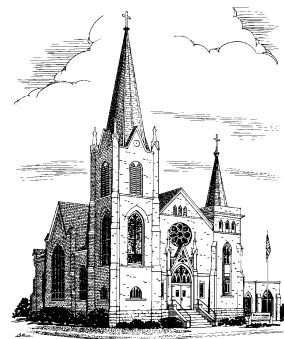


# The St. John's Messenger

St. John's Lutheran Church & School 221 Walnut St. S.E.  
Sleepy Eye, MN 56085  
Church 794-6202 School 794-6200 Pastor 794-4500  
[www.stjohnsse.com](http://www.stjohnsse.com)



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NUMBER 1

## I Can't Wait!

Christmas is coming, and I can't wait. Do you know what you will get for Christmas? Is it difficult to wait and wait for that special day to arrive? Our culture makes waiting a challenge, doesn't it? After all, we don't normally have to do much waiting for the things we want. There is fast food, instant credit, movies on demand, microwave meals, music downloads, more check-out lines open for Christmas shoppers, and so much more to make it possible for us to get what you want when we want it. No waiting.

I can't imagine what it was like for the Old Testament believer who was waiting for Jesus. From the very first promise in the garden of Eden they were waiting . . . and waiting . . . and waiting for God to keep his promise and send the Savior all humanity needed. Adam and Eve were waiting and perhaps may have thought their first son was the Savior. Abraham waited until he was 100 years old before he saw the line of the Savior continue in the birth of his son. Moses waited as he told Israel about the Savior to come. The people of Israel waited as little by little God revealed more and more about his plan of salvation.

Finally, thousands of years after God's first promise, the waiting was over. God kept his promise. He sent the Savior we needed. For us there is no waiting. Our Savior is here. We have grace on demand, instant forgiveness, an always open line to God. All that is left to wait for is the celebration!

Please join me as we celebrate.

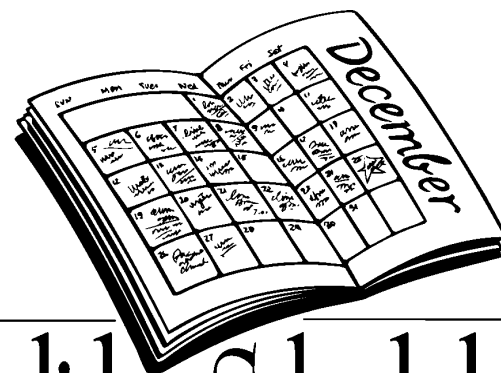
December 24<sup>th</sup>

6:30 pm Children's Christmas Eve Service

10:00 pm Candlelight Service

December 25<sup>th</sup>

9:00 am Christmas Festival Service



## Holiday Schedule

In the name of 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.*

## **Church Council Minutes – December 14, 2009**

**Present:** Paul Maasz, Jeff Schultz, Van Tallman, Dave Zimmerman, Barry Hillmann and Pastor Draper.

Pastor Draper opened the meeting with devotion and a prayer.

### **Minutes**

Dave Zimmerman/Barry Hillmann made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 2009 meeting. Motion carried.

### **Pastor's Report**

Van Tallman/Dave Zimmerman made a motion to set a housing allowance to \$12,000 for Pastor Draper for 2010. Motion carried.

### **Treasurer's Report**

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

### **President's Report**

No report

### **Board of Elders**

Van Tallman/Dave Zimmerman made a motion to offer the financial secretary's position to Sam Mielke. Motion carried. Dave Zimmerman/Van Tallman made a motion to release Dan, Nichole Stoll and family. Motion carried.

### **Principal & Board of Education**

\$1,390 in the family assistance fund has been divided between 7 eligible families. Currently there is \$12,061.00 in unpaid school fees.

### **Worship Committee**

A discussion to hold one church service on Sunday was addressed. Possibly a survey will be used to get more feedback.

### **Maintenance Committee**

No report.

