

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



FEBRUARY 2012

VOLUME 8

NUMBER 2

Get to Know Your Friend

He was your friend. You enjoyed good times together and shared difficult moments. You knew him well – at least you thought you knew him. Yet, there was still plenty to learn.

One evening you were eating supper with this friend and several others. You enjoyed the company as the smell of wine and roasted lamb fills the air. Then your friend talks about going away – and you can not go with him! You don't understand. Does that mean you will not be friends any more? What he says sounds strange, but you have heard him say strange things in the past.

After supper you went to a favorite spot to relax, but your friend seemed to have something troubling him. Soon you heard the clamor of a small crowd. You saw them holding their weapons in the air as they came to take your friend away by force. It was terrifying. You ran. Your own life seemed so much more important than helping your friend.

Yet, this was your friend and you wanted to know what was happening to him. You went to the place they took him. It seemed like they had put him on trial. Eventually it became clear this trial was only a thin veil of an excuse to murder your friend. You stood there waiting for any bit of information about your friend. People asked, "Didn't I see you with that man?" Suddenly, an image of your own execution flashed before you and you vehemently denied knowing this man.

Just then your friend was being moved from one place to another and he came to a spot where he was able to look directly at you. You realized what you had done. You promised to remain his friend, even if it meant your own death. You couldn't keep that promise. You felt the guilt pressing down on you. Later, it became clear that your friend was going to die to remove your guilt. He died to pay the price God demands for your sins. Your friend's name is Jesus.

This Lenten season as you hear and read about the suffering and death of your Savior, put yourself in the story. See yourself as one of those people whom Jesus calls friend, because you are. Even though Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection happened almost 2000 years ago, Jesus knew your name. He was thinking of you when he allowed the mob to arrest him, the religious leaders to mock him, and Pontius Pilate to sentence him to death. You are the reason he stretched out his hands on that rough-hewn piece of wood and waited as the nails were driven into his flesh. You are in this story because Jesus did this for you. Read about it in the Gospels. (Matthew 26-28; Mark 14-16; Luke 22-24; John 13-21)

In Christ, our Friend,
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 January 2011

Proverbs 16:3

Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.

The new year of 2012 is upon us. Many of us make resolutions for the upcoming year, changes that we may need to make in our life, work and play. It is a time to reflect on the past and look forward to what needs to be done or improved upon in the future. Committing these plans to God as Proverbs reads has a far better chance of succeeding than if we go it alone.



Here at St Johns for 2011 we saw a good increase in involvement by its members. More are helping out when needed & getting involved, attendance has stabilized and bible study attendance has grown. We did make plans last January, February and March for the needs and growth of St Johns and planned what we would like St Johns to look like in the upcoming years and decades. The beginning of a new year is a good time to review what God has blessed us with and to look at what we need to prayerfully consider working on in the upcoming months. Those 2011 planning meetings were well attended. I would hope that we can get together again soon to review what we planned and review what has begun to take shape. We can set our goals for 2012, commit them to the Lord and see what happens!

Our quarterly voters meeting will be held Sunday January 22nd after the second service. Please make plans to attend. There are always areas of concerns for us to address as a congregation. One in area in particular that will be addressed is our concern for those who are members but rarely if ever, attend church. The elders try to reach out to these people but cannot see them all. As a member we ask that if you know of someone that has not attended for a while or does not attend that you would help out by talking with them and encouraging them to come to church. If you're not comfortable with that, talk with an elder or pastor. We can work together and hopefully bring them back with the help of God.

Unity Sunday will be held on February 5th. We start with bible study at 9:15 and have one service at 10:30. A catered meal follows the service. It is meant to be a time when we all come together as a family and worship God. We then join in fellowship at a meal to get to know our fellow parishioners better. We acknowledge our newest members from the past year and offer encouragement and conversation to and with each other. If you know of someone that has not been to church for a while, ask them to come with you. The event can be uplifting and the Holy Spirit will inspire a person in ways that can amaze us.

