

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
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Unity

“All for one and one for all!” - *Alexandre Dumas (The Three Musketeers)*

“United we stand, divided we fall.” - *Aesop*

“Not vain the weakest, if their force unite.” - *Homer*

“We cannot be separated in interest or divided in purpose. We stand together until the end.” - *Woodrow T. Wilson*

“One country, one constitution, one destiny.” - *Daniel Webster*

“We were born to unite with our fellowmen, and to join in community with the human race.” - *Marcus T. Cicero*

“When spiders' webs unite, they can tie up a lion.” - *Ethiopian Proverb*

It seems that the collected wisdom of human experience tells us that unity is a good thing . . . and a necessary thing. Even human wisdom tells us that when people come together they can do things they wouldn't be able to do on their own. It also makes sense to human reason that true unity does not come from a superficial cooperation, but true unity comes from fundamental agreement in beliefs and a common purpose.

As members of St. John's Lutheran Church in Sleepy Eye, MN, we have a fundamental agreement in beliefs and a common purpose. The fundamental belief that makes us who we are comes from our God and Father who unified us in his family by the blood of his Son. Paul describes this unity to the Ephesians, “**There is one body and one Spirit— just as you were called to one hope when you were called— one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all**” (Ephesians 4:4-6).

We draw closer to God by understanding what God has done for us. As we draw closer to God we will draw closer to each other.

Come celebrate the unity we have as a congregation on Unity Sunday as we hear the word of God that unites us and enjoy the fellowship that is evident as we take the Lord's Supper together.

United 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 11, 2009

Present: Paul Maasz, Jeff Schultz, Barry Hillmann, Wes Helget, Bob Maas, Van Tallman and Pastor Draper.

Pastor Draper opened the meeting with devotion and a prayer.

Minutes

Barry Hillmann/Wes Helget made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 2009 meeting. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

A written report was submitted.

Treasurer's Report

Bob Maas/Wes Helget made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

President's Report

No report

Board of Elders

Van Tallman/Wes Helget made a motion to accept transfer of Lenora "Nori" Houldson from St. John's, Fairfax into membership. Motion carried.

Principal & Board of Education

Mr. Schultz stated the LES student's Tera Nova tests charted above the national normal. Miss Zastrow has Jessica Gierach student teaching in the Pre-K/K classroom.

Worship Committee

Upcoming events, Pastor's vacation Jan. 17th -24th, Unity Sunday, LWMS Sunday, Holy Week in April.

Maintenance Committee

No formal report.

Outreach

Ads have been placed in area newspapers including Springfield and tapes are being distributed weekly for public broadcasting. Springfield broadcasts twice weekly.

Stewardship

No formal report.

Endowment and Trust Fund Committee

Money held in a trust fund (Arnie & Ruth Trebesch) totaling the sum of \$9,750.00 is now available. Van Tallman/Bob Maas made a motion to leave the money in Fund D until the July annual meeting. Motion carried.

MVL/WELS

No reports.

Old Business

The 125th St. John's School Anniversary is planned for May 23rd or June 6th. Volunteers are being asked for.

New Business

The hot lunch fund has a deficit of \$1,000, there was discussion of raising the lunch fee to \$3.50 per student. Barry Hillmann/Wes Helget made a motion that payment come from the general fund for the shortfall on the hot lunch program and the cooks salary for the remainder of the 2009/2010 school year. Motion carried.

Next council meeting: 7:30 Monday, February 8th, 2010.

Van Tallman/Wes Helget 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

As we approach Valentine's Day, we will be saturated with advertisements and encouragements to show our love to our spouse or family member by giving them candy, a card or something to acclaim our devotion to them. I would like to know when this tradition started. Showing our love to someone is not supposed to just be dedicated to one day of the year, but rather throughout one's lifetime. Take your spouse for example. If you just showed your appreciation on just this one day, I don't think that you would still be married to them. My point is this: God shows and demonstrates his love for each of us every day. He doesn't skip a day or has one special day to exhibit his love, but He shows it constantly. Starting before the world began, He chose us to be his own. He sent his Son to pay for the world's sins. He brought us to faith through baptism and continues to bless us through our worship time each week. Each day He gives us the strength to go to our jobs, gives us the brains to do it, and sustains our health through the food and drink that we need. Our heavenly Father is love. Everything that He does for us is out of love. He takes our concept of celebrating one special day to a new level. Should we just thank our spouses, co-workers, family members for just one day of the year? No, the answer is obvious. God loves us each day, shouldn't we love each other that way too?

