivent financial are being sought.

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 tell Pastor Becker by Nov. 11.

GoodSearch Supports School

You can support Good Shepherd Lutheran School by using GoodSearch.com and GoodShop.com when you are on the internet. GoodSearch is a search engine powered by Yahoo!, so you get the same great search results, but each time you do a search, GoodSearch donates 50% of advertising revenue to the nonprofit or school you select. GoodShop.com is an online marketplace that donates a percentage of your online purchase.

Coffee with a Purpose

Café Sola is a collaborative effort of LCMS World Relief and Human Care and Concordia Publishing House, with the goals of raising awareness of our neighbors' needs and helping others in body and soul. Nearly 20% of the purchase price of this coffee goes directly to projects to care for the most needy, carried out in the name of Christ and His Gospel. It tastes great, too!

Café Sola is sold in cartons of twelve 8-oz. bags, With automatic ordering system, you can place your order once and have coffee automatically shipped to you each month. Regular is \$52.99/carton. Decaf is \$52.99/carton. Order online at worldrelief.lcms.org or call 1-800-325-3040.

All Around the Neighborhood:

Turkey Dinner in Amboy

A Turkey dinner will be served Sun., Nov. 11, 4 – 7 PM at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Amboy. The cost is \$7 for adults, \$3 for age 5-12 and free for preschool. Proceeds will help the youth with a summer servant event trip and district events.

Holiday Grief Program

A seminar on Grief and the Holidays will be sponsored by the ISJ Hospice Program Tues., Nov. 13, 5 – 6:30 PM at Christ the King Lutheran Church and again Mon. Nov. 19, 1 – 2:30 PM at First Congregational UCC. 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.

Nordic Bazaar

A Nordic Bazaar will be held Wed., Nov. 14, 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. A Chicken Kiev Luncheon will also be served 11 AM to 12:30 PM for \$6 per person.

There will be a large variety of bazaar booths, as well as a silent auction. Lance Quick will entertain with music. All proceeds are donated to mission outreach.

Perspective on Life

"Life's Journey: Keeping it all in Perspective", with Father Nick Mezacapa, with presented by ISJ Hospice at Hosanna Lutheran Church Tues., Nov. 13, 7 – 8 PM. The program is free and open to the public.

The presentation focuses on the shortness and uncertainty of life and our consequent responsibilities. Reflecting on life will lead to valuing life stories that weave the tapestry of each individual path.

For more information, call Monica at 385-2618.

Shoestring Theatre

Martin Luther High School drama department presents "Shoestring Theatre", a humorous retelling of "Cinderella" on a shoestring budget, Fri., Nov. 16, 12:30 PM and 8 PM and Sat., Nov. 17, 7 PM at the historic Fairmont Opera House. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for students.

Free Thanksgiving Dinner

A free Thanksgiving dinner will be served Thurs., Nov. 22, 11 AM to 1 PM at First Presbyterian Church. Everyone is invited to join friends and neighbors around the table. Reservations are appreciated. Call the church at 387-2160.

Archeology Project

You are invited to join Dr. Mark Schuler of Concordia University, St. Paul, in the Northeast Church Archeology Project at Hippos/Sussita, Israel, June 26 – July 26, 2008.

Enjoy an academic and spiritual adventure at the project site overlooking the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee.

Approximate cost of the trip is \$3,905, including airfare, lodging, tours, and dig. For more information contact Dr Schuler at schuler@csp.edu or for more detailed information at <http://hippos.archaeology.csp.edu/currentseason/index.htm>

Help With Wildfires

LCMS World Relief and Human Care needs your help to respond to California wildfires which have scorched over 425,000 acres and displaced one million residents. LCMS World Relief provides grants to area congregations so they can reach out to members and neighbors in need. You can help by offering prayer as well as a monetary gift. Learn more at worldrelief.lcms.org.

Let's Talk, Parents

"Let's Talk, Sex Talk for Parents – The High School Years" is Tues., Nov. 27, 5:30-7 PM at Immanuel St. Joseph's Hospital, lower level. Upcoming sessions will address middle level, early childhood, and elementary years. All sessions are free and child care is available. Dinner is offered, but space is limited. To register, call the Council for Health Action and Promotion, 389-4618.

Sharing Jesus from Generation to Generation

As Good Shepherd celebrates its anniversary, this is the 4th in a series of articles on church history.

A History of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

In Luther's wake were other leaders, such as Ulrich Zwingli and John Calvin, who led reforms in other places for various reasons and with different teachings on doctrines such as the sacraments and how we are brought to faith. Their followers often did not feel that Lutherans changed enough in the Reformation. Attempting to keep civil peace, European rulers often forced Lutherans and these "Reformed" churches to join in a compromise of teaching and practice. At the same time there began a questioning of the reliability of Biblical writings.

