

The St. John's Messenger

St. John's Lutheran Church & School 221 Walnut St. S.E.
Sleepy Eye, MN 56085
Church 794-6202 School 794-6200 Pastor 794-4500
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AUGUST 2012

A Wise and Powerful God

Doesn't the world amaze you? Isn't it remarkable that your skin has the ability to heal itself when you get a cut? Your car can't do that! Or think about the ability of the human mind to be creative. Your computer can't do that. Then consider how even a microscopic single-celled bacteria has a complex series of genetic information called DNA, knows how to copy that DNA and even proofreads the copy to avoid mistakes!

When I see the great complexity in even the simplest living organisms and I see how diverse creatures each have a part to play in sustaining life, I come to the conclusion that this world was designed by someone with great insight and power. Many debate this on many different levels, but for today I ask you consider that what you believe about the beginning of life has an impact on where you find comfort, meaning and purpose in life.

If someone believes evolution, that life developed by random processes, perhaps they also believe that there is no god. Then, are those random processes in control of their life? Many want to believe that they are in control, but is that true? How many things have happened in your life that were outside of your control? Evolution doesn't provide any comfort when those things happen and if I am the product of random processes, then what is the meaning or purpose of my life?

Some suggest that evolution is the tool God used to create the world over billions of years. Yet, Genesis chapter one talks about 6 days of creation and each one of those days was an "evening" and a "morning". If God takes billions of years to do something, but leads people to believe it only took 6 days, do you really want a God like that? Can you trust him to give meaning and purpose to your life? Does he really have the power to take care of you?

But God is not like that. God has the wisdom and the power to create in six days a world that is beautiful and wonderfully complex. That means he has the power and wisdom to take care of all our problems in the best way possible. We are not the product of chance, but the high point of his wise and powerful workmanship. That means he wants what is best for us. He proved that even more when, in the person of Jesus Christ, God became part of his creation to rescue us from the problems we cause for ourselves.

This is a God I can trust. He promises to take care of me in difficult times, and I know he has the wisdom and power to do it. Since I am part of his well designed world then I have meaning and purpose as part of God's creation. Yes, I am amazed by this world. As King David declared, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." (Psalm 19:1)

In Christ our Freedom,
Pastor Draper

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.*

Presidents Report to St Johns Church Council & Congregation July 2012

July 12, 2012

Trials & Temptations

James 1:2-4

2Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Stay the course through trials as God desires & we lack nothing. We all have challenges to face and we feel like giving up at times. To persevere takes diligence and work but God says it is for us to be mature and complete, as a person, a family, a church, a school.

Thanks to all those that stepped up and took another term in their positions and to those newly elected board members to help provide leadership to our congregation. I look forward to working with all of you and I appreciate the time and effort you put into your work for the Lord at St. John's. We still have the position of council secretary open and I would love to have that filled as soon as possible. Call myself or Pastor if you are interested.

At the budget and electoral meeting held June 24th we approved our budget for the 12/13 fiscal year. There were increases in some areas of the budget that we will need to deal with and raise the funds for. Pray about how you may be able to help. It does not always have to be money. Your time and talent to helping out around the church and school is needed also. There are many needed maintenance projects for all the buildings. There is yard work and landscaping improvements needed too. Just ask Mike Crabtree, myself or Pastor for ideas! A reminder there is a scheduled cleanup day on Saturday August 4th. Many hands will make the work go fast!

At our Annual voters meeting on Sunday July 15th, we will have our standard meeting plus continuing the discussion on putting in the needed improvements to satisfy the fire marshal & that being mainly the sprinkler system. While there are other smaller improvements needed also, this is the largest portion of the costs. It was asked at the June 24th meeting to research whether other requirements would be put on the building should we do the repairs needed to satisfy the fire marshal. These findings will be presented and a vote will be held on Sunday July 15th.

St John's Bible Camp is coming the week of July 22-26. Back to school night is Aug 9th, it seems like summer is slipping away!

Yours in Christ,

Steve Windschitl
President, St John's Congregation

Church Council Minutes July 12, 2012

Present: Jerry Dittbenner, Mike Crabtree, Jim Mielke, Steve Windschitl, Andy Lochner, Shorty Haus, Dan Rick, Dave Zimmerman and Pastor Draper.

Pastor Draper opened the meeting with devotion and a prayer.

Minutes

Shorty Haus/Andy Lochner made a motion to approve the June 2012 minutes. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

Pastor reported on the upcoming Bible camp and back to school night.

Treasurer's Report

Barry Hillmann/Mike Crabtree made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

President's Report

Written report.

Board of Elders

Shorty Haus/Andy Lochner made a motion to transfer out Professor Mark and Collette Zaring to Zion Lutheran, Winthrop, Mn. Motion carried.

Principal & Board of Education

A billing service has been hired to handle the tuition and hot lunch fees. Full payment must be received or 2/payments in order not to incur a \$45.00 fee per family. The new school handbook is being worked on and Pre-K fees are being adjusted.

August 4th will be a clean-up day. A school open house will be held on August 7th. August 9th is back to school night.

Worship Committee

Our annual picnic will be held August 5th at Sportsman's Park.

Maintenance Committee

Clean-up day will be held August 4th.

Outreach

No report.

Stewardship

No report. Dave Silfies is the newest member.

MVL/WELS

The MVL Delegate meeting was held Monday, June 18th at 7:00 p.m. at MVL. Tuition costs this year is \$5.600 per student. 204 students will be attending this year.

Endowment and Trust Fund Committee

No report.

Old Business

Voter's will meet on Sunday at the annual meeting to vote on the possibility of a new sprinkler system.

