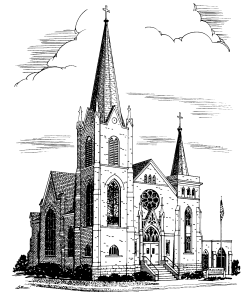


The St. John's Messenger

St. John's Lutheran Church & School 221 Walnut St. S.E.
Sleepy Eye, MN 56085
Church 794-6202 School 794-6200 Pastor Robert Hellmann 763-232-1168
www.stjohnsse.com



DECEMBER 2013

Mob Smashes Church Windows during Christmas Service!

Where did such a horrible thing happen? Was it in some country with a government or dominant religion that is bitterly opposed to Christianity? Or was it anti-Christian zealots in our county? Yes, it did happen right here in America. In 1706 in Boston a mob smashed the windows of a church as Christmas services were being held.

Who were they and why did they do it? The Puritans (a Christian group) were protesting because they thought too much carousing and too many pagan customs had become part of Christmas. You might be tempted to agree with them if your days are exhausting and frenzied as you try to get ready for Christmas,.

The cure for this is to get back to the basics. Christmas is all about the birth of Jesus, the Savior of the world – your Savior, too. So center your Christmas celebration on Jesus, the Reason for the Season.

Join in the many ways you can celebrate the birth of Jesus right here at St. John's:

- ◆ Get ready for Christmas by **attending our four Sunday Advent** services leading up to Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.
- ◆ Use the **daily Advent Bible readings** that are on the calendar in the Sunday bulletin.
- ◆ Attend the **Women's Advent Event on Sunday, Dec. 8, at 4 p.m.** The program features a talk by Dr. Ann Vogel, an Advent devotion, special live vocal and instrumental music, and a delicious salad and desert luncheon. The best part is you get to be served by the men!!
- ◆ Go **Christmas caroling** after church on **Sunday, Dec. 15.** A **potluck lunch** will follow. **Church decorating** will be after the lunch by the Hosanna Circle/Ladies Aid (all welcome).
- ◆ On **Dec. 24 at 5:00 p.m.** attend the Children's Service "*Carols of Christmas.*" **At 10:00 p.m.** come to our traditional "*Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.*"
- ◆ Join us on **Christmas Day at 9:00 a.m.** for the *Christmas Service of Praise.*"
- ◆ Start the New Year right on **Jan. 1 at 9:00 a.m.** at our New Year's Communion Service.
- ◆ **Bring a generous thank-offering** to our Building & Special Needs Offering. The goal is \$40,000 for these purposes: \$16,000 for emergency repairs to the outside wall on the southwest corner the church; \$6,000 for parsonage repairs; \$18,000 to make up the deficit in the General Fund. \$3,595 has already been given. Thank you for your offering!

The Lord bless you with increased faith and love this Christmas season as you celebrate with your fellow Christians here at St. John's.

Jesus is the Reason for the Season and the reason for your salvation!

Have a blessed Christmas!
Pastor Robert Hellmann

Presidents Report to St Johns Church Council & Congregation November 13, 2013

We called Pastor Chis Cordes of Beautiful Savior in Hillsboro, OR to be our next Pastor. He has received the information about our church, our congregation and our community.

Pastor Cordes is 53. He and his wife Rachel have 5 children, ages 17-27. He has served as a world missionary in Spanish mission fields. His district president describes him as good at administration and works at lay training and getting members to own their congregation. He is outreach minded and a very good preacher. He looks professional all the time but is also able to enjoy camping & youth activities etc. He hasn't had the opportunity to work with a school in the congregation but is very supportive of Christian education and would work well with a faculty and team ministries. He welcomes calls or emails to talk about St. Johns. His phone number is 503-617-9677 and his email address is pastor@beautiful-savior.org. The website for the church he is at currently is <http://www.beautiful-savior.org/>. Pray for God's guidance to help Pastor Cordes in his deliberation of the call.

