



# The St. John's Messenger

Monthly Newsletter

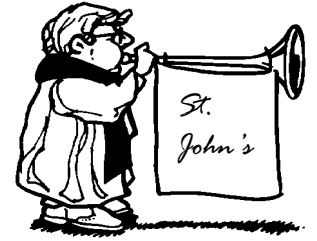
**St. John's Lutheran Church & School**

221 Walnut St. S.E.

Sleepy Eye, MN 56085

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

www.stjohnsse.com



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## Blessed!

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3).

Are you blessed? I certainly am! God has blessed me and my family. In fact, you are the ones through whom he delivered that blessing!

One year ago (yes, it has been a year already), when I was ready to move to Sleepy Eye, members of St. John's came to help. When we unloaded the truck even more members came to help. After settling into our new house, members of St. John's worked on the parsonage and brought food and other needed items. In a variety of ways I am blessed: boxes moved, new paint, a new lawn, corn, tomatoes, sausage, apple pie, and the list goes on. I don't even know all the people I should thank.

Even more, I am blessed to have a place to share God's Word and people to share it with. All of you made that possible by calling me to serve you as your pastor. (Thank you to everyone I was not able to thank personally.) Why did you do this? It was because you are blessed – blessed by the Gospel! We deserved to be abandoned by God, but God blessed us with salvation through His Son. We deserve pain and torment but God blesses us with peace. We deserve hell but God will bless us with heaven. When we think of these wonderful blessing God has given us, can we help but be a blessing to others?

Yes, the same is true for me. I pray that in view of all that our gracious God has done for me that I will continue to be a blessing to you. I know that God will grant this request. After all, God is the one who called me to preach His Gospel here at St. John's Lutheran Church. I can be sure that God wants me to be here. You can also be sure that God has placed me here for the good of His church.

This is both a blessing and a responsibility. I am blessed with the opportunity to serve you, my brothers and sisters in Christ, with the Word of God. I will say it again – serving you is a blessing that I joyfully look forward to. I am also given the responsibility of carrying out my work faithfully and remaining faithful to God's Truth. I ask for your prayers as I carry out this responsibility, even as I will pray for you and the continuing growth of your faith.

In Christ who blesses us,  
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.*

## Church Council Minutes – July 14, 2008

Present: Leo Derkowski, Paul Maasz, Van Tallman, Todd Marotz, Kurk Kramer and Pastor Draper.

Pastor Draper opened the meeting with devotion and a prayer.

### Minutes

Van Tallman/Todd Marotz made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 2008 meeting. Motion carried.

### Pastor's Report

Pastor Draper submitted a written report on statistics. Leo Derkowski/Todd Marotz made a motion to transfer the membership of the Wade Besemer family to St. Paul's, New Ulm. Motion carried.

In an effort to recruit more men to assist with communion, Pastor Draper will speak the words of distribution. It is thought that not having to speak the words of distribution will encourage more members to volunteer to assist.

Installation of new council members is scheduled for Sunday, July 20, 2008.

Installation of our new teacher, Rachel Foelske, is scheduled for Sunday, July 27, 2008.

### Treasurer's Report

Van Tallman reviewed the year-end income/expense numbers. We finished "in the black" for the year, thanks in large part to assistance from Thrivent matching funds. Leo Derkowski/ Todd Marotz made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

### President's Report

Reminder that the quarterly voter's meetings will be held on Sunday, July 20, 2008 at 10:30 AM.

### Board of Elders

No formal report. As is the current practice, no Board of Education meeting was held in July.

The Elders were asked to recommend a date for the Hog Roast.

### Principal & Board of Education

No formal report.

Kurk Kramer will coordinate a silent auction in conjunction with the Hog Roast.

Pastor Draper reported that four notebook comput-

ers for the teachers have been purchased, along with 22 desktop computers. 19 desktops will be used in the computer lab and three in the classrooms.

### Worship Committee

No report.

### Maintenance Committee

No report. Burned out fluorescent light bulbs in the school need to be replaced.

### Outreach

No report.

### Stewardship

A letter encouraging members who have Thrivent accounts to apply for matching funds is being prepared for distribution.

### Endowment and Trust Fund Committee

No report.

### MVL/WELS

MVL – a written report was submitted by Kurk Kramer.

WELS – no report

### Old Business

None

### New Business

Due to changes in how emergency 911 calls are handled we no longer have an operating phone in the church. The phone company says that phone numbers cannot exist in two physical locations, which could result in confusion over the location of origin of an emergency call. Currently, both phone numbers, 794-6200 and 794-6202, are based in the school. Several potential solutions were discussed, including running a phone line from the school through the old steam heating pipe, patching into the emergency phone in the elevator or purchasing a cordless phone system with a satellite base installed in the church.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 12, 2008 at 7:30 PM.

Todd Marotz/Leo Derkowski made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted  
Leo Derkowski, Secretary

# REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

It is easy to forget about those we do not often see in church or in the community. Our Ladies Aid visits as many of our homebound members as possible, but not all can be visited every month. Won't you help? An occasional phone call, card, or visit would be very appreciated.

