

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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DECEMBER 2012

Are You Ready?

Are you ready for Christmas? Have you decorated the house, bought the presents, and planned the meal? Don't worry! If you are not quite that prepared, you still have time. Whether you get it done early or wait until the last minute, Christmas preparation is often the topic of conversation this time of the year. We certainly want to be prepared for that special day when family and friends come to visit, but what about preparing for a visit from Jesus Christ?

The Christian church for centuries has set aside a special time of the year with the specific purpose of preparing for a visit from Jesus Christ. That time is the four weeks before Christmas and it is called the season of Advent. The word "Advent" means "arrival" or "coming" and during Advent we prepare ourselves for Jesus' "coming". Yes, we want to think about and celebrate his coming as a baby in the Bethlehem manger. Yet, in order to celebrate his first coming we need to prepare for his second. We need to understand that his first coming is directly linked to his second coming – for you at your death or at the end of time.

How do we prepare? When John the Baptist was sent to prepare the people for Christ's first coming he told them, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." It is no different today. To prepare for Jesus to come we recognize that we have offended God and deserve his punishment. Then we look to God's Word where Jesus comes to us again with his forgiveness, comfort, and strength to live a new life.

This period of preparation is important. Without it Christmas loses its meaning. The entire reason for God's Son to come into this world as a human being was to take our place, to live perfectly because we do not, to suffer God's wrath so we will not. If we do not take time to reflect on how we truly need this Jesus who is coming, then the joy of Christmas is only a temporary and fading joy. When we understand how the gift of Christ fills our greatest need, then our joy never fades. Yes, I am ready. Come, Lord Jesus!

In Christ,
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 November 2012



1 Chronicles 16:34

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever

Thanksgiving Day is just a week away. It is a time to gather with family & friends at home and church. A time to express appreciation to God for what he has given us and to give thanks for family and friends that help and support us. Truly each one of us is blessed, take a moment to think and realize the many ways God has blessed you and tell Him how much that means to you.

Thank you to everyone that supported Pastor Appreciation month in October. The outpouring of gifts and words of encouragement from everyone to Pastor and Sallie was outstanding! This congregation is amazing with their generosity!

At our last meeting we voted to offer Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University class to our congregation. Dave Silfies and I are working towards presenting the information about it to the congregation in the next few weeks. The plan would be to get sign-ups to the class by the end of December. We would start the 9 week class in mid-January and conclude in mid-March. Watch for more information soon.

The Elders have been working on encouraging those in our congregation that have been lax in attendance to join us for worship and the Lord's Supper. Please pray that these members would appreciate our concern and join us soon.

The final lift has been put on to our new parking lot! Thank you to everyone that has supported this project in whatever manner, it is very much appreciated. There is still opportunity to help fund the final portion of it if you are inclined to do so.

Have a Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving

Yours in Christ,

Steve Windschitl
President, St John's Congregation



Church Council Minutes November 15, 2012

Present: Mike Crabtree, Jerry Dittbenner, Dan Rick, Dave Silfies, Steve Windschitl, Shorty Haus, Dave Zimmerman, Pastor Draper

Pastor Draper opened the meeting with devotion and a prayer.

Minutes

Shorty Haus/Dave Zimmerman made a motion to approve the October 2012 minutes. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

Pastor was pleased to report about a successful Mission Festival. Funds raised for a church building in India was \$1,651.

Treasurer's Report

No treasurer's report. Dave Silfies/Jerry Dittbenner made a motion to put the \$17,000 undesignated gifts to the street and parking lot projects with the surplus to go back to the general fund.

President's Report

Written report was presented.

Board of Elders

Shorty Haus/Dave Silfies made a motion to transfer out Deb Christiansen to St. Paul's, New Ulm. Motion carried.

Shorty Haus/Dave Silfies made a motion to transfer out Lindsey Mathiowetz Radel to St. Paul's, North Mankato. Motion carried.

Principal & Board of Education

Dan Rick reported on various activities happening at school including fire drills, basketball practices, hot lunch program and academic competitions.

Worship Committee

There was discussion about MVL Sunday at St. John's. It will be held January 13, 2013.

Maintenance Committee

There was discussion about the final assessment from the city on the street and alley. We are expecting the final bill for the parking lot form M & R Paving soon.

Outreach

No report.

Stewardship

Dave Silfies reported on the Dave Ramsey Financial Peace Univ. stewardship program and how it will be implemented.

MVL/WELS

No report.

Endowment and Trust Fund Committee

No report.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

Church Council is scheduled to decorate the church this year. Christmas decorating will be held Thursday, December 13 at 6:30 p.m.