Our Building & Special Needs Fundraiser is under way. Our goal is to acquire the money needed to replace the window and repair the exterior brick wall on the southwest corner of the church and do the necessary repairs to the parsonage before our new pastor arrives along with paying off our line of credit. These projects will require approximately \$40,000 by the end of the year. If your heart desires to make a contribution to this fund it would be very much appreciated. The voters also approved at the meeting on 10/28 to put any undesignated memorials to this fund raiser also. If we do not raise the money needed the voters would ask the Endowment and Trust fund to release funds in the Building Trust Fund H in the amount of approximately \$8,687. Still, this is not enough to cover our needs for these projects so member involvement is crucial.

This Fundraiser isn't all about the money as Dave Silfies reminded us after service on 11/10. He said if you look at verse 3 of Hymn 573, it says: "If you cannot be a watchman, standing high on Zion's wall, pointing out the path to heaven, offering life and peace to all, with your prayers and with your offerings, you can do what God demands: you can be like the faithful Aaron, holding up the prophets hands." In essence if you can pray, give any of your time, talent or treasure; you are doing a part to help further our mission at St John's which is to serve all people in God's world with the gospel of Jesus Christ on the basis of the Holy Scriptures. Prayerfully consider what you can do to help.

Thanksgiving is here and it is a time to give thanks to the Lord for the many blessings we have been bestowed upon personally and also here at St Johns. Our blessings are not deserved but God continues to care of us and He has given us the greatest blessing of all which is salvation. Take a moment to count your blessings and you will find that we are much better off than we think. Give back accordingly to those in need; God's blessings to us are faithful and He will never fail us! Have a Happy Thanksgiving.

In Christ,

Steve Windschitl
President, St John's Congregation

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.*

Lutheran Women's Missionary Society

This month we have only one birthday among our assigned mission sites. Jeffrey Gunn, a Home Missions pastor in Phoenix, will be celebrating his birthday on December 1st. Missionaries always appreciate a reminder that someone is thinking of them and praying for them and their mission work and family! Provided below are the names and addresses of our 3 mission assignments. What a blessing for them to receive extra Christmas greetings, encouragement or even a small gift or gift card at this special time of the year! Would you consider adding them to your Christmas card list? You might wonder what to write in a note to them... It doesn't have to be lengthy - just tell them you appreciate their work, are praying for them, their work and their families, and wish them a blessed Christmas. Sign your name, and our church name too. If you have kids in your home, maybe they would enjoy coloring a picture to send along for the missionary or their children!

World Mission: Our Savior's Lutheran School in Peridot, Arizona

Craig and Charissa Breitreutz
PO Box 118
Peridot, AZ 85542

Their children are: Brett, 6; Caitlynn, 4; Emily, 2, and Caleb,
10 months.

Home Mission: Trinity Lutheran Church in St. Lucia (Caribbean Region)

Tom & Jennifer Spiegelberg
Galbewoods Mall GM Box 858
Castries, St. Lucia, West Indies

Their children are: Bailey (a girl) 16; Sofia, 14 and Ian, 11
**** Special note** If you wish to send any gifts of money
to them or their church, it needs to go to the address
below:**

Pastor Tom Spiegelberg
2947 62nd St.
Maple Plain, MN 55359

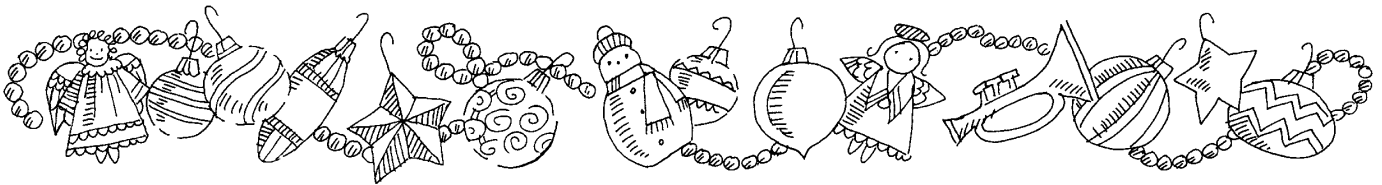
Home Mission: Crosswalk Lutheran Ministries – Phoenix area

Jeffrey and Julie Gunn
1809 Moody Trail
Phoenix, AZ 85041

Their children are all adults and live away from home.

