



The St. John's Messenger

Monthly Newsletter

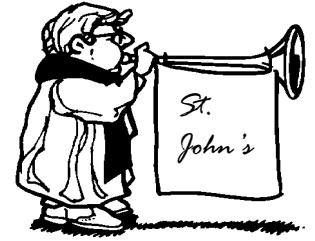
St. John's Lutheran Church & School

221 Walnut St. S.E.

Sleepy Eye, MN 56085

Church 794-6202 School 794-6200 Pastor 794-4500

www.lutheransonline.com/lo/stjohnsse or stjohnsschool



AUGUST 2007

VOLUME 2

NUMBER 8

Are You a Nose Or an Ear?

Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. (1 Corinthians 12:14-20, 27)

Just imagine what it would be like if you had three eyes but no nose, or what if you had five ears but no mouth. Besides looking rather strange you would perhaps see flowers very well but not be able to enjoy their smell, or hear a train coming but not be able to warn anyone! How important it is to have all the parts of our body just the way they are as Paul describes in the verses above. God has arranged the parts of our body in just the right way so that there is the perfect balance between the five senses, arms, legs, and the rest of the body.

The same is true in the church. Here at St. John's, God has placed a variety of people with different gifts. I haven't been in Sleepy Eye long, but I have seen a diverse group of people – each with their own gifts and talents. The Lord planned it this way. He brings people into the church with the perfect mix of skills so that his work, the work of the church, can be accomplished.

No, not all of you can be an ear or an eye, but all of you are important, all of you are needed, all of you can help as we grow and carry out the work our Savior has given us. May God grant all of us the ability to recognize and value the unique gifts he has given each of us.



Be a Disciple

St. John's Mission statement: *The continuing purpose of this congregation is to serve all people in God's world with the gospel of Jesus Christ on the basis of the Holy Scriptures.*

Befriend a Missionary Spotlight

This month featuring
Missionary Michael Borgwardt
Crossroads Church, Chicago

(Fourth in a series of informational reports about the five missionaries St. John's is assigned to support through the LWMS for the years 2006-07)

Crossroads started as a concept in 2003 and is now a thriving ministry that serves the northern neighborhoods of Chicago, IL. Missionary Borgwardt has been at Crossroads since July 2005. This site is considered a home mission because it is still relatively new, and is in the process of growing. Currently, worship services are held at 10 am in the auditorium of Stockton Elementary School. There are about 50 members at this time.

Crossroads is a church started by God's grace and the interest of young adults with a main focus of outreach to young people who do not have a church. 60% of the congregation consists of young singles!

Pastor Borgwardt is active in leading groups at church – there are men's and women's groups, as well as a recently formed substance abuse group. For recreation, a runner's club is out of the blocks and a volleyball team also gets together for some fun Christian fellowship.

Missionary Borgwardt is married to his wife, Mika. They have three children:

Ruth: birthday 11/17/1996

Joshua: birthday 2/15/1999

Grace: birthday 7/17/2000

The Borgwardts' anniversary is 7/14/1995. Michael's birthday is January 23rd, and Mika's is on July 19th. Please consider sending them greetings upon these special occasions, or adding them to your Christmas card list. Above all, remember them and their mission field in your prayers as they serve this special section of God's people in the Chicago area. Special prayer requests include asking God to bless Crossroads church with a part-time worship minister, and that God would give them guidance in their approach to reaching young people in a post-Christian culture.

Paula Windschitl
LWMS Reporter



Support for Military Personnel

Sgt. Hammerschmidt, Zachary [birthday: Sept. 2]
Back from Iraq

SPC Kostoff, Stephen M. [birthday: Dec. 11]
Back from Iraq

SPC Piotter, James L. [birthday: June 21]
Back from Iraq

Sgt. Hammerschmidt, Todd [birthday: November 7]
B194 IN
Camp Bucca
APO AE 09375
Todd.hammerschmidt@us.army.mil

SRA Mattes, Jessica
[birthday: Dec. 16]
PSC 41 Box 5596
APO AE 09464

Recruit Piotter, Luke G. [birthday: April 28]
2nd RTBN Fox Co. PLT 2127
36001 Midway Ave.
MCRD San Diego, CA 92140-2127 [‘til Jan. ‘07]

If there are any changes to the above addresses, or if an e-mail address is available please contact the school office at 794 - 6200. Thank you.



Corn Days Parade

Participants are needed to be in the Corn Days Parade on August 18th at 6:30PM. Anyone who would like to walk, ride bikes, scooters, roller blades, etc. are welcome.

Please contact Colleen Haag at 794-4902 or colleenh@sleepyeyetel.net

A BIG THANK YOU!!!!

The Hosanna Circle would like to thank everyone who donated food and helped to make Pastor Draper's Installation a wonderful event!



Church Council Minutes – July 24, 2007

Present: Leo Derkowski, Steve Windschitl, Van Tallman, Dennis Dittbenner, Kurk Kramer, Paul Maasz, Greg Bartz and Pastor Draper.

Pastor Draper opened the meeting with devotion and a prayer.