The next Church Council meeting will be held Tuesday, December 11th at 7:30 p.m.

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

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted
Jerry Dittbenner, Acting Secretary



WELS KINGDOM WORKERS FALL UPDATE

On October 28 the Minnesota Valley Chapter of WKW had its annual meeting at MLC following the area Reformation Service. It was well attended, with 115 attending the meeting and 105 staying on for the free will dinner in the MLC cafeteria.

There were a number of interesting presentations. Pastor Manian of Tyler and Pastor Wong of North Mankato reported with enthusiasm and gratitude on the canvassing of their communities in recent months, events which had been organized by WKW.

Gene Slettedahl shared his recent experience being involved in witnessing to Mormons in Provo, Utah. This

was arranged through Truth in Love Ministries, a WELS outreach ministry to Mormons. His many anecdotes supported his conclusion that “this was a life-changing experience.”

Laura Harstad of Hutchinson, WKW National Representative, described her role, and shared some of the opportunities in which we as volunteers for WKW can get involved, such as soccer camps, VBS, partnering with schools or churches for outreach, and helping with Builders for Christ projects. There are also opportunities to volunteer for international projects.

Rodrigo Concha, seminary student, reported progress on Hispanic outreach in Fairfax, St. James, and Glencoe.

Lloyd Schauer reported on Builders for Christ projects, stating that there are several possible projects planned on the MLC campus for summer 2013.

Allen Stelljes, Treasurer, reported a positive financial status, and said the board will work on developing a plan for a project to replace the Rodrigo Concha support project, since he will be graduating from the seminary in 2013. He also reported that there is seed money for Teens in Mission projects for 2013.

If anyone would like more information on WKW or any of the various ways in which one can volunteer, please contact me.

Marcia Derkowski
WKW Contact Person



Befriend a Mission

Got Cards?

The Christmas season is always a great time to remember the families within our **Befriend a Mission** assignments. If you have an extra card or two, why not consider sending one along with your family picture, newsletter and a brief note of encouragement? The personal touch of a message from fellow Christians means much to them, especially for those overseas who can't be with family at this time. The following list contains the addresses of all our mission families, along with a note regarding one December birthday.

Pastor Dan Olson & family

5021 61st St.

Woodside, NY 11377-5829

- Their daughter, Hannah, will turn 2 on December 29th.
- He is the pastor at Sure Foundation in New York City, in the borough of Queens. Their congregation is quite multi-cultural, sometimes having people representing up to 20 different countries worshipping together!
- Pastor Olson's wife is Kathryn; and their daughters are Madelyn, Rileigh, MacKensie and Hannah.
- Prayer request: that those who are new in their congregation continue to grow in the Word and in faith.

Pastor Paul Werner & family

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

2222 Englewood Rd.

Englewood, FL 34223-6316

- Pastor Werner's wife is Barbara.
- Small congregation, located on the Gulf of Mexico
- They receive many visitors from all parts of the US & around the world
- Prayer request: That they can reach the population around them with the gospel especially in neighborhood gated communities that are harder to access.

Asia Lutheran Seminary

Steven Witte

8/FL., Chun Hoi Commercial Building

688 Shanghai St.

Mong Kok, Kowloon

Hong Kong

- Please do NOT preface his name with Pastor, Reverend, Missionary, etc.
- Missionary Witte's wife is Mary. Their grown children are Charis and Micah.
- Prayer request: Ways to expand the Seminary's library.

Please remember all who serve in the WELS mission fields in prayer this Christmas season.



Martin Luther College Ladies Auxiliary

The MLC Ladies Auxiliary held its annual meeting on Saturday, October 27. 113 people were in attendance.

The full schedule for the day began with an opening devotion held in the Chapel of the Christ. A business meeting, student report, greeting by President Mark Zarling, scholarship report and general college update followed in the Auditorium. Completed projects for the past year were reviewed and newly proposed projects for the upcoming year were highlighted.

Attendees were able to select one workshop from the following options: Mandarin Matters, Student Panel Discussion, 2011 NIV Translation, Daylight Program, and Social Media.

Lunch was enjoyed in the cafeteria, followed by an opportunity to check out the bookstore. After lunch, we heard updates from the Food Bank and also from Jon Scharlemann, VP of Mission Advancement for the college.

Scenes from the student play *Singin' in the Rain* were enjoyed by everyone as the cast gave us a preview of the upcoming play.

Before closing, the newly selected project list was presented in order of choice. A total of 3 standing projects and 16 new projects round out this year's options which total over \$27,000.00. Donations to the Auxiliary fund these projects. The total offering for the day totaled \$3,926.00.