Serving Jesus with You,
Principal Jeffrey Schultz

WELS School Week will be held from March 1-7. We will be having parent's day on Monday, Grandparents day on Tuesday, MLC day on Wednesday, Movie day on Thursday, and ending the week with a family bowling event on Friday. Please read the Warrior Weekly for more details on the school website.

Our school will be celebrating our 125th anniversary of our existence with a special worship service on Sunday, May 23. More specifics will be coming out soon concerning this day.

Grades 5-8 Classroom News

Here is a subject by subject overview of what we are studying in school:

Religion: Grades 5&6 are studying OT history. Recently, they went over the story of Balaam and performed a brief puppet play of the story to the younger students. Grades 7&8 are continuing with their study of the life of Jesus and the many miracles that He performed.

Math: Eighth grade is working through ratios, proportions, and different types of area and volume problems. Seventh grade has focused on different aspects of geometry and scientific notation. Sixth grade is centered on multiplying mixed numbers and simplifying fractions. Fifth grade has begun learning about decimals.

Literature: Grades 5&6 are currently reading the novel *Despereaux*. It's about a strange mouse who really does not follow the rules of being a mouse. Grades 7&8 are reading "Princess Academy" which centers on young ladies that want to be a princess when they grow up.

History: Grades 5&6 completed discussion on the Civil War and its impact on Minnesota, while the 7&8 grade has finished up the study of the US Constitution.

English: Grades 5&6 are reviewing the uses of the comma and quotation marks. Grades 7&8 are reviewing the uses and types of pronouns.

Science: Grades 5&6 completed the study of our solar system while the older children are looking into the animal kingdom in the following areas: mollusks, arthropods, cephalopods, arachnids and various insects.



Preschool and Kindergarten News

Miss Zastrow

Happy February! As we look forward to what is ahead this month, I can't help but notice that some special birthdays are right around the corner! Laura Ingalls Wilder's birthday is on the 7th, Mo Willems' birthday is the 11th, and David Small's birthday is on the 12th! I'm sure you've all heard of Laura Ingalls Wilder, and that should give you some clue as to who Mo Willems and David Small are as well. They are all amazing Children's Literature authors! Relating to all the snow days we had so far this school year, a fellow teacher friend of mine, made the comment, as we were awaiting news of another snow day off of school, "I always say, when it doubt, just think, 'what would Laura Ingalls Wilder do?'" Somehow, I don't think parents of St. John's children would be too excited about the thought of tying a string connecting their house to the school, as a means of children finding their way to school through a snowstorm!

Getting back to the favorite authors... in Preschool and Kindergarten, we begin each day with story time. Regularly reading to children benefits them greatly in the future. I try to create a real love of literature in each of my students before they leave my classroom. My favorite book when I was a child is called Imogene's Antlers by (you guessed it!) David Small. Mo Willems is a favorite author for many of my students. We have enjoyed many of his funny books so far this year and invite you to check them out yourself! They are: The Pigeon Finds a Hot Dog, Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!, Knuffle Bunny, and Are You Ready to Play Outside? Mo Willems has written many other books including those same characters. We hope you enjoy them as much as we have!

February's Bible stories will include some of my favorites as well, including: God Gives His People Jericho, The Day the Sun Kept Shining, and Samson. One of the reasons I love all of these stories is because through them, God reminds me what "faith like a child" is all over again. Many of my students are hearing these stories for the first time, and it never ceases to amaze me, just how amazed they are at the awesome power of our God. As adults who have heard the stories over and over again, it becomes all too easy to have the passing thought "oh yeah, of course, because God can do anything" instead of just let our jaws drop in awe of our Almighty God.

One of our memory treasures this month reminds us, "whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." - 1 Corinthians 10:31 As these cold winter days continue on throughout this month, we need to remember, just as a preschool child should, that whether we are playing, painting, sledding, counting, writing, working, driving, or visiting, we can thank God and give Him glory by obeying Him and doing all things for His glory.



We are learning the letters Y, D, V, and J this month. We will also be learning a lot about recycling and keeping our earth clean! Just another example of something we can do for the glory of God!

February will also include a Valentine's Day classroom party, a couple days off of school, and quite possibly, a trip to the Dittbenner Farm to see some sheep shearing! Many thanks to Jerry & Jan Dittbenner for the opportunity!

Grades 1-4 News

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 promised land of heaven.

We are also on a countdown to "100th Day" in our room! This year 100th Day should fall on Feb. 11th. This long-awaited special day is filled with Math fun and games to celebrate 100 days of school.

Our Valentine's Day party will follow on Feb. 12th. 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.