Minutes

Van Tallman/ Steve Windschitl made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 2007 meeting. Motion carried.

Pastors/SMI Report

Pastor Draper did not give a formal report. He said he plans to visit every member as soon as possible.

Treasurer's Report

Greg Bartz/Dennis Dittbenner made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Pastor Draper advised that we hold off on the letter with an overview of our financial situation to be sent to members until he has completed the member visits. Van Tallman will discuss the current situation at the Annual Meeting on July 29, 2007 and will draw some content from the letter that has already been drafted..

President's Report

No formal report

Dennis Dittbenner/Leo Derkowski made a motion to schedule the teacher installation of Stephanie Zastrow on August 12, 2007. Motion carried.

Board of Elders

A written report was submitted by Steve Windschitl.

Installation of new Church Council officers is scheduled for July 29, 2007 at the 9:00 AM service.

Dennis Dittbenner/Leo Derkowski made a motion to select the VEBA plan for health insurance for Pastor Draper and his three sons and on September 1, 2007 Sallie Draper, his wife, will be added to the policy. VEBA coverage for Teacher Stephanie Zastrow will begin on September 1, 2007. Motion carried.

Parsonage allowance:

Steve Windschitl/Leo Derkowski made the following motion:

“As of July 24, 2007, be it resolved under provisions of section 107 of the Internal revenue Code of 1986, as amended, the Minister of the Gospel listed below may have a portion of his compensation designated as a parsonage allowance. The amount indicated shall be the designated parsonage allowance for the year 2007.

Pastor Kevin Draper in the amount of \$14,000.” Motion carried.

Principal & Board of Education

Kurk Kramer submitted a formal report.

Kurk requested a status on school custodians. The school has not been cleaned all summer. He also requested a status on the floors being waxed and buffed. The matters will be referred to John Mueller.

The handbooks for 2007-2008 will be revised and consolidated.

Worship Committee

No report

Maintenance Committee

No formal report.

Leo Derkowski/Greg Bartz made a motion to use the remaining \$200 of our Thrivent Congregational Funds for parsonage repairs. Motion carried.

Leo Derkowski requested an update on volunteers to clean the church. A signup sheet needs to be put in the narthex. Matter is referred to John Mueller.

Outreach

Bible school outreach visits to the Hispanic community continue.

Stewardship

No formal report.

Endowment and Trust Fund Committee

Greg Bartz provided a financial overview.

MVL/WELS

No reports.

Old Business

None

New Business

Dennis Dittbenner/Greg Bartz made a motion to approve the Ladies Aid pie sale at Hot Buttered Corn Days. Motion carried.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 21, 2007 at 7:30 PM** in the Church basement.

Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Leo Derkowski, Secretary

LARGE PRINT HYMNALS



The confirmation class of 2007 has purchased two large print hymnals. The hymnals are in the back of church in large burgundy three-ringed binders. If you would like to try one during services, to make seeing the small print easier, please help yourself to one or ask an usher or elder for one. They were purchased with the intent to be used on a regular basis. The Confirmation class hopes you'll enjoy being able to see those words from the hymnal with much greater ease!

Pie Table At Corn Days

On Friday, August 17th St. John's Ladies, assisted by St. John's Youth Group, will again be serving pie at the annual Corn Days at Allison Park. Forty fruit pies are needed, please bring pies that can withstand the heat. Donations are needed and appreciated. A sign up sheet will be in back of the church. Pies are to be brought to the church basement by 10:00AM on Friday, August 17th.

The money made will be matched by Thrivent Foundation for Lutherans. The Ladies Aid will use money made for their worthwhile causes and the Youth Group will use it for next years trip.



Mary Ann Trebesch

Open House Bridal Shower

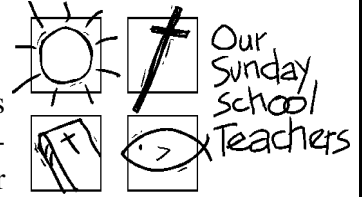
For **Julie Schmotzer**
bride to be of
Brady Lux
On August 18th
From 10:30AM – Noon
In the church basement



Registered at Target & Walmart

Sunday School Teachers

Mark your calendars.....



Sunday School Teachers will hold their organizational meeting for our year on August 27th at 6:30PM. If you are teaching this year, please plan on attending.

Red Cross Bloodmobile

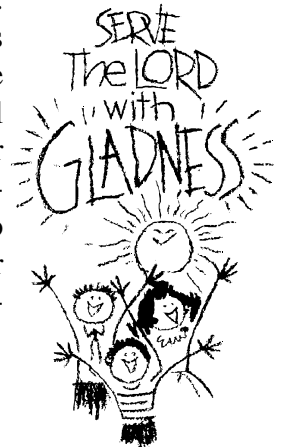
Thank you to all who volunteered to assist at the recent Red Cross Bloodmobile drive in Sleepy Eye. Your donation of cookies for the canteen and salads and desserts for the meal and those who gave of their time working that day was very much appreciated. Also, thanks to those who donated their blood. Because of all your efforts we added 172 units of blood to the much needed supply. Thank you all so very much!
Bev Bartz

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are still looking for 8-10 more families/couples to be placed on a rotating schedule for church cleaning.