Wishing you joyous and prosperous 2012,

Steve Windschitl
President, St John's Congregation

Church Council Minutes January 9, 2012

Present: Steve Windschitl, Leo Derkowski, Barry Hillmann, Jim Mielke, Andy Lochner, Jerry Dittbenner, Dan Rick, Laurel Haus and Pastor Draper.

Pastor Draper opened the meeting with devotion and a prayer.

Minutes

Andy Lochner/Jim Mielke made a motion to approve the December 2011 minutes. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

No formal report

Treasurer's Report

Jerry Dittbenner/Andy Lochner made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

President's Report

The beginning of a new year is a good time to review what God has blessed us with and to look at what we need to prayerfully consider working on in the upcoming months. Our 2011 planning meetings were well attended and I hope we can get together again soon to review what we planned and what has begun to take shape. We can set out goals for 2012, commit them to the Lord and see what happens.

Board of Elders

No formal report

Principal & Board of Education

Sixth through eighth graders will be greeters at Sunday services

Students will help take church attendance.

Students will send letters to shut-ins.

Worship Committee

Unity Sunday will be held February 5. A catered meal follows the service.

Maintenance Committee

Street and utility improvements are scheduled for 2012. Our assessment is estimated to be \$12,000. The assessment can be paid over 10 years at 4% interest.

Outreach

No report.

Stewardship

No report.

MVL/WELS

Tim Plath from MVL presented an overview of MVL enrollment, projections and future plans:

- Enrollment is projected to decline in the next four years from 213 in 2011-2012 to 174 in 2015-2016.
- Blessings included facility improvements, continuing education opportunities for faculty and MNSAA Accreditation and self-study
- Emphasis is placed on better communication with congregations and on development
- Tuition probably will increase net year by as much as \$400.00. Current tuition is \$5,400 per year.
- Tuition contributes 64% of revenue toward the annual budget. 20% is contributed by member congregations and 16% from individual offerings.

Endowment and Trust Fund Committee

No activity.

Old Business

An additional \$3,905 is required to complete the funding for organ renovation.

New Business

Steve Windschitl/Andy Lochner made a motion to appoint Laurel "Shorty" Haus to the position of Treasurer. Motion carried.

We should do an inventory of the metal folding chairs, get rid of the ones in the worst shape and consider purchasing new folding chairs.

The quarterly voters meeting is scheduled for Sunday January 22 after the second service.

The next scheduled council meeting: 7:30 Monday, Feb 13, 2012.

Barry Hillmann/Jim Mielke made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted
Leo Derkowski, Secretary

Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid Society met on Wednesday, January 4th at 2 p.m. For their regular meeting. President Marlys Lochner presided. Our devotion led by Pastor Draper was from Ephesians 1:1-2. These verses are the beginning of Apostle Paul's letter to the Christians in Ephesus.

After a brief discussion it was decided to set the fee for the basement rental at \$35.00 instead of \$50.00 as previously reported. A rental agreement will be given to the party renting.



The Giving Tree for our shut-ins was a success. Thank you to all who participated. The cards were beautifully done!

A motion was made, seconded and passed to pay the bill of \$106.77 for our new dinner spoons, which have arrived.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to give \$100.00 to the East Fork Lutheran School.

The annual meeting of the Treasure Haus will be held February 12th at 1:30 p.m. at MVL. At the end of 2011, the Treasure Haus has given \$1,000,000.00 in donations since its opening. MVL receives 75% of the profits.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 1st at 2:00 p.m. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend all of our meetings. Come join us!

Marilyn Deibele
Secretary



News from Mrs. Shrum's Classroom Pre-K/K



The start of 2012 has been very productive! The students were ready to get back into their routine after the Christmas break. The 100th day of school

was on January 25th, and the students had a goal to receive 100 cards or letters by that day to celebrate! They received cards from various places in Minnesota, Texas, Tennessee, Wyoming and many other states. They were so excited to learn about these new places! Thanks to all who helped us meet our goal!

The school play is coming up in February and we are all working hard to learn our songs and parts. The students are so excited to perform "The Trial of the Big Bad Wolf"!!

I would also like to send out a big THANK YOU for all the gifts and holiday cards that were so graciously given to me this Christmas season. You were all too kind, Mr. Shrum and I truly feel blessed!

