

# *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)



**FEBRUARY 2013**

## In the Holy Land

Traveling in Israel was a wonderful experience. There was so much to see and so much to learn. Visiting the northern part with its trees and beautiful plant life opened my eyes to the fact that not all of Israel is desert or rough mountains. Being able to see where different events took place helped me visualize how they might have happened. The learning wasn't limited to biblical events either, but I also learned some things about archeology and geography and how they connected to the events of the Bible.

However, one of the unfortunate truths that was reinforced for me is this: There are a lot of people who do not believe in Jesus, and yet they live in and around the very places that Jesus walked, performed miracles, and finished our salvation. You see, being in those places and seeing where those special events took place doesn't cause you to believe that those events took place for you. It is only by the Holy Spirit working through God's Word that people believe.

In that regard, you have the greatest advantage over many who live in Israel. Even if you have not seen where Jesus lived and died, you know that he lived and died for you. You know that your salvation rests on the fact that the events of your salvation did take place. Jesus came into this world at a specific time and to a specific place. You believe it, and so, according to God's promise, you have eternal life. Perhaps you will never be in Israel to see Jerusalem with your own eyes, but through the eyes of faith you see the heavenly Jerusalem that is waiting for you, and, one day, you and I will live there!

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 January 2013**

Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path.  
Psalm 119:105

January is the start of a new year. Having God's word for us to lighten the way is a welcome guidance to where we need to go when we look at the upcoming year. Think about the directions & crossroads you are faced with in your life. Know that God's word will guide you. The same applies to our congregation. We have many decisions to make, but with prayer and God's guidance we are assured He will lead us.

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University starts Thursday evening January 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm running till 8 pm & going thru March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013. It is a video instruction with discussion class on handling money God's way & creating an environment of satisfaction with the blessings you have been bestowed. Families will get ideas on what is prudent and good stewardship. The class can help anyone and give ideas to any age, any gender, and any income level on handling money wisely. This class is being offered by other WELS churches with very good comments on how it has helped people in their financial life. As of today there 25 people registered to come to the class. Interested people can attend any one class without obligation to see if this is something they would like to do.

Unity Sunday will be held on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will have one service (no Monday night service this week), bible study and a meal will be served following. It is meant to be a time when we all come together as a family and worship God. We then join in fellowship for lunch 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 them. If you know of someone that has not been to church for a while, ask them to come with you. This event can be uplifting and the Holy Spirit will inspire a person in ways that can amaze us.

Lent starts February 13<sup>th</sup> with Ash Wednesday service. Each Wednesday in Lent we have two services with supper following the 4:30 service. The services are a time to reflect on Jesus' time leading up to his death on the cross and resurrection. The supper can be a time of conversation for us with our fellow believers that have been saved by his death and resurrection. Please join us.

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.

We continue to look for people to help with the work that needs to be done here at St Johns. At this time our council needs a secretary and the Elders need at least one more to serve on their board. If you cannot help in these positions there are many other projects that can use help. Check with Dave Silfies, myself or Pastor; let us know what you may be interested in and we can suggest things that could be done.

In Christ,

Steve Windschitl  
President, St John's Congregation

## Unity Sunday – February 3<sup>rd</sup>

What will it be this year? St. John's Jeopardy? A wacky photo booth? If you've been at previous Unity Sunday events, you probably remember some of those fun times. Well, this year we will enjoy our Unity Sunday on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Here is the schedule for the day:

**9 a.m.** – Worship service. Let's fill God's house with our entire St. John's family to worship our LORD and Savior together! K-8<sup>th</sup> grade are scheduled to sing in this service.

**10:15 a.m.** - Bible study (will be done by 11:00)

**11:00 a.m.** – A meal will be served for everyone in the church basement. **(Not a potluck!)** New members will be welcomed, fun/and/or games will be enjoyed together, and you will still be home in *plenty* of time to watch or attend Super Bowl events.

**Note:** Because this is a special day of fellowship and fun, the atmosphere is perfect for bringing a guest along. They can join in and feel right at home with us all. Consider inviting a friend, relative or perhaps even another member who maybe hasn't been to church for a while.

*Mark your calendar now to remember Unity Sunday on February 3<sup>rd</sup>! See you then!*



### Principal's Report Mr. Dan Rick

#### Proclaiming God's Praises In Song

Psalm 63:5

“My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you.”

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran School is blessed with many singing talents from our students. Every year on Christmas Eve, those talents are displayed tremendously! We are glad that many congregational members, family, friends, visitors, and community members were able to hear the Gospel message in song on Christmas Eve. What an amazing gift for our children to proclaim the true meaning of Christmas...Christ! The faculty and I have heard numerous comments on the singing abilities of our students and we are so thankful that God's Word has touched their hearts to proclaim what they have learned.

The students also praise God and spread His Word in many other ways such as caroling at the Care Center and Countryside, performing and showcasing their musical abilities in the springtime play, and enriching church services when they sing as a school group. I would like to give a special thank you to Stacy Shrum, Laurie Halvorson, Janet Crabtree, and Laurie Silfies for making music a wonderful part of St. John's Lutheran School! To God be the glory!