Pastor will be attending the January trip to Israel. The cost is \$4,200.

New Business

Kevin Leopold placed handicap signs out in front of church.

The next scheduled council meeting: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, August 14, 2012.

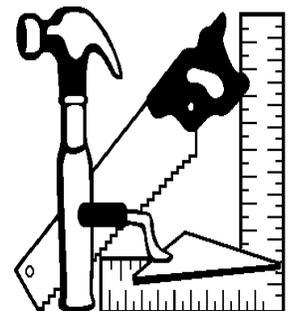
Shorty Haus/Dave Zimmerman made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted
Jerry Dittbenner, Acting Secretary

Clean Up Day

We are having our annual clean up day at St. John's School/Church grounds/interiors on **August 4th**. If that day doesn't work for you, please see the list located in back of church for things that can be done anytime. There are many supplies located in the school entrance that you may use. Thanks for your participation!



Church Picnic

Our annual Church Picnic is planned for **August 5th at Sportsmen's Park**. The church service will start at 9:30 a.m. We will have games after the service and a potluck meal following the games. Please bring a dish to pass, your own plates and silverware. We will have some drinks available. You may want to bring a lawn chair or two and any other items your family

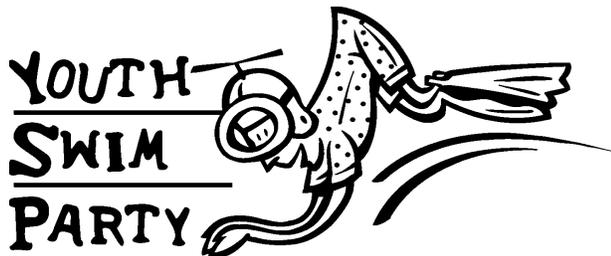


may need. Save this date, come hear the Lord's word by the lake and share fellowship with us. Hope to see you there!

Back to School Night

Back to school night will be held **Thursday, August 9th** beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the church basement. Following registration and classroom visits everyone is welcome to join us for "splish and splash" fun at the Sleepy Eye Aquatic Center from 8:30 - 10:30 p.m.

St. John's Church and School members are all invited. Come and join the fun!



Pie Stand

We will once again be baking pies for the Pie Stand at Corn Days in the Park on Thursday, August 16th. If you are interested in doing some baking and want to do it in the Church Basement and share fellowship with some other ladies, we will be baking pies during the day and maybe in the early evening if necessary with times to be decided later. You can contact Pam Dittbenner if you need to know a time to be there when we are closer to the date. Please feel free to bake your pies at home and bring them to the church basement on the 16th.



Movie Night

A movie night has been planned for August 18th right after the Corn Days Parade. We are planning on grilling hotdogs, serving Chips, pickles and bars and some drinks with the movie to follow. The movie will be shown outdoors if weather permits with changing to the church basement if bad weather should happen. Please bring anything you would like to sit on. This was so enjoyable last year when we had the movie outdoors so we hope to see many of you there. Any questions, please contact Pastor or Pam Dittbenner.



Lutheran Women's Missionary Society



The 2012 Convention was held in Winston-Salem, North Carolina June 21-24, 2012. 724 registered attendees were present, which included members from 57 circuits. Currently, 884 WELS congregations are members in the LWMS.

Mission presentations were given by the following pastors: Stephen Schmidt – WELS Military Services; Gary Lupe – Apache Mission; Andrew Johnston – Antigua Mission; Timothy Bourman- Multi-cultural Ministry; and Nathan Wagenknecht – Latin American Traveling Theological Educators (LATTE).

Along with the mission presentations worship, devotions, bible studies and workshops filled the days. A business meeting was held for delegates and alternates. Results of submitted ballots were announced, disclosing new officers and also Home and World Mission project selections. The Home Mission Project, which will receive \$31,063.45, is: Summer Student Assistants. The World Mission Project, which will also receive \$31,063.45, will go to the Thailand project. (Note: These Home and World Mission Projects are where a portion of the annual collection we submit goes to!)

The offering collected at the worship service totaled \$29,537.70. This offering will be divided equally between: Home Mission Project: First Public Service Assistance; and the World Mission Project: Zambia.

Upcoming Mission Projects that will be voted upon in the year to come include:
Home Missions: Caribbean Missionary Conference; and Students in Multi-Ethnic Seminary Program.
World Missions: Nigeria and Indonesia Projects.

If you'd like a more complete recap of the convention, go to: www.lwms.org. Click on the convention site, and then select "Quick Facts" for the 2012 convention.

Next year's convention will be in LACROSSE, WISCONSIN!! I can't encourage you enough to

strongly consider attending this event when it is so close to home. You will be amazed and encouraged by what you see, hear and learn about the spread of the gospel in the WELS! Mark your calendar now for June 27-30, 2013!!

On a more local note, the Fall LWMS Rally will be held at Zion Lutheran in Winthrop. Watch for the date and time!

And, finally, we have one Befriend a Mission family with an event to celebrate! Missionary Paul Werner has a birthday on 8/11/12. You may send a card of encouragement to him at:

Pastor Paul Werner
2222 Englewood Rd.
Englewood, FL 34223-6316

Pray for Missions!

Paula Windschitl, Reporter

Memorials

In Memory of Edna Putz

School Classrooms

Family & Friends - \$180

New Building Fund

Steve & Paula Windschitl - \$20

In Memory of Richard Siegler

Street Repair

Family & Friends - \$450
Pastor J.D. & Rosie Liggett - \$25

Betty Clausen - \$25

Bev Bartz - \$20