Cleaning is estimated to take approximately two hours per week. Our goal is to get enough volunteers so that each family only has to clean the church 3-4 times per year.

In the past this has been a paid position. We estimate that volunteers will save the church \$2,000 per year. If you are able to volunteer please add your name to the list in the back of church or call John Mueller at 507-723-6152.



From the Principal

“CHRIST STRENGTHENS ME”

These words make up the theme that MVL and the area LES will be using for the 2007-2008 school year. It is based on the passage from Philippians 4:13. The inspired words that Paul wrote in this passage are words that all of us can use each and every day of our lives. This theme will be on the wall at school again this year to remind the students, parents, and faculty that we all receive our strength through Christ our Savior.

August gets everyone back into the school mode. The faculty will be participating in a number of different in-services and workshops. There will be principal and athletic director conferences, faculty meetings, and classroom preparations by the teachers. Parents and students will be school shopping for clothes and supplies. Registration Day and “Back to School Night” will take place on August 13. School forms and other items will be available on a table in the back of church to speed up the registration process. All of these things, and more, are a part of getting back into the “swing” of another school year.

I am looking forward with great anticipation to working with two new faculty members, Stephanie Zastrow and Naomi Evenson. I also am thankful for the years of experience and expertise that Laurie Halvorson brings to her classroom as she returns for another year here at St. John’s LES.

Pastor Draper and I have had several meetings to discuss the many things that we will be working on together as we serve here at St. John’s Church and School. I am very excited with the knowledge, understanding, enthusiasm, and love for the Lord that Pastor has already shared with me. His wife also is a very welcome blessing as she will share her knowledge and expertise in the field of technology and computers with the faculty and students in the coming years.

I am thankful for all of the parents of our congregation who have chosen to send their children to St. John’s LES, and I am looking forward to serving them again this year. With the Lord’s help and guidance, we look for a prosperous 2007-2008 school year.

Due to financial situation of the church budget, and due to the fact that the cost of having the school is a very large portion of the church budget, school fees for the coming school year have been raised. Some of the other fees related to school activities have also been raised. We pray to the Lord that He would enable all of us to give proportionately, and lovingly, back to Him for all the spiritual and material blessings that He has bestowed upon us. There will be an opportunity for all families to receive financial assistance through the regular financial assistance program, and also by using the SCRIP program. Any other congregation members can also assist any school families by using SCRIP and designating which family, or which school program or fund, they would like the proceeds of SCRIP to go towards. Please contact me if you have any questions or would like more information.

May the Lord continue to bless all of us as we work together towards helping this church and school promote His word and prosper His Kingdom. To God be the glory great things He has done!

Kurk K. Kramer
Principal
St. John’s LES



† Memorials †

In memory of Deloris Steffl

To Organ Fund – \$18.00
Shorty & Mary Jayne Haus
Lorna Havemeier
Eugene & Maryls Lochner
Gilbert & Mildred Maas

To School Fund – \$15.00
Armin & June Grundmeyer
Deloris Menk

Debt Fund – \$13.00
Dennis & Pam Dittbenner
Bev Altmann

GIVING OPPORTUNITY

Would you, as a member of St. John's, like to see an additional **\$30,000+** added to our giving contributions? This is not an unattainable goal! How can we do this? If you are a Thrivent member, up to \$300 will be given to St. John's if you

Church – \$10.00
Butch & Bev Guza
Marsha Marti

Ladies Aid – \$15.00
Harold & Bev Bartz
Walter & Mary Ann Trebesch

Building Project – \$40.00
Linus & Marilyn Deibele
LaMonte & Elaine Helget
Armin & Leona Lendt
Art, Arlene & Patsy Seifert

Shingling Project – \$5.00
Beverly Wischstadt

make a \$600 contribution to St. John's. Thrivent members have formed a committee and are setting a goal of \$10,000 in matching funds for 2007 and you can help us reach that goal! Since our church has a unified budget your gifts to the church do support our school.

Giving is easy.

- **Sign a Giving Plus Form (available in the back of church) only one form needed and will be kept on file in the church office**
- **You can use your weekly giving envelope**
- **Please make your checks out to St. John's School.**
- **Write "MATCH" on it and the church office will take care of the rest.**

Once you have reached \$600 the form will be sent in and Thrivent will send St. John's a check for \$300!
You can also designate the area you would like your gift to be used in!

Remember each Thrivent member age 16 and older can have their contribution matched.

We will have a kick off to this program on the day of the Hog Roast. Nate Scharlemann will be with us to explain this program and answer any questions you may have regarding this form of matching funds. If you are a Thrivent member we would like you to sign a form that day.

The Redwood Falls School received over \$50,000 in marching funds last year alone. Let's work together to take advantage of this program.

If you have questions at this time please see one or our committee members.

They are: Todd and Jodie Marotz, Dave and Char Zimmermann, Tom and Sue Jensen, Mr. Kurk Kramer