## **Lutheran Women's Missionary Society**

What were you doing in 1962? Were you even born yet? Or were you on well on your way in life?

In 1962, the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society was begun. It all started in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, and to commemorate these 50 years of blessings, the next national convention will be held Thursday, June 27<sup>th</sup> though Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup> in LaCrosse. This promises to be the same wonderful event that it is every year – and then some! Mission speakers with tales from the home and world mission field will touch your heart and leave you wanting to know more about the important work they do. And, special events are scheduled to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. For daily schedules, registration forms and more details, go to [www.lwms.org](http://www.lwms.org) and check out the convention information. For your convenience, there are also a number of LWMS newsletters and registration forms on the narthex table. Here are some important reminders to keep in mind:

- Hotels are getting booked up already. There are still some hotels available in the LWMS block, but if you are considering attending and need a room, you may wish to reserve soon.
- April 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for early registration. Convention registrations sent in after April 1<sup>st</sup> will require an additional \$10 late fee.
- Area attractions and some tours are also available during the convention week. Join in with other attendees to participate. These tours are also detailed on the web site and require separate registration.
- Several women from St. John's will be in attendance. If you are looking to share a room or carpool, please contact Paula Windschitl at 794-2310. A bus group from New Ulm usually goes as well. The bus group usually takes in sights along the way also. If you are interested in the bus trip, you may also contact Paula.
- Yes, men also attend this convention! Feel free to register!
- Opening service with communion is Thursday at 7:00 pm. Closing worship is Sunday at 8:30 a.m.

Something new this year: The Minnesota Valley Circuit of the LWMS (of which St. John's is a member) is supporting a project called "Send One Sister". Any woman who wishes to attend but may not be able to afford the registration cost may apply. One woman (or possibly more) will be selected to attend the convention with scholarship money to help them out. This form is attached to the newsletter and can also be found in the narthex. Please return the form to Paula Windschitl, LWMS Reporter. This program is intended to encourage first time attendees. Once you go, you will know why!! These conventions are amazing.

Your sister in Christ,  
Paula Windschitl, Reporter

## Church Council Minutes January 15, 2013

Present: Jerry Dittbenner, Shorty Haus, Barry Hillmann, Andy Lochner, Jim Mielke, Dan Rick, Dave Silfies and Steve Windschitl

President Steve Windschitl opened the meeting with devotion and a prayer.

### Minutes

Andy Lochner/Jerry Dittbenner made a motion to approve the December 2012 minutes with the correction Andy Lochner was present. Motion carried.

### Pastor's Report

Pastor is in Israel.

### Treasurer's Report

Andy Lochner/Dave Silfies made a motion to accept the December treasurer's report. Motion carried.

### President's Report

Written report was presented.

Shorty Haus/Jim Mielke made a motion to get a different copy machine for the office. Motion carried.

St. John's CMO amount has been set for \$25,000.

Shorty Haus/Jim Mielke made a motion to recommend to the voters that all loose plate cash beginning Ash Wednesday through the last Wednesday Lenten service be used to go towards our WELS CMO agreement. Motion carried.

### Board of Elders

Shorty Haus/Jim Mielke made a motion to release Chuck, Lindy Riederer and family. Motion carried.

### Principal & Board of Education

No report.

### Worship Committee

There will be one service on February 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 9:00 a.m. For Unity Sunday. There will not be worship service on Monday, February 4<sup>th</sup>.

### Maintenance Committee

No report.

### Outreach

No report.

### Stewardship

Dave Silfies reported on the Dave Ramsey Financial Peace Univ. stewardship program. Twenty-five people have signed up.

### MVL/WELS

No report.

### Endowment and Trust Fund Committee

No report.

### Old Business

The voter's meeting has changed to Monday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

### New Business

The next Church Council meeting will be held Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

Andy Lochner/Shorty Haus made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Barry Hillmann, Acting Secretary



### Mrs. Shrum's Classroom News

The month of January has gone by so quickly, we have done many exciting things in such a short amount of time.

We returned from Christmas break with Mrs. Brown for a few days as Mrs. Shrum recovered from surgery. We visited Sleepy Eye Public for the Twins Caravan, and enjoyed seeing T. C. the mascot. We participated in a

"Backwards Day" on January 18<sup>th</sup> by wearing our clothes backwards and doing many silly activities backwards in our classroom. On January 25<sup>th</sup> we celebrated our 100<sup>th</sup> day of school! We dressed up as we would look at 100 years old, found 100 Hershey's kisses in our classroom and made a 100 cup structure! It was a great day.

We've learned the sounds for the letter's M, N, O, and P this month, and we've worked on counting to 100. In Bible Story we read about Zachaeus, Mary anointing Jesus, Jesus riding into Jerusalem and a poor woman's offering to her Lord.

The Kinders are learning how to count by 5's and 10's!

They are reading daily, and learning new word families every week. Take a look at their Pop Corn Word Wall in the ASC room, they've learned how to read so many words!



## Mrs. Halvorson's Classroom News



In February we celebrate our Christian love for our Savior, each other and our families. In our Bible lessons we are following Jesus in his public ministry. We learn many lessons of trust as we hear of Jesus miracles and parables.

