

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

***466 Elm St.
Monroe, CT 06468***



A Weekly Internet Devotional and Communication

November 6, 2006

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Let us pray: O God, you show forth your almighty power chiefly by reaching out to us in mercy. Grant us the fullness of your grace, strengthen our trust in your promises, and bring all the world to share in the treasures that come through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Suggested Bible readings for the week of Pentecost 22:

M Hosea 11:12-12:1; Acts 26:1-23; Luke 8:26-39.
T Hosea 12:2-14; Acts 26:24-27:8; Luke 8:40-56.
W Hosea 13:1-3; Acts 27:9-26; Luke 9:1-17.
Th Hosea 13:4-8; Acts 27:27-44; Luke 9:18-27.
F Hosea 13:9-16; Acts 28:1-16; Luke 9:28-36.
S Hosea 14:1-9; Acts 28:17-31; Luke 9:37-50.

Next Sunday's Texts- 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 17:8-16

This reading is representative of a prevailing theological perspective from the book of Deuteronomy: namely that faithful obedience to God's Law brings blessing while disobedience brings curse. Specifically here, God's power over nature rewards obedience to the Law (survival), while disobedience is punished by a drought.

Hebrews 9:24-28

The letter to the Hebrews describes Christ as a high priest who offers himself as a sacrifice for our sin. Christ does not die again and again each year. He died once, is alive with God, and will reveal himself on the last day.

Mark 12:38-44

After engaging in a series of public arguments with religious leaders in the temple, Jesus contrasts the proud and evil ways of those leaders with the sacrificial humility and poverty of the widow.

Brief reflection on the readings for Sunday:

All that we have---our lives, families, possessions, labor, and talents---comes from God and belongs to God. From the Christian perspective, we are not owners but stewards of all that the Creator has given us. And all that we have is given us for the good of others. The divine economy works with equity for all, a hand always open to the poor, the outcast, and the forgotten ones. God's bounty gives us the grace to hold nothing back in serving God.

Let us pray...

For those in need of healing and comfort: Family and friends of +Lynn Smith+, cousin of Ken and Audrey Heim; Veronica Serrano, surgery on Thursday; Sue Hough, recovering from surgery at home; Faye Holmes, (mother of Sue Hough) cancer reoccurrence; Margaret (friend of the Schiess' and Tim Carlsons), lung cancer; Helga Furnes, recovering at home; Andy, father of a member, prostate cancer; Kenneth Volek, relative of Arlene Juliano; Mary Curtis, friend of Trudi Black's, breast cancer; Christine Lawrence, friend of Eileen Remlin's, breast cancer; Joy Kotrch, (Ken Furnes' cousin), pancreatic cancer; Ty Bordenet, (friend of Eric Dreher's daughter), seriously injured in a motorcycle accident; Bob Wesche, now at home; Peg Wesche, Giant Cell Temporal arteritis; Raymond Plouffe, husband of Lynn Heim's co-worker; Linda Pleva; Sarah Mora; Victor Poklemba, brother of Helen Steinnagel, brain cancer; Jean McKinnon (metastasized breast cancer) and her husband Alex (friends of the Jacksons); Arlene Juliano, pain management; Judy Thomas, Beno's neighbor, mass on kidney; Bill Giarla (friend of Billie Flaherty), Lou Gehrig's disease, Ellie Ferguson, Wegener's vasculitis; Frank, prostate cancer

For peace with justice for all peoples of the Middle East.

Happenings at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church this week and beyond:

Monday, November 6	All Committee Night No Confirmation Class	7:00 PM
Tuesday, November 7	Election Day – Remember to Vote! The Lutheran Course – “How to Read the Bible”	7:00 PM
Wednesday, November 8	Congregation Council	7:30 PM
Thursday, November 9	Bell Choir Senior Choir	6:45 PM 7:30 PM
Saturday, November 11	Veterans' Day	
Sunday, November 12	Pentecost 23 Services at 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM Sunday School at 9:15 AM	
	Special Presentation on Fair Trade Coffee	9:15 AM

For two consecutive Sundays, November 12th and 19th, Joshua Rinas will make two presentations on The Lutheran World Relief Fair Trade Coffee Project. Joshua traveled to Nicaragua in 2004 and observed the economics of coffee first-hand on a Study Tour co-sponsored by LWR and Equal Exchange. Plan to join him during the Sunday School hour in the narthex for this interesting and challenging presentation. Read descriptions of the two presentations on the next page.

Fair Trade, Coffee, and Nicaragua: Sunday, November 12 @ 9:15 AM
"The Economics & Poverty of Trade"

Understanding the problems and possibilities of Free and Fair Trade--who is starving for our cup o' Joe and low prices? Looking at "NAFTA", "Free" & "Fair Trade" --are they "Free?" Are they "Fair?" See how Lutheran World Relief and our Larger Church is tackling these problems head-on.

Fair Trade, Coffee, and Nicaragua: Sunday, November 19 @ 9:15 AM
"Coffee: A Taste of Justice"

What does the Fair Trade farm, farmer, and production look like? How good can coffee and justice taste? See the wonders of the Lutheran World Relief Fair Trade Coffee Project! Taste wonderful Fair Trade coffee – samples from all over the world!!

Shepherd's Pantry supplies non-perishable food items for the Monroe Food Pantry. The requested items for the month of November are: stuffing and potatoes (fresh, canned or boxes of instant mashed potatoes).

The Youth Group is conducting a **cell phone drive** to donate to the battered women's shelter. This drive will be run through the end of December. Thank you for your support.

Praise be to you, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. There is no power for good which does not come from your covenant. Strengthen our faith to accept your covenant and give us the love to carry out your command. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Pastor Bryan A. Leone