### **Outreach**

A meeting was held at the end of October to discuss outreach possibilities. Internet community usage was suggested with more discussion to follow.

### **Stewardship**

No formal report.

### **Endowment and Trust Fund Committee**

No premium is due for WELS VEBA for the month of November, as it is considered a holiday for our congregation. It was suggested to donate the premium to the synod. Van Tallman/Dave Zimmerman made a motion to donate half of the premium to the synod and half to savings. Motion carried.

### **MVL/WELS**

MVL has a roofing project which they would like to begin, funds need to be raised before starting.

### **Old Business**

An internal audit was discussed.

### **New Business**

Jeff Schultz requested a housing allowance in advance to pay closing costs on his house in Milwaukee for the cost of the loan, approximately \$10,000 plus interest. Dave Zimmerman/Van Tallman made the following motion: Recommend to the voters the option to borrow up to \$10,000 plus interest using his housing allowance to repay the loan. Motion carried. Details of the loan will be discussed with Jim Mielke to set up a contract. Next council meeting: 7:30 Monday December 14, 2009.

Dave Zimmerman/Barry Hillmann made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barry Hillmann, Acting Secretary

## Principal's Report

Mr. Jeff Schultz

The holiday season is now upon us. I'm sure that you have already seen the commercials on television proclaiming the time has come for you to go shopping for those on your list. We are told that this is a season of giving and receiving, a time of joy and happiness.

The power of advertising is strong. Haven't you been convinced to buy one of those items for \$19.95 or to try one of the new gizmos that supposedly make your life easier?

Advertisements that have a certain lingo or logo take residence in our minds. Isn't it easy to remember that red easy button for Staples or the Capital One credit card ad showing you that your own picture can be on it?

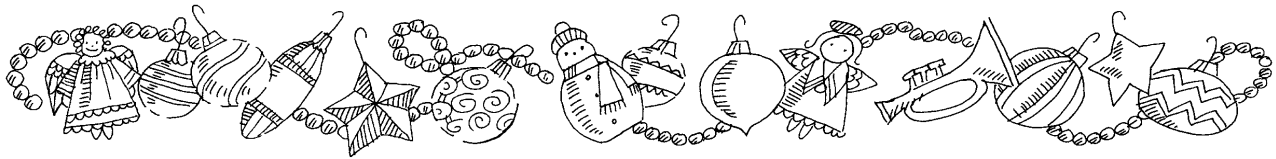
Our God had many ways to "advertise" for the upcoming birth of His Son. He spoke through many patriarchs and prophets throughout the Old Testament many years before the actual event took place. Can you imagine that first Christmas evening while the shepherds were tending their flocks, the choir of angels appeared announcing the Savior's birth? "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11) Talk about emphatic and startling, but yet a comforting announcement for those shepherds and the rest of the world!

Advertisements come and go, but this one stands the test of time. What a blessing to be given a Savior that would deliver us from sin, death and the power of the devil.

**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**

My prayer is that each of you remember what a special gift that this was from our heavenly Father. Rejoice in the fact that God's gift keeps on giving us benefits, not just for a month- its special for eternity! Praise the Lord!

Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year!



### Preschool and Kindergarten News

Miss Zastrow

Merry Christmas! As we look forward to the celebration of Jesus' birthday this year, it strikes me just how loving God our Father truly is! Our Bible stories this month will lead us to hear time and time again of God's protection of the Israelites beginning with the plagues, leading them out of Egypt, through the Red Sea, and continuing to provide them with food and water as they keep on straying from God's will. We are exactly like the Israelites. We just keep on messing up. Yet, God still sent His one and only Son, out of love for us! Wow! Psalm 118:1 - "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."

We are learning the letters R, K, and B this month in Preschool and Kindergarten. We are looking for buttons to glue onto our giant "B" for "B" week. If you know of someone who has a bunch of buttons they will not be using, please don't throw them away! We would love to put them to use! Thank you! We are also learning all about our community and the different places and jobs within our community! If you have an exciting job working somewhere in our community and you would like to come and teach the preschool and kindergarten kids about it, please contact Miss Zastrow!