We closed with a devotional service led by Prof. Darvin Raddatz. Next spring's area rally will be held here at St. John's on Tuesday evening, April 23rd.

Paula Windschitl
MLC Auxiliary reporter



Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid met on Wednesday, November 7th at 2:00 p.m. President Marlys Lohcner presided. Pastor Draper led us in our devotion, Ephesians 4:1-16, believers are united in Christ's church. The unity we have as Christians comes directly from God.

Some revised figures from our August pie sales are as follows: \$788.00 from Sleepy Eye Chamber, \$72.00 from pies sold at church, plus and extra \$10.00 cash for a total of \$870.85. After expenses of \$117 for license, supplies and pie dough, the Youth Group received half totaling \$376.93.

A bill for twelve more dinner forks of the True Rose pattern of \$42.17 was presented.

A report of the MLC Auxiliary meeting held October 27th was given. There were 98 in attendance. St. John's will host the Spring meeting of the Auxiliary in April 2013.

The Hosanna Circle will host a Bake/Craft sale on December 16th.



There will be a Giving Tree for Shut-ins put up. A special thanks to Judy Maasz who has already made and donated the cards. Thank you Judy! Mickey will take care of the other details. Thank you both!

A motion was made, passed and seconded to give \$100.00 to Central Africa Medical Mission (CAMM).

The Ladies Aid gave \$250.00 to Pastor Draper for his trip to Israel in January.



Block 1 has been assigned to serve the meal for the workers at the Bloodmobile on January 14th. Block 2 will be responsible for baking 30 dozen cookies for that day.

Our next meeting and Christmas Party will be held Wednesday, December 5th at 3:00 p.m. Come join us!

Marilyn Deibele
Secretary

Hosanna Circle

Pastor Draper opened our meeting with a Bible study and a prayer. A summary of the November 7th Ladies Aid meeting was shared. We were updated on the Central Africa Mission and the need for prescription bottles. We discussed the "Send One Sister" program and our desire to contribute funds to our circuit to help cover expenses of a first time attendant to the National LWMS convention.

The Hosanna Circle will be having a bake sale December 16th. Anyone can contribute baked goods.



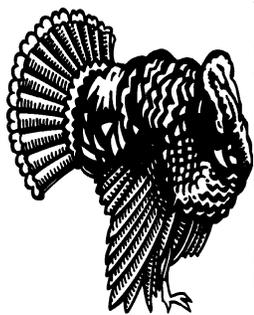
Our next meeting is December 4th and we will be decorating the church basement. We invite members to join us for this kick off to the holiday season.

Our circle will be filling the Christmas Eve bags the morning of December 24th.

Your sisters in Christ,
Mickey Meyer and Connie Trebesch



Mrs. Shrum's Classroom News



November has been a month full of thanks! The students in Mrs. Shrum's Preschool and Kindergarten classroom have been doing all things TURKEY! We spent the beginning of the month learning about the elections and our presidential candidates. We even had a mock election where the students voted for president! After

that we learned about our changing seasons from fall to winter and how animals hibernate. We learned some new letters, Gg, Hh, Ii and Jj and the sounds that they make.

We've read some awesome books like "Run, Turkey, Run!" and "My Thanksgiving Prayer".

The Kinders have added many new words to their Popcorn Word Wall. They are becoming excellent readers! They enjoyed reading "Mrs. Wishy Washy" to their friends at school and family at home. They

are still working on word families and rhyming words, and they write in their journals every day.

We hope you had a blessed Thanksgiving!



Mrs. Halvorson's Classroom News

During this short month we will be busily preparing for our Savior's birthday. We are already working hard to learn our bible verses and songs for the Christmas Service. We are excited to be part of the live nativity on the altar on Christmas Eve.

We are looking forward to several upcoming opportunities to share our Christmas service songs. All the children will be caroling to the Ladies Aid as well as local nursing home residents this month.

While we continue to learn about Jesus' ministry in our morning Bible lessons, we are also preparing our hearts for our Savior's birth with special afternoon Advent devotions. The children enjoy lighting the Advent candles during our devotions.



Christ Light lessons, nouns, word families, measurement, fractions, decimals, poetry and so much more fill up our busy school days. The children often comment how fast our year is going!

Grade 1-2 will be learning about Africa in December. This huge continent has diverse peoples, climate, and geography.

Grade 3-4 continues its study of the Midwest states this month.

I hope you take quiet "joy time" this month to reflect on and thank God for the greatest gift we have received...His Son!



Mr. Rick's Classroom News

The 2nd quarter of school has been filled with lots of events. On November 2nd, grades 5-8 attended the MVL fall play. The students thoroughly enjoyed the one-act plays and even participated in some acting exercises after the play with the MVL performers. On November 9th, grades 5-8 traveled again to MVL and attended the Veteran's Day Program. It was a special day for all who attended. Thank you to our veterans!