~Mrs. Shrum



News from Mrs. Halvorson's Classroom Grades 1-3



In February we celebrate our Christian love for our Savior, each other and our families.

In our Bible lessons we continue to follow the Children of Israel as they travel to the Promised land. We are constantly reminded of God's love and mercy to us as we travel through life to our promised land of heaven.

This month promises to be a busy and exciting one in our classroom and school. The children are busy preparing a humorous musical called "The Trial of The Big Bad Wolf". They will present it to their parents, grandparents, and the whole congregation during *Lutheran School Week* in early March.

We will visit our Adult Daycare friends at Ross Park to enjoy Valentine fun activities this month. Our Valentine's Day party will on Feb. 14th. We are looking forward to these winter highlights during these long, cold months.

In Social Studies this month Grade One and Two will learn about the Asian countries of Japan, China. We will compare their geography, customs, and daily life. Did you know the Chinese invented paper? We will learn of many lasting contributions of these two societies.

God Bless you this month with His love,
Mrs. Halvorson



News from Mr. Rick's Classroom Grades 4-8

The 2012 year has been off to a great start in the upper grades classroom. The students have performed well in the classroom and have shown great progress. Here are a few things that have been taught in the past weeks:

Math – (4)Two-Step Equations and Polygons, (5)Simple Probability and Decimal Parts of a Meter, (6)Factor Trees and Parallelograms, and (8)Algebraic Phrases and Ratio Problems.

History – (5-6)Ancient India and Ancient China and (8) Latin American Culture

Christ Light – (5-8) Korah and The Bronze Snake

Science – (4-6) Properties of Matter and (8) Cnidarians, Worms, and Mollusks

Spelling – (6) /sh/ Spelling and Pronunciation and (8) Noun Suffixes

Recess times has been fun during the winter season. The students play many games including Capture the Flag, Fox & Goose, Ball Tag, and Hockey.

Grades 4-8 had their first basketball game on

Jan.10th. The team played well and has been improving with every practice. You can watch highlights of our first games on the school website. There are 5 more games until the team wraps up their season with the MLC Basketball Tournament on Feb. 24th & 25th. Come and support St. John's basketball. Schedules are printed in the monthly calendar and church bulletin.

For more information on the upper grades classroom, visit our web page on the school website.



Lenten Suppers



February 22nd
Homemade Potato Soup,
Sandwiches
(Hosanna Circle)

February 28th
Chili (Youth Group)

March 7th
Tomato/Chicken Noodle
Soup, Sandwiches (YG)

March 14th
Taco Salad (YG)

March 21st
BBQ's (PTO - Kid's Sing)

March 28th
Tatortot Hotdish (YG)

Befriend a Mission & LWMS Notes

There is one birthday for the month of February on our Befriend a Mission list. It is for Barbara Werner, the wife of Home Missionary Paul Werner. Her birthday is on February 7th. Here is the address if you would like to send her a card of greeting and encouragement:

Barbara Werner
2222 Englewood Rd.
Englewood, FL 34223-6316

Also, you may wish to mark your calendar now for the upcoming **Spring LWMS Rally**. It will be held on April 14th at Emmanuel Lutheran in Owatonna.

Consider attending the **National LWMS Convention in Winston-Salem, NC** this June. A bus tour is currently forming, which would leave from our area and see a variety of very interesting sites along the way. If you would like to get more information about this bus trip, please contact Marly Kuckhahn soon at 507-359-2074.

Paula Windschitl, Reporter



Memorials & Gifts

School Renovation/New Building Fund

Anonymous - \$10,000.00

In Memory of Lane Arnold Meyer Organ Fund

Greg & Mary Bartz - \$5.00

Cheri Heideman - \$5.00

In Memory of Luverna Juni Organ Fund

Arnie & Arlene Hinderman - \$5.00

In Memory of Harold Bartz Organ Fund

Family & Friends - \$1,500.00

School Building Fund

Steve & Paula Windschitl - \$25.00

Choir Fund

Penny Mathiowetz - \$10.00

"See what love the Father has given us,



that we should be called children of God."

1 John 3:1