This month we are also spending a lot of time working on our upcoming Christmas program. Since we are in preschool and kindergarten, there is a LOT to learn! However, the importance of routine cannot be overestimated either, so Miss Zastrow is trying to keep things as normal and routine as possible during this crazy busy month of December. Upsetting the routine for young children too much can certainly cause a lot of tiredness, sickness, and general unhappiness. December is an exciting month, and Jesus' birthday certainly is something to celebrate! Let's also keep in mind that Christmas is about Christ!

## Grades 1-4 News

Mrs. Halvorson

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 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.



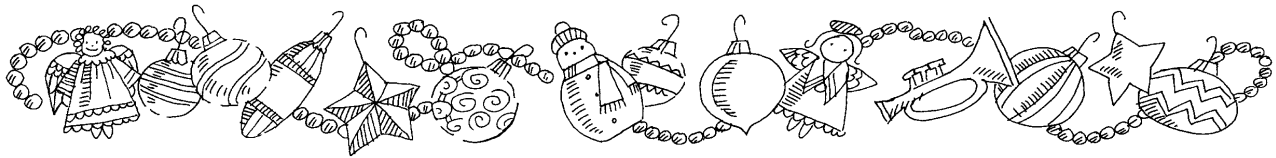
While we continue to learn how God took care of His people in our morning Bible lessons, we are also preparing our hearts for our Savior's birth with special afternoon Advent devotions. We enjoy lighting the Advent candles daily.

Nouns, word families, measurement, and so much more fill up our school days.

In our Social Studies unit this month we will learn about Famous Black Americans and their contributions to our country.

First graders are becoming more fluent in their reading skills and love to act out the stories we read. Grade 2 are into short chapter books and enjoying several Folktales with fun activities. Fourth grade is enjoying a poetry unit this month. We especially like the poems by Shel Silverstein.

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



## Grades 3-6 News

Mrs. Brown's

Grades 5-6

Christ Light- Following our unit on Martin Luther, we discussed how God directs our lives and is in control of everything that happens as we studied the life of Joseph and Moses.

Science- The ocean is just "swimming" in interesting creatures, plant life, and other amazing facts. Students have been busy discovering how ocean water moves, what causes waves, and causes of erosion. They also recently finished 2 murals, The Deep Sea and Coral Reef, which are on display in the school hallway.

Grades 3-4

Social Studies- We have just wrapped up our first unit, which focused on the Southeastern area of the United States. This second part focused on the history and culture of that area including the Trail of Tears, the Revolutionary War (Thomas Jefferson and Declaration of Independence), Civil War (slavery, Harriet Tubman, and Union/Confederate), and the Civil Rights Movement (Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks).

Science- An animal's habitat provides all the food, shelter, and protection that it needs to survive. This fact, along with many others, were studied this past month. Our end project was finishing 2 murals based on populations found in the wetland and desert environments, which are on display in the school hallway.

## Ladies Aid

The Ladies' Aid met on Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. President Marlys Lochner presided. We welcomed Rita Lochner as a new member of our society.

For our devotion, led by Pastor Draper, we studied Jesus' first miracle of changing water into wine at the wedding at Cana.

In the MLC Auxiliary report it was noted all 2008-09 projects were completed. Paula Windschitl is the newly elected MLC Auxiliary president.

The Treasurer Haus is looking for good, clean used or new winter clothing. St. John's work day is the first Friday of each month. Volunteers are always welcome.

