



The St. John's Messenger

Monthly Newsletter

St. John's Lutheran Church & School

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Sleepy Eye, MN 56085

Church 794-6202 School 794-6200 Pastor 794-4500

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What Wondrous Love

Lent is here, and it is time to hear about and meditate on the wondrous love God shows us as Christ makes his journey to the cross. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of this 40-day season of Lent, and worship that day focuses intently on our need to realize and repent of our own sin. Along with that repentance is the assurance of forgiveness we receive in God's Word and the Lord's Supper.

During the season of Lent we recognize the solemnity of Christ's passion, and we contemplate his suffering and what that means for us. We look at what Christ endured, and we say, "He did that for me!" We also avoid using the word "Alleluia" in our services during Lent, recognizing that this is a time for a more reserved joy. "Alleluia" will return with great anticipation and joy on Easter morning.

This Lenten season the Wednesday services will last 35-40 minutes (except for Ash Wednesday), and we will hold services at 4:30 and at 7:00 PM with a soup supper in between at 5:30 PM.

Sometimes attending a Wednesday service can be a challenge for our busy schedules, but I am encouraging you to think about how you can include this celebration of Christ's sacrifice for us. On the Wednesdays after Ash Wednesday we will read the story of Christ's suffering and death (selections taken from the four Gospels and combined into one reading). This is not something you will hear on Sunday mornings. The Sundays in Lent have a slightly different focus as we describe some of Christ's victories.

Our theme for this Lenten season will be "What Wondrous Love".

- February 6th What Wondrous Love—In the Upper Room
- February 13th What Wondrous Love—In Gethsemane
- February 20th What Wondrous Love—Before the Sanhedrin
- February 27th What Wondrous Love—Before Pilate
- March 5th What Wondrous Love—On the Cross
- March 12th What Wondrous Love—In the Tomb

Yours 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.*

Church Council Minutes – January 14, 2008

Present: Leo Derkowski, Paul Maasz, Dennis Dittbenner, Barry Hillmann, Todd Marotz, Jim Mielke and Pastor Draper. Special guest: Pam Dittbenner

Pastor Draper opened the meeting with devotion and a prayer.

Minutes

Todd Marotz/Barry Hillmann made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 2007 meeting, as amended to correct Dennis Dittbenner to Gerry Dittbenner in the Elder's report section.. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Draper provided a written report on statistics. Todd Marotz/ Jim Mielke made a motion to accept the transfer of Stephanie Zastrow to St. John's. Motion carried. Jim Mielke/Todd Marotz made a motion to approve the Advent service schedule as follows: Advent services will begin on February 6, 2008 (Ash Wednesday). There will be two services during Advent, one at 4:30 PM and the second at 7:00 PM. A soup supper will be served at 5:30 PM. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Todd Marotz/Leo Derkowski made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

President's Report

Paul had no formal report.

Board of Elders

Jim Mielke submitted a written report. More people are needed to assist the Elders with church setup. The Elders will approach certain members of the congregation and ask for their assistance.

Principal & Board of Education

Kurk Kramer submitted a formal written report.

Worship Committee

Advent service schedule covered in Pastor's report.

Maintenance Committee

The floor cleaning bill will be submitted to John Mueller to determine from which account it should be paid.

Outreach

No report.

Stewardship

No report.

Endowment and Trust Fund Committee

No report.

MVL/WELS

WELS/MVL – no report.

Old Business

None

New Business

Leo Derkowski/Todd Marotz made a motion to accept the Ladies Aid Committee recommendation to divide the adult congregation into four blocks to provide support and assistance for funerals and other events. A coordinator is appointed for each block and will be responsible for assembling the resources and people required. Responsibility will rotate from block to block. Motion carried.

New mileage reimbursement guidelines from Synod have raised the amount to 50.5 cents per mile. St. John's will adopt the new guidelines.

Leo Derkowski reported that an effort is underway to create a WELS-based business networking group open to all men and women WELS members in south central Minnesota. The first meeting is scheduled for January 30, 2008 from 5:30 to 7:00 at the MLC cafeteria in New Ulm. Synod President Schroeder is the keynote speaker. More information will be provided to each Pastor in the region. It is hoped we will have good representation from St. John's members.