I would like to thank you for reading about and praying for our mission sites this year. Sharing the incredible gift of the gospel to new brothers and sisters around the world - or near to our homes - is the best work God offers us! Your support and efforts DO mean a lot! Together with God's blessings, we DO make a difference.

Paula Windschitl
LWMS Reporter



Church Council Minutes November 13 , 2013

Present: Jerry Dittbenner, Shorty Haus, Andy Lochner, Dan Rick, Dave Silfies, Steve Windschitl and Pastor Hellmann.

Pastor Hellmann opened the meeting with devotion and a prayer.

Minutes

Andy Lochner/Shorty Haus made a motion to approve the October 2013 minutes. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

No written report. Things are proceeding and there are no particular issues.

Treasurer's Report

Paul Maasz/Andy Lochner made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Reports were reviewed. October has been the lowest month in the 1st quarter of the fiscal year. General fund is down.

President's Report

Written report was presented. Steve spoke with Pastor Cordes. Steve will send out his report as a letter to highlight the call and fund drive.

Board of Elders

No membership changes this month. Elders are working on cards to help encourage absent members to attend.

Principal & Board of Education

The Children's Eve Christmas service will move to 5:00 p.m.

Per a vote of 4 to 2. Dan is going to the Principal's meeting on Friday.

November has been pretty quiet, but getting busy now with Christmas.

Basketball and cheerleading season will begin soon.

Dan has been working and update the school web-site.

Will sell out inventory of Scrip, no new at this time.

Forensics meet is tomorrow at St. John's, next week at MLC.

Most of the staff went and got CPR training.

Christmas Treat Bags – Dan will organize. There will be a door offering to cover expenses.

Worship Committee

No report.

Maintenance Committee

No report. Much work has been done on the parsonage and church wall.

Hosanna Circle/Ladies Aid are scheduled for decorating the church.

Outreach

No report.

Stewardship

How do we improve voter's attendance? Possibility of non-members school parents taking an information class.

MVL/WELS

Spirit of MVL gathering at New Ulm Country Club with silent/live auction this coming Saturday.

Endowment and Trust Fund Committee

They will meet this week concerning money from fund for building fund issues.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

The next Church Council meeting will be held Thursday, December 12th at 7:30 p.m.

Shorty Haus/Paul Maasz made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Silfies, Acting Secretary

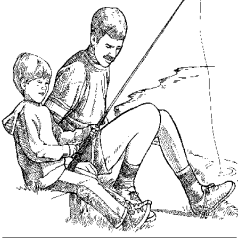
Principal's Report

October brought the feel of autumn in the air and November has brought the anticipation of Thanksgiving and Christmas. The school year is now well under way, and 1st quarter report cards have went home already even though it seems the school year has just begun. The usual daily classroom classes continue and there are a number of activities outside the classrooms that will be taking place this month.

One of those major activities of St. John's Lutheran School at this time of year is practicing for our annual Christmas Eve Program. A majority of our students will memorize six songs and three hymns! As a whole school, fifty-two narrations and recitations will be memorized and spoken! What amazing talents these students have! We proclaim the birth of the Savior and look first to Jesus, who is the perfect role model for us. He put us first as He came to this world and was born in a manger. The son of unassuming parents, He lived the perfect life that we could never live. Then, the suffering and death that He endured for us is beyond amazing. When we consider what Jesus has done for us, we really do think of a servant's heart and his/her motive for doing something kind for someone.

Thanksgiving and Christmas are great holidays to remind us of the purpose and mission statement of our school: *Assisting parents in the Christian training of their children for Christian lives and for eternity.* The Mission of St. John's is evident through the daily operation of our school. Teachers, parents, students and the Board of Education work together for the common mission of our school "training students for Christian lives." Fulfilling our mission involves a great deal of sacrifice on the part of parents who give so much so their children can attend St. John's. Our teachers spend countless hours of their lives giving of themselves so that their students can grow as young Christians. Our students work diligently and often make sacrifices of time to attend St. John's or to put in that extra effort for a class or

Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." PROVERBS 22:6



activity. Finally, our Board members give a great deal of time and energy to the leadership of our school. I'm confident that our students see caring attributes in our teachers, our staff, our parents and our Board of Education. As we continue training the next generation of lay and called church leaders, it is my hope and prayer that we can always carry our mission to help our young people better know Jesus!