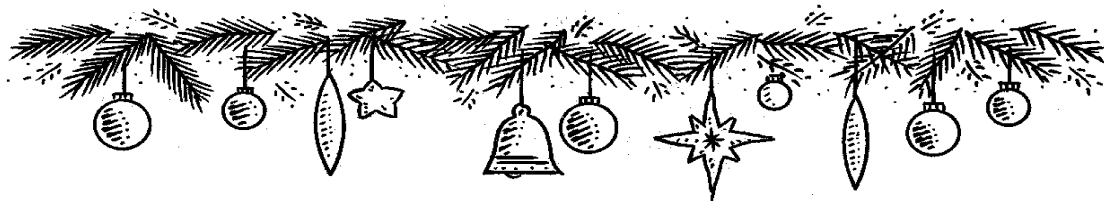
A motion was made, seconded and passed to give \$50.00 to CAMM (Central Africa Medical Mission).

All Circles of the Ladies' Aid will host a Bake & Craft Sale on December 13<sup>th</sup> between services. The congregation is invited to donate items to sell. The proceeds will fund our various projects.

Our next meeting will be held, Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. This will also be our Christmas party. Come join us at 2:00 p.m.



Marilyn Deibele,  
Secretary



## Hosanna Circle

Hosanna Circle held their meeting on Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>.

We are making the final preparations for the Ladies Advent Celebration on December 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. The ticket price is \$10 and each hostess will have the tickets for her table. We look forward to seeing many of you that afternoon and sharing the wonderful news about our Lord.

Our next meeting will be December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the school. All are invited to join us.

God's Blessings to all throughout the month of December, as once again, we look forward to the coming of our savior.

Your Sisters in Christ,

Pam Ditbenner and Connie Trebesch

## WELS Kingdom Workers

The Minnesota Valley chapter of WELS Kingdom Workers had a meeting and complimentary meal on November 1<sup>st</sup> at Martin Luther College after the Area Reformation Service.

The meeting was led by Art Schultz. Karen Grunwald told us about the newly created WKW Hispanic Outreach logo created by Amanda Scharlemann. Any area congregations that are interested in its use may contact us for details. We have a number of ideas for its use, and even have a coloring book page!

Paula Windschitl reported on the canvassing done in North Mankato in September. Almost 50 attended this event, ringing about 600 doorbells and contacting about 300 that day.

A presentation was given by Pastor Smith & his wife Kristen from Owatonna. They led a group of students to South Carolina for summer VBS work this past July which had been sponsored in part by the WKW chapter.

Pastor Roger Woller closed with prayer.

Chris Driesbach entertained us with some beautiful music as he sang and played guitar as we enjoyed a great supper and fellowship.

Paula Windschitl  
WKW Minnesota Valley Chapter Board member



### Befriend a Missionary Christmas Cards

Please consider sending Christmas greetings to the following missionaries through the Befriend a Missionary program, a service of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society. We have one international assignment, but at this time that family (Rob Meister) is relocating to the U.S. and we do not have their current mailing address. The following missionaries are all in the US and would appreciate your words and prayer of encouragement! If you desire to send gifts, gift cards are always welcome. Thank you!

Pastor Jonathon & Rachel Zietlow & family  
3933 Barnard Dr.

Lexington, KY 40509

Pastor Harmon & Michelle Lewis & family  
8628 Capital Dr. No.  
Mobile, AL 36695

Gary & Berlita Lupe & family  
PO Box 1449  
Whiteriver, AZ 85941-1449



# St. John's Holiday To-Do List

**As you prepare your Christmas cards this year, please consider including the St. John's shut in members. Your card would be a real encouragement to them.**

Melva Christensen  
St. John's Lutheran Home  
201 S CR 5 #125  
Springfield, MN 56087

Carol Eckstein  
717 Walnut St. S.W.  
Sleepy Eye, MN 56085

Leonard Lowinske  
405 W. Main  
Sleepy Eye, MN 56085

Emilie Netzke  
117 Remmele S.E.  
Sleepy Eye, MN 56085

Esther Pabst  
724 Water St. S.W.  
Sleepy Eye, MN 56085

Agnes Piotter  
416 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. N.W.  
Sleepy Eye, MN 56085

Millie Maas  
1105 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. S.W.  
Sleepy Eye, MN 56085

Donald Radel  
North Point Senior Living Center  
2135 Lor Ray Dr. #208  
N. Mankato, MN 56003

