



# 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



AUGUST 2009

VOLUME 2

NUMBER 8

## Is God Fair?

B.J. Webb, Jr. was a high school junior at Wisconsin Lutheran High School in Milwaukee, WI. Earlier this year B.J. was in an automobile accident that eventually took his life. He died on May 23rd. His principal described him as a good academic student and a talented athlete. But now this young, christian man has been taken from this world even before he finished high school. It doesn't seem fair, does it?

Several weeks before he died B.J. had an opportunity to talk about what he thought was fair. As an English class assignment he was asked to respond to the statement "Fair is whatever God wants to do." Please read his response. It is a testimony to his faith and a good reminder for us.

I think that this quote is a very true statement because even though at times we may not like what God allows to happen to us and we think that he is mad at us or trying to punish us, we have to remember that God is in control and that he has our best interest in mind. So we have no right to tell God what is fair or unfair because he is in control and has the power to do anything he wants, for God gives but he can also take away. Who are we to say we are being treated unfairly when God sent his one and only Son to come from heaven to earth, to be humiliated and ridiculed by us and to finally suffer and die on a cross when He had never done anything wrong in His life. So I think that if anyone knows what is fair or unfair it is God. It is unfair for us as sinners to even be able to pray and give praise to God because we are so unworthy, but it is his unending love and amazing grace that allows us to have the privilege of claiming Him as our God. So I think it is true that "Fair is whatever God wants to do." -B.J. Webb, Jr.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
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, 2009

Present: Leo Derkowski, Paul Maasz, Todd Hammerschmidt, Van Tallman, Barry Hillman, Steve Windschitl and Pastor Draper.

Pastor Draper opened the meeting with devotion and a prayer.

### Minutes

Barry Hillman/Todd Hammerschmidt made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 2009 meeting. Motion carried.

### Pastor's Report

A written report on statistics and activities was submitted.

### Treasurer's Report

Steve Windschitl/Barry Hillman made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

### President's Report

No report

### Board of Elders

Todd Hammerschmidt /Tom Jensen made a motion to transfer the membership of Tom and Rachel Rosenow to St. John's, Pigeon, MI. Motion carried.

### Principal & Board of Education

No report

### Worship Committee

The service and church picnic at Ft. Ridgley was well attended.

### Maintenance Committee

Todd Hammerschmidt is getting oriented to his new position.

### Outreach

The Hispanic Outreach program will not be funded this year. There is a possibility that the WELS Kingdom Workers may be able to fund a part time called worker although we will not know for certain until the end of this year.

There is some interest on the part of MLC to start an after school care program at St. John's. Details are not available at this time.

### Stewardship

No formal report.

### Endowment and Trust Fund Committee

No report.

### MVL/WELS

No reports.

### Old Business

None

### New Business

After counseling, discussion and prayerful consideration, the Board of Elders has recommended that the Church Council and voters ask for the resignation of Kurk Kramer as school principal and upper grade teacher effective immediately.

It was agreed to table further discussion until a special Council meeting with better representation of Council

members be held to take up the recommendation. The meeting is scheduled for 7:00 PM, Friday, July 17, 2009.

Next council meeting: 7:30 Tuesday August 11, 2009.

Van Tallman/Tom Jensen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted  
Leo Derkowski, Secretary

### St John's Church Council – Special Meeting July 14, 2009

Present: Leo Derkowski, Paul Maasz, Todd Hammerschmidt, Van Tallman, Todd Marotz, Steve Windschitl, Greg Bartz, Jim Mielke, Tom Jensen and Pastor Draper.

Pastor Draper opened the meeting with devotion and a prayer.

### Call for Resignation

The Board of Elders expressed concern that a pattern of what the Board of Elders and the Pastor consider to be unacceptable behavior has continued throughout Mr. Kurk Kramer's tenure with the school. Despite counseling and past warnings, recent incidents indicate that this behavior has not changed and the Board of Elders believes it is not likely to change in the future.

Therefore, after much deliberation and prayerful consideration, the Board of Elders has recommended that the Church Council vote to ask for the resignation of Kurk Kramer as school principal and upper grades teacher effective immediately.

A lengthy discussion of the issues surrounding Kurk Kramer's performance as principal and upper grades teacher at St. John's Lutheran School was held. Some Council members spoke in support of Mr. Kramer and others expressed concern at the timing of the request and the fact that no prior warning of this important recommendation and request for action was given with enough time allowed to reflect on the issues and make an informed and deliberate decision. Other Council members believe that Mr. Kramer has had sufficient warnings in the past, has been given too many chances to mend his ways without permanent affect and have reluctantly concluded that the only solution is to call for his resignation.