Paul Maasz requested that more MVL and MLC activities be added to the St. John's monthly activity calendar.

Todd Marotz reported that a financial seminar/workshop entitled "The Heart 'N Focus" will be held at St. John's, Redwood Falls on Saturday, January 26, 2008 from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Registration deadline is January 20. The seminar is presented by WELS Pastor Jeff Davis. The goal is have at least one couple or contact from our congregation attend the seminar. Anyone interested should contact Todd Marotz for details.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for **Monday, February 11, 2008 at 7:30 PM** in the Church basement.

Todd Marotz/Dennis Dittbenner made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted
Leo Derkowski, Secretary

Prayer Pals 2008



*A Prayer
For the
New Year*

We enjoyed a beautiful afternoon of fellowship and Bible study on January 6th at the W.W. Smith Inn, hosted by Marcia Derkowski. Secret Prayer pals were revealed, and three new areas of focus were selected for continued prayer through the upcoming year. They are:

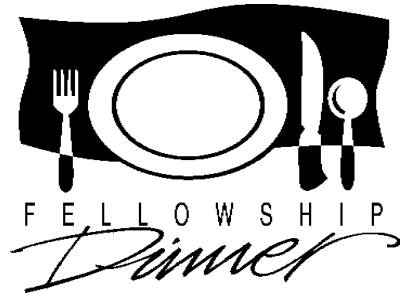
- 1) For guidance and blessings for the work of the Synod and in our congregation
- 2) That more people make Bible Study attendance a first choice in their lives over other options
- 3) Improved 'whole family' attendance at worship instead of allowing other things to take priority

Prayer pals partners for 2008 have now been assigned. There are 12 women in the program this year, eager to reach out to our Lord on behalf of their sisters and friends in Christ! If you have any prayer requests throughout the year, please contact coordinator Paula Windschitl who will share your request with the group.

Youth Group

Schedule change for February: This month Bible Study will be held on the 1st and 2nd Sundays, February 3 & 10. (In March we'll return to the 1st and 3rd Sunday schedule.)

Souper Supper Servers are listed below along with that evening's meal. Plan to bring **2 pans of bars** unless you have been contacted and asked to bring something else. Arrive at church by 5:10 to help set up.



“SOUPER” SUPPERS FOR LENT

- 2/6 Chicken and Dumpling Soup and Cream of Potato with toppings
(Eric Leopold, Jordan/Sharese Fromm, and Kelsie Fromm)
- 2/13 Spaghetti, Salad, and Garlic Bread
(Nathan/Sara Dittbenner and Krystle Weilage)
- 2/20 Pizza Soup and Grilled Cheese
(Brittany Lendt, Erica Jensen, and Chelsea Hammerschmidt)
- 2/27 LES Chili Night
- 3/2 Taco Bar
(Miranda Maasz and Katelyn/Tom/Dan Stark)
- 3/9 Hot Sandwiches (BBQ Pork, beef brisket, turkey supreme), Chips, and Fruit
(Mike/Christian Evers, Trisha Kramer, and Chelsey Kosmatka)



From the Principal

THE MIDWAY POINT IS HERE



The second semester of the school year is well underway. It is the time of year when it seems that some aspects of the school related activities slow down, and yet there are some areas where the activities seem to make things even more hectic. As we look at the second month of this new year here at St. John's Lutheran Elementary School, this seems to hold true for us as well. We are well into the third quarter, and the academic related activities and classes are flowing smoothly, some of the extracurricular activities are now over and students are working mainly on classroom related things. However, as all sports enthusiasts know, we are fast approaching the time of year know as "March Madness". For the Warriors this takes place the third weekend of February at Martin Luther College in New Ulm. It will be the annual Minnesota basketball tournament held at the college. This brings with it excitement and basketball games that are entertaining.