Neoma Schmid  
1100 1st Ave S. Apt. 109  
Sleepy Eye, MN 56085

Minnie Stockstead  
1105 3rd Ave SW  
Sleepy Eye, MN 56085

Robert Sucker  
1100 1st Ave. S. #204  
Sleepy Eye, MN 56085

Roy & Viola Suker  
1100 1st Ave. S. Apt. #206  
Sleepy Eye, MN 56085



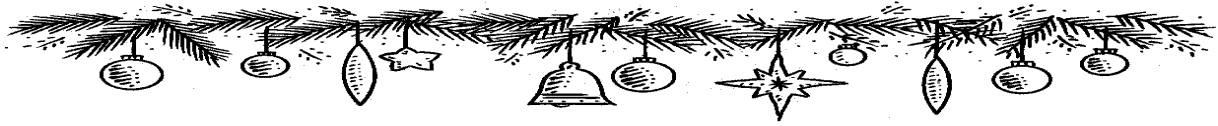
A potluck dinner and caroling is scheduled for December 20th following the late service. We're requesting that participants bring finger foods: sandwiches, snacks, hors d'oeuvres. If possible, bring your food items in disposable containers. Our aim is quick and easy clean up so that the servers can also be carolers, as there are several other events that day as well. Cards and gifts will be delivered to local shut-ins by the carolers that day.

Items for the children's Christmas treat bags are being purchased. We are also looking for donations of small size candy bars for the bags. If you are able to help out, please leave candy on the counter in the church basement. Label donations for children's treat bags.

A special door offering will be taken to cover the cost of the shut-in gifts, as well as the remainder cost of the children's bags.

## Scrip Update

Scrip Gift Cards make great gifts for Christmas or anytime! And your purchases directly benefit St. John's School. In October and November over \$4,000 in Scrip purchases were made resulting in \$110 in net profits. Congratulations to the Wellner family who won a \$25 Scrip Gift Certificate in our fall promotion. During December we are giving away gift card holders, while supplies last, for easy gift wrapping. We will also collect from anyone who wishes to gift any of the St. John's called workers and staff with Scrip Gift Certificates, using the enclosed order form. Contact Sallie Draper anytime at 794-4500 to purchase Scrip.



## † Memorials †

*In Memory of Becky Netzke Hammerschmidt*

St. John's Church  
Emilie Netzke - \$10.00



## MLC Food Shelf Collection

Thanks to all who contributed to the MLC Food Shelf drive in the month of November! This valuable service enhances the lives of married students at MLC, who are often both attending college and trying to work, student-teach, etc. May you in turn be blessed for your kindness!

Paula Windschitl  
MLC Auxiliary Pres.



## Thrivent Giving Plus Funds

MVL would like to thank Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and all its members who have matched gifts to MVL this year and in the past. These gifts have truly been a blessing to MVL and its students. Thrivent matching for 2009 has been depleted. Look for future information on the new Thrivent program for 2010.

## Youth Group 09-10

Where can you combine faith building devotions, fun social events with like-minded Christians, and service activities that let you express your faith? St. John's Youth Group! If you are in high school you are already a member, so mark your calendar for these events! Talk to Pastor if you want to be a part of the St. John's Youth Group Facebook group!

December 13<sup>th</sup> – Christmas shopping for shut-ins and kids

January 10<sup>th</sup> – Ski Trip

February 14<sup>th</sup> – Valentine's Day babysitting

February 17<sup>th</sup> – Lenten Supper

February 24<sup>th</sup> – Lenten Supper

March 3<sup>rd</sup> – Lenten Supper

March 10<sup>th</sup> – Lenten Supper

March 14<sup>th</sup> – WOW Zone

March 17<sup>th</sup> – Lenten Supper

March 24<sup>th</sup> – Lenten  
Supper

March 31<sup>st</sup> – Lenten  
Supper

April 11<sup>th</sup> – Spring



Cleaning

May 16<sup>th</sup> – New Member Cookout