Mr. Rick's 5-8 Classroom News

Music

For the past four weeks, the students have been practicing their Christmas program music! Songs they are singing are *Little Children, Can You Tell* and *The Snow Lay on the Ground*. The upper grade students are also practicing their recitations for their narrations and whole class recitations. We hope to see many of you on Christmas Eve!



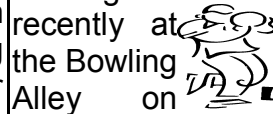
Christmas Eve Service

History

The 7th and 8th grade students have been studying how our nation was reconstructed after the Civil War and the end of the American frontier. Grades 5-6 in Ancient Civilizations are learning about the ancient Chinese and their culture.

Physical Education

The students have been doing various exercises and games in Phy. Ed. specifically kickball and tag games. They have also been bowling recently at the Bowling Alley on Friday mornings. Everyone has been doing a great job knocking down those pins!



Let's Go Bowling

Math

The 6th grade is learning how to subtract fractions and mixed numbers. The 5th grade is learning about multiplication, division,

percentage, and fractions. Finally, 7th grade has recently learned how to find average and how to add and subtract mixed measures.

Christ Light

Recently in Christ Light, students have learned about John the Baptist's death and Jesus Feeding the 5,000. The students do a variety of activities in this class such as independent reading, listening to an audio bible, group work, and break-up applications.

English

All grades have finished up grammar chapters on Verbs and Adjectives.

Computers Class

In Computers class, the students have been typing and using many websites where the students can navigate and be creative. Grades 5-8 have also been playing games on the Wacky Wonderful Websites school page.

Art

In Art class, Mrs. Halvorson has been teaching perspective, vanishing point, and space. Thank you Mrs. Halvorson! Many students have enjoyed these projects!

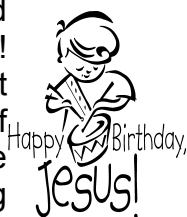
Currents Events

In Current Events, students read *Scholastic Magazine* using the Smart board. The students are able to hear an audio for the text and watch videos according to the stories. The students love this technology!



Mrs. Halvorson's 1-3 News

During this short school month we will be busily preparing for our hearts and minds for our Savior's birthday! While we continue to learn about the Old Testament Children of Israel in our morning Bible lessons, we are also preparing our hearts for our Savior's birth with special daily Advent devotions.



We are also already working 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.

So much learning fills up our school days!

SOCIAL STUDIES

Third grade is learning about the Northeastern (New England) states in Social Studies. Every child will be an "expert" on his state by the end of this unit.

Grade 1-2 will explore maps and develop new skills this month to get a better understanding of the geography of our world.

READING

In Reading class, first grade is hard at work developing reading skills. Meanwhile, second grade is enjoying short chapter books, folktales with fun activities, and non-fiction selections. First and Second graders are becoming more fluent in their reading skills through daily Phonics and work with word families.

LANGUAGE

We should all improve our writing skills this month as in Language class we will focus on describing words, verbs, and singular and plural possessives. We will learn more about contractions and verb agreement and double negatives in speech as well.

MATH

In Math Grade one will learn about liquid measurement, following a recipe, identifying fourths and halves, adding two to even and odd numbers and learning time to the hour. Grade three mathematicians will be multiplying by seven, learning about volume, showing time to 5 minute intervals, finding perimeter, and entering the world of division (a big step).

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

Mrs. Soloviyov's Preschool and Kindergarten News

The preschool/kindergarten room has been learning about Thanksgiving and celebrating all the wonderful things the Lord has given us. We have also learned how He helped Joseph and Moses. Even when things looked hopeless, the Lord had a plan. We rejoice knowing that He also has a plan for us. He will always be by our side. We are truly thankful for this knowledge!