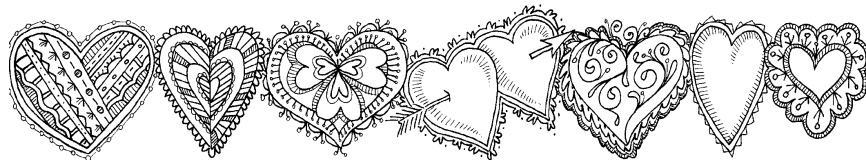
We are continuing our fund raising efforts towards the "Kid's Against Hunger" project that we will be a part of in March. Anyone interested in donating towards this effort should contact me. Monetary donations would be greatly appreciated and will help towards fulfilling the goal, which is to package ½ million meals. The students will also begin working on their programs for Lutheran Schools Week, which will be held the first week in March. During this week programs will be presented to parents and grandparents on two special days. It will be during this week that our students will join with all of the other Lutheran schools in the state to package the meals for "Kid's Against Hunger". This will take place at MLC in New Ulm, at Bethany College in Mankato, and also at a third location in Rochester. Watch for a report on KEYC TV on March 6, they plan to be there to do interviews and report on the day's activities. The students will also enjoy a few "special" days and activities to round out the remainder of the week.



A couple of other noteworthy dates for us in February will be Ash Wednesday, Valentine's Day, the next PTO meeting, midterm reports for the third quarter, and a couple of days where there will be no classes for the students.

February is the month that we observe a day to express our gratitude and love for that special someone in our life. We also remember to express our gratitude to the Lord for showing His love to us as we begin to observe Lent. Greater love has no man than to lay down his life for his friends.

Kurk K. Kramer
Principal



FEBRUARY'S RADIO PREACHERS **Radio Broadcast is every Sunday morning at 7:45 am on KNUJ 860 AM**
The Season of Lent

| | | | |
|--|------------|----------------|--------------------|
| *February 3 Epiphany | Psalm: 148 | Matthew 17:1-9 | Prof. James Pope |
| *February 10 1st Sunday in Lent | Psalm: 130 | Matthew 4:1-11 | Rev. Bryan Prell |
| *February 17 2 nd Sunday in Lent | Psalm: 121 | John 4:5-26 | Rev. Daniel Reich |
| *February 24 3 rd Sunday in Lent | Psalm: 143 | John 9:1-7 | Rev. Dale Schlieve |

Pre-School and Kindergarten News

By Miss Zastrow

“And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”—Ephesians 3:17b-19

When most people think of the month of February, they think of Valentine’s Day. Love. The world has an idea of what love is. Though, the world cannot even comprehend what real love is. This verse from Ephesians is a constant reminder of our inability to fully comprehend the width, length, height, and depth of Christ’s love.

In our Christ-Light lessons for February, we are again seeing how God is continually with his people. Just as God was with the Israelites in the desert, He was also with Gideon, Samson, and Ruth. “I will strengthen you and help you.” –Isaiah 41:10b is one of our memory treasures this month. This is just one of the promises God gives in His Word.



The Preschoolers are learning all about Zoo animals with our letter person, Mr. Z. Mr. I will teach us about insects, and Mr. Q will teach us a thing or two about dinosaurs! Kindergarten is spending the month of February learning a lot about vehicles and machines. We are also working very hard at beginning to read! Our 100th day of school is also approaching very quickly. We are going to have a 100th day of school party!

1st – 3rd Grade News

By Mrs. Halvorson

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 heavenly promised land.

We are also on a countdown to “100th Day” in our room! This year 100th Day falls on Feb. 9th. This long-awaited special day is filled with math fun and games to celebrate 100 days of school.

This month our social studies unit study is on the Asian countries of Japan, China and Korea. We will learn about their geography, customs, and daily life.

We are excited that on February 4, our student teacher, Miss Joy Marks will arrive. She will be with us until April 4th. More from her about herself next month.

God Bless you this month with His love,

Mrs. Halvorson

4th – 6th Grade News

By Mrs. Evenson

As we enter the season of Lent, we realize how Christ was typified by all of the Old Testament sacrifices that the Israelites made as they journeyed to and settled in the promised

land of Canaan. Because the Lamb of God became the atoning sacrifice for sin, we and all who believe in Him will enter the “promised land” of heaven!