On November 12th, all students in grades 5-8 performed their Forensics arrangements for the school. Many of them also traveled to MLC and performed. Congratulations on a job well done everyone!

Spirit Day was November 21st and many students came in their PJ's! It was a fun day and everyone enjoyed watching a movie in the afternoon. It was a great day before our Thanksgiving break. Grades 5-8 had 100% participation for our September and October Spirit Days! Keep showing your St. John's Lutheran School spirit!

To learn more about the upper grades, look for our Art projects on display down in the church basement. Furthermore, visit our school website and web page. We hope you all enjoyed your Thanksgiving holidays!



Principal News by Mr. Rick

God's Gift of Our Physical Talents

1 Corinthians 9:24

"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize."

2 Timothy 2:5

"Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules."

Athletics is once again a big part of St. John's Lutheran School. What a blessing God has given us with the participation and talents of our student-athletes! The two verses above are the basis for our athletic programs. St.

John's sports and their coaches strive for excellence physically and spiritually. Athletes are taught to give glory to their Savior by their words, actions, and sportsmanship.

St. John's Lutheran Soccer

St. John's Lutheran School started a fall soccer team this year for the first time since 2006. Twelve students tried out for the team and enjoyed learning the fundamentals of soccer. The team competed in six games this year and improved in each game during the season. St. John's played their best game in their last game verses Prairie Lutheran School of Fairfax. St. John's held Prairie scoreless in the first half with the score 0-0 at halftime. St. John's pushed the ball on offense in the 2nd half, but were finally ousted 0-2 at the very end of the game. This year's team was: Parker Landkammer(goalie/forward), Colten Maas(forward), Abby Maasz(defender/midfielder), Matthew Beussman(forward), Dakota Hunt(midfielder), Colton Moldan(midfielder), Mary Beussman(defender), Molly Landkammer(midfielder), Kaiden Hammerschidt(forward), Erin Hinrichs(defender/goalie), Emma Hoffman(defender), and Ella Beussman(defender). Congratulations Warriors on a great season!

St. John's Lutheran Cross Country

St. John's Lutheran School added Cross Country to their athletics program this fall. Five students participated and completed in the MVL Cross Country meet and all of them had a great run. Colten Maas placed 7th in the 7&8 Boys 1.5 mile division with a time of 12:50. Matthew Beussman placed 4th in the 5&6 boys 1 mile division with a time of 7:49, Colton Moldan placed 6th with 8:00, and Dakota Hunt placed 11th with 10:09. Molly Landkammer placed 6th in the 5&6 girls 1 mile division with a time of 10:14. Congratulations runners on a great season!

St. John's Lutheran Basketball

Basketball practice officially started November 27th. We have a 7 member roster and plan on playing many games and participating in the Hutchinson tournament in February. Please look in the monthly calendars, warrior weekly, and church bulletins for game schedules! Come and support St. John's basketball!

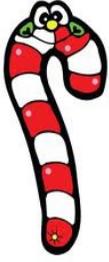
St. John's Lutheran Cheerleading

Girls cheerleading will begin again this winter! Cheerleading will enter its 2nd year after being absent for many years. We currently have 5 girls on the team. The girls will have some new cheers this year and will cheer at games close by. Thank you girls for your encouragement!

Our current athletic programs are Soccer, Cross Country, Basketball, Cheerleading, and Track.

To God be the glory!

Holiday Bake Sale December 16th!



The Ladies Aid and
Hosanna Circle
will host a bake sale on
Sunday, December 16th

Everyone is welcome to contribute
items to the bake sale.

If you bring items for the sale,
please bring them to the church basement
by 8:45 a.m. that day.

Then, come on down to the basement after
church and check out the goodies!

**(Please remember to pre-mark
your items with prices - thanks!)**



Proceeds from the sale will
support Ladies Aid projects

Memorials

In Memory of Arlene Jensen

Street Project

Haley Runck - \$1000

In Memory of Dorothy Haus

Street Project

Barry, Lisa & Andrew Hillmann - \$5
Armin & Leona Lendt - \$5

In Memory of Evelyn Zoller

Mary Jayne Haus' mother

Street Project

Barry, Lisa & Andrew Hillmann - \$5
Armin & Leona Lendt - \$5
Bev Bartz - \$10
Jim & Joyce Bloemke - \$10
Andy & Rita Lochner - \$10
Marlys Lochner - \$10

Ladies Aid

Doc & Marilyn Deibele - \$10

St. John's School

Steve & Mickey Meyer - \$10