Jim Mielke/Leo Derkowski made a motion that the Church Council recommend to the voters that Kurk Kramer should be asked to resign his positions as principal and upper grades teacher. The motion was defeated by a vote of 5 to 4.

Todd Marotz/Tom Jensen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted  
Leo Derkowski, Secretary

The Annual Meeting of the LWMS was held in Denver in late June. The meeting report has not been publicized yet, but if you are interested in seeing that information, just go to [www.lwms.org](http://www.lwms.org) and check for convention highlights to be posted soon.

For the month of August, the following Befriend a Mission families have celebrations. You may send them a greeting card to encourage them.

**Birthday- August 4th**

(he is a missionary)  
Harmon Lewis  
8628 Capitol Dr. No.  
Mobile, AL 36695

**Birthday – August 17th**

(She is a missionary wife)  
Berlita Lupe  
PO Box 1449  
Whiteriver, AZ 85941-1449

**Birthday – August 24**

(23 year old daughter of missionary)  
Olivia Lupe  
PO Box 1449  
Whiteriver, AZ 85941-1449

The upcoming Fall Rally of the Minnesota Valley Circuit will be at St. John's in New Ulm. Watch for date, time and further information.

Paula Windschitl  
LWMS Reporter



***You are Invited***

**What:** The MN Valley Chapter of WELS Kingdom  
Workers Annual Meeting & Complimentary Meal

**Where:** New Ulm Country Club  
1 Golf Drive, New Ulm, MN 56073  
(follow Summit Ave. South to the club)

**When:** Sunday, August 16, 2009 at 5 p.m.

If you are curious about what WKW really is, this is a great opportunity for you to find out more. If you've attended our events before, we'd love to see you again. And, if you've never attended, now is a great time to check it out! The evening will be filled with special speakers and fellowship.

We will be able to receive donations for our chapter project that evening if that is your desire, but the entire event is complimentary.

Make plans to join us on the 16th!

**RSVP:** Call or email by August 10th – Paula Windschitl  
507-794-2310 or [paulajwinds@yahoo.com](mailto:paulajwinds@yahoo.com)



# Memorials



*With Thanksgiving for continued good health*

**Organ Fund**

Ron Shilling – \$100.00

*In Memory of Mark Jensen*

**Organ Fund**

Arlene Jensen – \$75.00

*In Memory of Gene Leopold*

**Organ Fund**

Ken & Penny Mathiowetz – \$10.00

*In Memory of Verna Painter*

Ralph & Delores Zimanske – \$30.00

*In Memory of Eugene Lochner*

**St. John's School**

Steve & Mickey Meyer &  
Terry & Sue Neidecker – \$20.00  
**St. John's New School Building Fund**  
Steve & Paula Windschitl

*In Memory of Leone Schwartz*

**Organ Fund**

Melvin & Lois Lendt – \$5.00

*In Memory of Elaine Keim*

**Organ Fund**

Marlys Lochner – \$10.00

*In Memory of "Shorty Schmidt"*

**Organ Fund**

Milda Dey – \$5.00  
Marlys Lochner – \$5.00  
Laurell & Mary Jayne Haus – \$5.00  
Armin & June Grundmeyer – \$5.00  
Wally & Mary Ann Trebesch – \$5.00  
Delbert & Eunice Sandhoefner – \$10.00  
Greg & Mary Bartz – \$20.00  
**St. John's Church**  
Armin & Leona Lendt – \$5.00  
Don & Laurie Halvorson – \$20.00  
Beverly Wischstadt – \$10.00  
Ken & Penny Mathiowetz – \$10.00  
Shorty Schmidt (written directive) - \$1,000.00  
**St. John's School**  
Steve & Mickey Meyer – \$10.00  
Shorty Schmidt (written directive) - \$500.00

**Ladies Aid**

Harold & Bev Bartz – \$15.00

*In Memory of Anna Petermann*

**Organ Fund**

Wally & Mary Ann Trebesch – \$5.00  
Greg & Mary Bartz – \$15.00  
Armin & June Grundmeyer – \$10.00  
Delbert & Eunice Sandhoefner – \$10.00

**Ladies Aid**

Harold & Bev Bartz – \$20.00  
Ed & Charyl Heidemann – \$5.00  
Brad & LeAnn Berkner – \$10.00