Our current Language unit has us working with another part of speech, adjectives. We will use what we’ve learned to write original stories based on the book The Funny Thing by Wanda Gag. The 6th graders have been invited to enter theirs in a contest held by the Wanda Gag House in New Ulm. Who knows – one of them may soon be a famous local author, too...

In Math, the fourth graders are learning basic use of exponents and dividing with two-digit answers. While fifth graders are working with decimal place value through hundredths, sixth grade are busy finding ratios, classifying quadrilaterals, and calculating the area of parallelograms.



After reading Homer Price, grades 3-5 are making murals of some of their favorite stories in the book. We are also beginning a unit on haiku, cinquain, and other types of poetry. In Social Studies, we have begun to explore the Northeast region of the country, comparing the Appalachians with the mountains of Switzerland. Each student has also been doing research on a different animal and its habitat for a science project.



We appreciate the spacious church basement where we can spread out tumbling mats and have PE classes on these frigid winter days. We'll continue to prevent cabin fever from setting in by going on lots of adventures as we read many different kinds of books. We recommend you do the same!

7th & 8th Grade News

By the Students

Math: The 7th graders are reviewing scientific notions, algebraic addition and geometric solids. They are just beginning to work with “pi” and circumferences.

The 8th graders have been working with circumference and area of a circle. They also went over semicircles, decimals, percents and fractions too.

Geography: This month, the students studied the people and the land of North and Southwest Asia. The students say that life in the desert is hard, but they also learned that there were still ways to have fun.



Spelling: The 7th graders learned about Greek word parts and words ending with -ice, -ise, and -ize.

The 8th graders finished up with “easily confused words”. Now they are on to directional prefixes like: transportation and submarine. Currently they are studying Latin and Greek words like: loquacious and colloquial. They are also moving on to “words from many cultures”.

Literature: The students have finished the book called “Heat”, a book about a twelve year old boy playing on the little league team. They are currently reading “Caddie Woodland”, it’s about a tomboy that has fire red hair. She is really good friends with the Indians and helps them out

when the white men were trying to kill them.

Catechism: This month, the students have spent a lot of time studying for a large review test on the first five commandments. Next month they will go over the last five commandments.



English: The students have been reviewing verb tenses and indirect and direct objects. They also covered irregular verbs and commas and will begin with pronouns this month.

U.S. History: Included in American History this month, the Jefferson Era where he bought a large chunk of land called “The Louisiana Purchase.” Also included in their study was Lewis and Clark exploring the area around the Rocky Mountains and how findings were recorded.

Bible History: Paul’s second Missionary Mission has been reviewed by the students. Now they are on to Paul’s third Mission in how he revisited the past churches that he had worked with. During this time, Paul continued to encourage all people to stay in God’s Word.

Hymnology: For the month of January the students have been singing “As With Gladness Men of Old”, and now they are memorizing, “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less.”

Science: The students are learning about protists that are heterotrophs. (I hope I got that’s right!) They also learned about bacteria and fungi that kill off plants and animals. They covered bacteria such as penicillin that can be used as medicine. “As for the ladies,” (the boys like this part) they learned that there is seaweed in makeup.

Art: 7th & 8th graders have just finished up making large story quilts. They chose from three topics; My family, My Favorite Sport, or My Favorite Experience. Their latest creation was to make a pop-up card and give it to someone special.



Music: The students are still working with hand chimes using notes from the bass and treble clef.



Phy Ed: The students are “rejoicing” as they put it, because most of them are finally finished with their bowling test. They continue to bowl every Friday at Sleepy Eye Bowl.

CARE CONNECTOR

† Memorials †

In Memory of Gilbert Maas

Choir Fund

Donna Christensen – \$15.00
Dan & Lynn Hacker – \$25.00

In Memory of Melvin Dumke

Organ Fund

Harold & Bev Bartz – \$20.00

Events

Minnesota Valley Lutheran Camp

Forms are available in the back of the church. Camp will be held from June 22nd – 28th.

Correction

Please update your church directory for SRA Jessica Mattes. Her zip code is 09464 as it appears in this newsletter.