Some anticipated highlights this month are Unity Sunday, and a Science Evening for families, We are busily preparing for both .

On Feb 14<sup>th</sup> We will visit our Adult Daycare friends at Ross Park to enjoy Valentine fun activities .We are looking forward to these winter highlights during these long, cold months.

At the end of the month grades 1-2 will also begin a new unit in Science about the Rainforest. We will learn about the unique animals that live in its different layers and what we can do to protect our shrinking rainforests in the world.

God bless you this month with His love.



## Mr. Rick's Classroom News

The 2013 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 – (5)Simple Probability and Decimal Parts of a Meter, (6)Factor Trees and Parallelograms, and (7)Algebraic Phrases and Ratio Problems.

History – (5-6) The Minnesota Civil War (8) The Thomas Jefferson Era

Christ Light – (5-8) Mary and Martha, Jesus Heals a Blind Man, Jesus Heals the Ten Men with Leprosy

Science – (5) Landforms (6-7) Cnidarians, Worms, and Mollusks

Spelling – (5) /sh/ Spelling and Pronunciation and (7) 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 3-7 had their tenth basketball game on Jan.18<sup>th</sup>. The team played well and has been improving with every practice and game. Our current record is 5-5! You can see pictures of our first games on the school website. There are 12 more games until the team wraps up their season around mid-February. Come and support St. John's basketball. Schedules are printed in the Warrior Weeklys, monthly calendars, and church bulletin. There are also extra copies by the trophy cases.

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



## Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid met on Wednesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00 p.m. for their monthly meeting. President Marlys Lochner presided. Our devotion, led by Pastor Draper was from Ephesians 4:17-32. Paul urged the Ephesians to put off their sinful nature and to live a God fearing life.

The bake sale on December 16<sup>th</sup> hosted by the Hosanna Circle netted \$298.50. The proceeds will be used for the Ladies Aid's various projects.

The Giving Tree for our shut-ins was a success. Thank you to all who set it up and to all who visited our shut-ins at Christmas time.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to give \$50.00 to Send one Sister (SOS) Project to the LWMS Convention in June.

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

A big thank you to all who helped decorate the basement and church for Christmas, and to the Hackers for the beautiful trees.

Block 3 will serve for Unity Sunday on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.



Block 4 served for the Arleen Seifert lunch after her funeral. Block 1 served brunch for the MVL Choir on January 13<sup>th</sup>. Block 1 also served for the bloodmobile on January 14<sup>th</sup>. Block 2 is up to serve.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. All ladies of the congregation are invited to all of our meeting. Come join us.

Marilyn Deibele  
Secretary

## Hosanna Circle

Hosanna Circle met on January 3rd at 6 pm.

Pastor Draper lead the devotion.

Many thank yous are in order. We thank all who contributed and purchased baked goods from the bake sale in December. Thank you to the Draper family for filling the treat bags for the Christmas services, and all who donated money and candy for them. Thank you to the Hacker family for once again providing us with beautiful trees for our church and the church basement. Thank you to Micky Meyer for coordinating the Christmas shut in visits.



Hosanna Circle, Ladies Aid and Families will be taking down the decorations in the Church January 15 and 16.

Sallie Draper will host a potluck Prayer Pal brunch in her home January 27th at 11:30 AM.

Hosanna Circle will provide supper and serve on Ash Wednesday (February 13th). We will also provide the food that the youth will serve on March 6th.

We resurrected some very old business. We believe it was two years ago when we had agreed to paint the front wall in the church basement. Judy Draper kindly fixed the wall before the LWMS Spring Rally at that time. As we will be hosting the MLC Ladies Auxiliary spring meeting on April 23rd, we decided to finish up the project begun earlier. The color agreed upon at that time was a blue-gray to coordinate with the basement floor. Paula and Judy agreed to pick out the paint. Sallie is also donating a stencil for the wall to say "Bless all who gather here". The beautiful plates donated years ago by Violet Meinert will be hung in the kitchen. Thank you to Judy for volunteering to hang them.

After the meeting we took down decorations in the church basement. In the next months we plan to gradually clean the cupboards in the kitchen following our meetings.

Our next meeting date is changed to Tuesday February 5th. March will also be on the 5th.

Our prayers are for our new leader Mickey Meyer's good health and strength for what the future brings.

Filling in: Connie Trebesch

## Pill Bottle Collection on Hold

We have received word that CAMM currently has an ample supply of pill bottles; therefore, we will not set up a collection box at this time, as previously announced. The bottles already donated will be put in storage, and we will set up the collection box when we are notified that the supply is down.



### Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who helped out by furnishing food, working or donating blood at the Bloodmobile on January 14<sup>th</sup>. Your help was greatly appreciated!

## Memorials

### *In Memory of Richard Siegler*

**St. John's School**  
Family & Friends - \$500

### *In Memory of Millie Maas*

**St. John's Church**  
Dave & CJ Hachmann - \$50

## Poinsettia Donations

In memory of Bill, Lois & Jerry Milbrodt

In memory of Mark & Arlene Jensen –  
David, Kellie, Megan, Allison & Cindy Jensen