**St. John's Church**

Charles & Carolyn Schewe – \$10.00  
Norman & Shirley Krienke – \$15.00

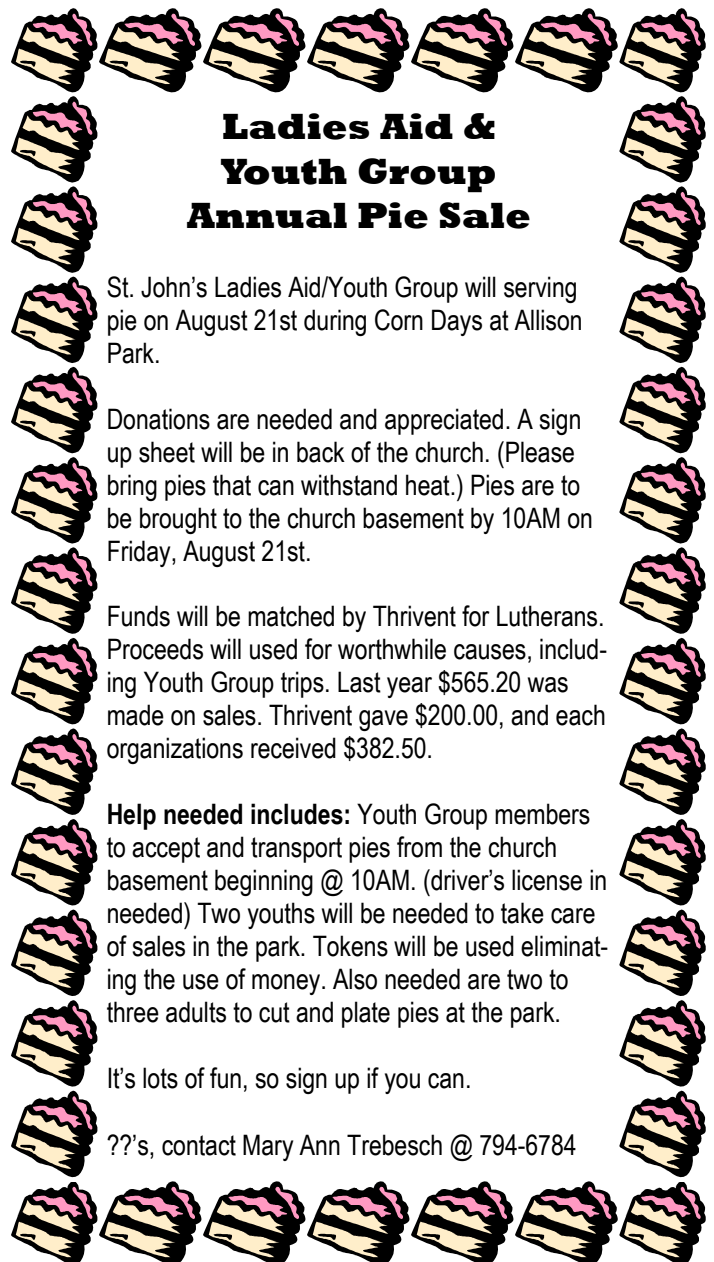
**St. John's New School Building Fund**

Steve & Paula Windschitl – \$25.00

**St. John's Church**

Josh & Kristine Ringer – \$50.00  
Robert & Marilyn Paulsen – \$30.00  
Warren & Nereda Marti – \$25.00

*The family of Anna Petermann wishes to thank everyone who sent cards, brought food, sent gifts, flowers or memorials. Thanks to Pastor Draper for the meaningful funeral service and the men and women who helped serve lunch. We feel extremely blessed by the support given our family at this difficult time.*



**Ladies Aid & Youth Group Annual Pie Sale**

St. John's Ladies Aid/Youth Group will serving pie on August 21st during Corn Days at Allison Park.

Donations are needed and appreciated. A sign up sheet will be in back of the church. (Please bring pies that can withstand heat.) Pies are to be brought to the church basement by 10AM on Friday, August 21st.

Funds will be matched by Thrivent for Lutherans. Proceeds will used for worthwhile causes, including Youth Group trips. Last year \$565.20 was made on sales. Thrivent gave \$200.00, and each organizations received \$382.50.

**Help needed includes:** Youth Group members to accept and transport pies from the church basement beginning @ 10AM. (driver's license in needed) Two youths will be needed to take care of sales in the park. Tokens will be used eliminating the use of money. Also needed are two to three adults to cut and plate pies at the park.

It's lots of fun, so sign up if you can.

??'s, contact Mary Ann Trebesch @ 794-6784