MLC Auxiliary Events

Mark your calendars now for the Martin Luther College Auxiliary Spring Rally to be held on Monday, April 14th, at St. John's in New Ulm. It will run from 7:30 - 9:00 pm. This rally is open to our congregation, as we are part of the New Ulm Circuit that is meeting together on this date. Watch for further information.

Also, the Annual Meeting of the MLC Auxiliary will be held on Wednesday, October 8th at MLC. This event is also open to all WELS & ELS women who wish to support the college through prayers & projects.

New Member Meal

On Unity Sunday, February 10th there will be a furnished meal (not potluck) after our 10:30 service to welcome our new members from 2007. If you have not introduced yourself, please use this opportunity to do so. God's blessings to our new 2007 members!



Lost & Found

Missing from the Gilbert Maas funeral is a mans new black coat with the initials (HEK) written inside. This coat belongs to Harry Knutson. If you have this coat please contact, Millie Maas @ 794-7579.

Members in Military

Support for Military Personnel

SRA Mattes, Jessica
[birthday: Dec. 16]
PSC 41 Box 5596
APO AE 09464
[England]



Hosanna Circle

Hosanna Circle met on January 10 at 7 p.m. There were eight members present. Sallie lead us in devotion entitled "The fruit of the Spirit is self-control".

We lined up volunteers for alter flower duty for January and February. Funeral Committee reported on progress. Pam Dittbenner will bring report to elders and church council for approval.

Children's Christmas treat bags: Thank you to all who donated candy, peanuts and cracker jacks. Thank you to Laurie Halvorson's Sunday school class for decorating the bags, and to Sallie Draper and her sons for stuffing them. Cash donations were also appreciated to purchase the remainder of the items needed for the bags along with fruit baskets for the shut-ins. Carolers and volunteers delivered the Fruit baskets. Shut-ins also received beautiful hand-made cards

Holiday Food Baskets



donated by Annie Vogel.

Hosanna Circle volunteers served the potluck dinner in December. The "finger foods" meal worked well. Clean up was quick and the crew was able to go along with the carolers.

Advent dinner was a success. Many people contributed their time and talent to make it happen. There was delicious food, beautiful decorations, music and the wonderful advent message. Thank you to all who helped in any way and to all who attended the event.

Our next meeting will be February 7th.

Connie Trebesch and Pam Dittbenner



ORGANIZATION OF WELS LUTHERAN SENIORS (OWLS)

The Minnesota Valley Chapter of the Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors invites seniors 55 and older to their next activity which will be held on Friday, March 14th, at St. John's. New Ulm. It will begin with a potluck breakfast at 8:30 am followed

by Bible study led by Pastor Laitinen, the topic "Health Issues for Seniors" by Dr. Ann Vogel, and a brief business meeting.

Upcoming chapter activities include a noon lunch and program on the MLC campus, a progressive dinner, a day trip to Alexander Ramsey Park and the Inventors Congress in Redwood Falls, and a three-day national convention at the Holiday Inn, St. Cloud. Fifty-five or older? Please join us at our chapter activities and consider becoming a member of OWLS. Membership dues are \$8.00.

Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid met on Wednesday, January 9th, at 2:00 p.m. for their monthly meeting. President Marlys Lochner presided at the meeting and Pastor Draper gave the devotion.

The Treasure Haus Annual meeting will be held march 9, 2008. Board members will be elected and projects selected for the next year.

The Bake and Craft sale held on December 16, was a success. A big THANK YOU, to all who participated. Proceeds amounted to \$274.80 and Thrivent gave \$100.00 in matching funds.

The Ladies Aid would like to thank all who were involved in decorating the church for Christmas, The Hackers, and all who donated poinsettias. It was beautiful!

A report from the committee for restructuring the Ladies Aid was given. Their ideas will be represented to the Church Council and then at the Quarterly meeting on January 20th.

A motion was made, seconded and voted on by ballot to purchase 2 artificial palms. Motion passed unanimously.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, February 6th at 2:00 p.m. Come join us.

Marilyn Deibele, Secretary