A group of Lutherans in German Saxony, unwilling to abandon any of what they were convinced was truth, and unable to endure the resulting oppression, decided to immigrate to the United States. In 1838, under the leadership of Rev. Martin Stephan, 700 of them sailed from Europe in five ships. Four shiploads reached America and the settlers made their way to Missouri, where they settled in St. Louis and Perry Counties. When Stephan, a dynamic leader, was exposed for severe immorality, a young pastor in the group, C. F. W.

Walther, reunited the bewildered group with the reminder that the true church depended on no human leader but on God's word alone.

It was also Walther who, through publication of "Der Lutheraner," established ties with other like minded Lutherans in Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana who traced their origins to Rev. Wilhelm Loehe, a pioneer missionary. In 1847, the "Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and Other States" was formed with Walther as president. The term "synod" means "walking together" and describes self-governing congregations freely uniting.

From its very beginning, this Synod had missions and education among its top priorities. Every congregation was expected to have a school. As it rapidly grew, it always sought to establish contact with other Lutherans and to work with them as far as agreement with Christian teaching allowed. In the decades around the turn of the century, the LC-MS was growing rapidly as Lutherans from northern Europe immigrated to America. The opening of frontiers in the Midwest and northwest also brought the rapid growth of Lutheranism in those areas. It was soon necessary to divide the Synod into districts, and before long the mission outreach also spread overseas.

By 1938, the Missouri Synod was supporting missions in five foreign countries and was a leader in special work in America among Indians, blacks, the deaf the blind. The Missouri Synod was an early

pioneer in using broadcasting media to spread the Gospel and a leader in educating children through parochial schools.

Conflict and struggle have not disappeared from history. In the early years there were disagreements with other Lutherans about compromising doctrine and practice for the sake of outreach, predestination, and belief in "millennialism". In the 1970s, the Synod experienced a controversy concerning the Bible as the word of God and became the first mainline denomination in modern times to reverse the trend toward theological liberalism and reaffirm its historic doctrines. A group left the Synod at that time, but there remain disagreements within the church about church fellowship with other Christians, worship practices, and other issues.

Once called the "sleeping giant" of American Christianity, the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod has repeatedly reemphasized the importance of Biblical Lutheran teachings and of gospel outreach. Recently, the LC-MS set the goal of working with partners to share the gospel with 100 million new people by the 500th anniversary of the reformation in 2017.

There are now about 2.4 million Lutherans in about 6,000 congregations who are part of the Missouri Synod in the United States, along with mission and partner churches throughout the world. The LC-MS is second in size to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Bible Bites

for eat and run Bible reading

November 2007 (series C1, B2)

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: Rev. 7:2-17;
1 John 3:1-3; Matt. 5:1-12
- 2 1 Ch. 13:1 - 14:17;
Mark 12:13-44
- 3 Ps. 121:1-8; 122:1-9

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 the Grieving

4 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

- Isa. 1:1-18; 1 Thes. 1:1-12;
Luke 19:1-10
- 5 1 Ch. 15:1-29; Mark 13:1-37
 - 6 1 Ch. 16:1-43; Mark 14:1-31
 - 7 1 Ch. 17:1-27; Mark 14:32-72
 - 8 1 Ch. 18:1-17; Mark 15:11-41
 - 9 1 Ch. 19:1 - 20:8;
Mark 15:42 - 16:20

10 Psal. 83:1-18

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 peace

11 24th Sun. after Pentecost

- Exod. 3:10-15; 2 Thes. 2:1-8,
13-17; Luke 20:27-40
- 12 1 Ch. 21:1-30; Dan. 1:1-21
 - 13 1 Ch. 22:1 - 23:23; Dan. 2:1-23
 - 14 1 Ch. 23:24 - 24:31;
Dan. 2:24-49
 - 15 1 Ch. 25:1 - 26:19; Dan. 3:1-30
 - 16 1 Ch. 26:20-27:34; Dan. 4:1-18
 - 17 Psal. 10:1-18

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 Relief

18 25th Sun. after Pentecost

- Mal. 4:1-6; 2 Thess. 3:1-13;
Luke 21:5-36
- 19 1 Ch. 28:1-21; Dan. 4:19-37
 - 20 1 Ch. 29:1-30; Dan. 5:1-31
 - 21 Luke 18:1-34; Dan. 6:1-28
 - 22 Thanksgiving Day
Deut 8:1-10; Philip. 4:6-20 or

- 1 Tim. 2:1-14; Luke 17:11-19
- 23 Luke 18:35-19:27; Dan. 7:1-28
- 24 Psal. 11:1-7; 12:1-8

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

25 Last Sun. after Pentecost

- Mal. 3:13-18; Col. 1:13-20;
Luke 23:27-43
- 26 Luke 19:28 - 20:8; Dan. 8:1-27
 - 27 Luke 20:9-47; Dan. 9:1-27
 - 28 Luke 21:1-38; Dan. 10:1 - 11:4
 - 29 2 Th. 1:1 - 2:12; Dan. 11:5-28
 - 30 2 Th. 2:13 - 3:18;
Dan. 11:29 - 12:13

DECEMBER

- 1 Psal. 38:1-22

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