The classroom is hard at work with words. We have stars on the ceiling with words that we commonly use and letters on our white board that we use to make words. It is a joy to see a child light up when reading a word!

We are still hard at work learning different themes. We just finished up our study of our 5 senses. We learned what a blessing each sense is. We also learned how each sense works. It is amazing how the Lord created each and every one of us.

This next month, we will be learning our Christmas recitation. The children are excited to be the "pastor for the night" and to be able to share the great news of Jesus' coming. May their joy for the Lord never die.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving!



Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid met on Wednesday, November 6th at 2:00 p.m. for their monthly meeting. Our devotion was an inspirational reading by Pastor Hellmann, based on selected Bible verses.

The Ladies Aid covered the cost of 5 – 8 foot white resin tables for \$461.80. A sixth table that arrived in June has been donated. The tables are ready to be used for church events held in our dining area.

A full report of the MLC Auxiliary meeting held on October 5th may be found in the Church's

November newsletter.

The Treasurer Haus has hired Cindy Talledge as their third manager. St. John's work day is the first Friday of each month. Volunteers are always needed and appreciated.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to give \$50.00 to the Wels Kingdom Workers. A motion was made, seconded and passed to give \$50.00 to CAMM.

The church has been beautifully decorated for the harvest season. We thank all who were involved. It was greatly appreciated by all.

Block 3 served for the Don Halvorson funeral. The block system has been changed from 4 blocks to 3. A new list of names has been made and may be found elsewhere in this newsletter. Please note which block you are in and be willing to serve when called by block leaders.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, December 4th at 2:00 p.m. All ladies of the congregation are invited to any and all of our meetings. Come join us!

Marilyn Deibele
Secretary

Thank You

Thank you
Lynn Hacker & Jan Dittbenner
for providing the
beautiful harvest display
in front of church
during the month of November.



Hosanna circle

Hosanna Circle met Thursday, November 7th. Pastor Hellmann led us in devotion from "*Mine, but First Yours.*" Much of our evening was spent planning the Women's Advent event. All women of the congregation and guests are invited to join us December 8th at 4:00 pm for an evening of food, fellowship and fun. Please register near the table setting in the narthex of the church. We also discussed our bake and craft sale to be held November 24th. Our circle has been invited to do a cookie bake/pizza make at Rich and Connie Trebesch's on Thursday, December 5th. We will start baking at 1:00 to make cookies for our Advent meal.

Our next meeting will be December 3rd to decorate the church basement before the Ladies Aid meeting.

Our circle is responsible, with the Ladies Aid, to decorate the church. It will be done in two stages, the first is Saturday, November 30th, at 9:00 am. The second step is to decorate the trees on Sunday, December 15th, following other church activities.

Yours in Christ,
Connie Trebesch and Mickey Meyer



HOLIDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Children's Christmas Eve 5PM
Candlelight Service 10PM
Christmas Day 9AM
New Year's Day 9AM

Memorials

In Memory of Viola Suker

Repair Fund - \$160

Delbert & Eunice Sandhoefner
Greg & Mary Bartz
Linus & Marilyn Deibele
Viola Suker Family
Family & Friends

In Memory of Donny Halvorson

**Ladies Aid - \$50
Window Fund \$35
Organ Fund \$15**

Andy & Rita Lochner
June Grundmeyer
Mike & Janet Crabtree
Dennis & Pam Dittbenner
Greg & Mary Bartz
Leo & Marcia Derkowski
Family & Friends

St. John's Choir - \$100

Penny Mathiowetz
Family & Friends

St. John's School - \$750

Dave & Char Zimmerman
Delbert & Eunice Sandhoehner
Jerry & Jan Dittbenner
Beverly Wischstadt
Bev Bartz
Rich & Connie Trebesch
Brad & LeAnn Berkner
Shorty & Mary Jayne Haus
Cheri Hammerschmidt
Pastor & Susan Hellmann
Family & Friends

St. John's New School - \$100

Steve & Paula Windschitl
Family & Friends