Below is a list of our homebound members. Refer to it often as you consider how to reach out. An updated list will be included regularly in the church newsletter.

## AT SLEEPY EYE CARE CENTER/COUNTRYSIDE 794-7995; res.'s line -3500

Mr. Elmer Lehnert	(Hall 2)	
Mrs. Minnie Stockstead	(Hall 2)	
Mrs. Jean Schulz	(Hall 1)	
Mr. Robert Sucker	(Countryside Apt. # 204)	794-3836
Mr. & Mrs. Roy & Viola Suker	(Countryside Apt. #206)	794-7708
Mrs. Neoma Schmid	(Countryside Apt. # 109)	794-7697

## SLEEPY EYE: EAST

Mrs. Emilie Netzke	117 Remmele St. SE	794-6514
Mrs. Verna Painter	421 Summit St. SE	794-6624
Nita Brown	114 6 <sup>th</sup> Ave NE	794-3109

## SLEEPY EYE: WEST

Mrs. Carol Eckstein	717 Walnut St. SW	794-6910
Mr. Leonard Lowinske	405 W. Main	794-6818
Esther Pabst	724 Water St. SW	794-6726
Agnes Piotter	416 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave. NW	794-6044
Mrs. Norma Siegmann	200 5th Ave. SW	794-3196
Mrs. Anna Peterman	Divine Providence #205	794-2505

## OUT OF TOWN

Hanska – Mrs. Elaine Keim	Rt. 1, Box 74	794-6697
New Ulm - Mrs. Melva Christensen	Orchard Hill L.C. 1220 Karl Dr #107	233-9617
Mankato – Don Radel	N. Point Senior L.C. 2135 Lor Ray Dr. #208	



# † Memorials †

## *In Memory of Mark Jensen*

### **Organ Fund**

Melvin & Lois Lendt – \$10.00  
 Armin & June Grundmeyer – \$5.00  
 Arnie & Arlene Hinderman – \$5.00  
 Dave & Carol Meyer – \$10.00  
 Arlene Jensen & family – \$400.00

### **School Fund**

Shorty & Mary Jane Haus – \$5.00  
 Ed & Chery Heideman – \$5.00  
 Steve & Paula Windschitl – \$25.00  
 Steve & Mickey Meyer – \$10.00  
 Arno & Orpha Lendt – \$10.00  
 Arlene Jensen & family – \$400.00

### **Debt Fund**

Ralph/LaRae Grundmeyer – \$10.00  
 Arlene Jensen & family – \$400.00

### **Technology Fund**

Arlene Jensen & family – \$75.00  
 Mielke Accounting – \$10.00

## *In Memory of Jim Berkner*

### **Organ Fund**

Harold & Bev Bartz – \$10.00  
 Wally & Mary Ann Trebesch – \$10.00  
 Shorty & Mary Jayne Haus – \$5.00

### **Technology Fund**

Greg & Mary Bartz – \$20.00  
 Dave Honeman – \$5.00  
 Marc & Sue Radel – \$20.00  
 Barry & Lisa Hillmann – \$15.00  
 Jon & Doreen Ziesemer – \$10.00  
 Rich & Connie Trebesch – \$5.00  
 Steve & Mickey Meyer/  
 Dave & Carol Meyer – \$20.00  
 Eugene & Marlys Lochner – \$5.00  
 Don & Laurie Halvorson – \$20.00  
 Don & Ruby Gohlke – \$10.00  
 Curt & Donna Lambrecht – \$10.00  
 Dave & Rosie Liggett – \$15.00

Darryl & Nanette Schwartz – \$10.00  
 John & Mary Maas – \$15.00  
 Friends & Family – \$30.00  
 Brad & LeAnn Berkner – \$250.00  
 Kurk & Janet Kramer – \$20.00

## *In Memory of Helen Wright*

Doc Romberg – \$100.00  
 Jon & Rachel Scharlemann – \$25.00

## *In Memory of Ernest Trapp Sr.*

### **School Fund**

Robert & Janice Steffen – \$20.00

## **Computer Lab Open House**

The updates to the school computer lab are done! Many thanks to those who generously donated their time, talents and treasure to the work of remodeling and to the purchase of 22 new computers and 2 new SMARTBoards for our school. May God bless these efforts and use the lab to equip our students with wisdom and discernment in this digital age. The congregation is invited to tour the lab and see the SMARTBoard in action on Sunday, August 24th from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

## **WANTED: SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS**



Would you enjoy sharing Bible Stories and their truths with the children of St. John's? Could you give 10 Sundays between September and May to do so? If so, teaching Sunday School might be something you would like to try. Teachers are needed in every level for the coming year.

If you are interested, please call school 794-620, Mrs. Halvorson 507-276-2757 (cell), or email [ljhalvorson@hotmail.com](mailto:ljhalvorson@hotmail.com) for more information. The rewards of sharing God's Word will amaze you!