Our class has avid readers and they are earning prizes to prove it! In Reading class the first grade will explore more challenging texts. Grade two is enjoying an author studies of Marc Brown ("Arthur" books) and Leo Lionni this month. They are also working on literature pockets which are famous folktales with wonderful activities. They will have a book to share with their parents at the end of the year. Grade Four is enjoying a classic called "Misty of Chincoteague" about a horse from the famous wild-horse island called Assateague Island off the coast of the Carolinas.

God Bless you this month with His love.

Grades 3-6 News

Mrs. Brown

Grades 5-6 are reviewing the Christ Light lessons about Israelites from their receiving of the Ten Commandments and first arrival to the Promise Land of Canaan to the violent revolts, punishments, and wandering the the desert. The students recognize that God has chosen some as leaders in our government, church, and school and that they are God's representatives. They have also witnessed God's awesome power through these lessons. In Science the students are going "way out there" with their study of outer space. This year the students go beyond just learning facts about each of the eight planets (they tend to mourn the loss of Pluto as a planet) and continue on seeing the amazing items God has placed in working order outside our world including the moon and its phases, stars and constellations, solar systems, gallexies, and space exploration. Interesting fact from today was that a comet's tail can be tens of millions kilometers long and is created from gases as the comet melts.

Grades 3-4 completed the first half of their study of the Northeastern states. They now associate the Appalachian Mountains, fishing industry and aquaculture (fish farms), and manufacturing as important to the Northeast. Now we will be seeing how history and culture have helped form this area. The 3 states of matter, solid, liquid and gas, have been our focus in Science. Now that we've begun our physical science unit there are plenty of experiments to keep us busy!



Ladies' Aid

The Ladies' Aid met on Wednesday, January 6th at 2 p.m. For their regular monthly meeting. President Marlys Lochner presided. Pastor Draper's devotion was on one of Jesus' Miracles "portraits of redemption" or "pictures of forgiveness" based on Mark Chapter 2:1-12.

The Ladies' Aid Bake & Craft sale on December 13th netted \$108.50. Thank you to all who brought items to sell and those who purchased items.

The annual meeting of the Treasure Haus will be held on Sunday, February 7, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. at MVL.

The Ladies' Aid would like to thank all those that put up the shut-in Giving Tree and all who visited our shut-ins this past Christmas season.

A motion was made, seconded and passed by written ballot to order a 48 inch paschal candle stand and a 26 inch candle.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to order the "Lamb of God" symbol for the candle. Pastor Draper kindly volunteered to do the ordering.

Block one is up to serve. Block four will be serving for the Blood Mobile at the Orchid Inn on Tuesday, January 19th.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 3rd at 2 p.m. Come join us!

Marilyn Deibele
Secretary

Hosanna Circle

We held our meeting on January 14th instead of January 7th due to the bad weather. Pastor shared Mark 2:1-12 with us.

We held our Prayer Pal party at the W.W. Smith Inn on Sunday, January 16th. Thank you Marcia for hosting it for us, we really enjoyed the afternoon.

Unity Sunday/New Member dinner will be hosted by Ladies Aid and Hosanna Circle on February 7th with one church service at 10:30 a.m. All are invited to come, share in the fellowship with one another and meet the new members of our Christian family.

Let us prepare our hearts and minds for the suffering and resurrection of our Lord and Savior with the Lenten Services starting February 24.

Your sisters in Christ,
Pam Dittbenner and Connie Trebesch



This year's Annual Lutheran Women's Missionary Society Convention will be held June 24-27, 2010 at the Millenium Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri. Complete registration information, agenda, hotel reservations, attractions and other facts about the convention are found at www.lwms.org.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. Mission speakers and special seminars are featured at this annual event. Local bus groups are forming as well. If you have further interest in it, please contact Paula Windschitl at 794-2310.

St. John's will celebrate its LWMS Sunday on March 21st. See next month's newsletter for more information.

Relief Aid for Haiti

The following is a link from Thrivent Financial. Here is an opportunity to contribute via Thrivent through the WELS Committee on Relief for aid to Haiti. Thrivent will match each \$2 contributed with another \$1 up to \$250 per member. <https://www.thrivent.com/helpinghaiti/>



† Memorials †



*Given In Memory of
Mark Jensen*

Dave & Kelli Jensen & family

*In Memory of Walter Trebesch
Organ Fund*

Richard Rohrer 20.00
Elmer & April Boltjes 15.00
Eddie Sellner 5.00



**MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE
LADIES AUXILIARY – 50 years – 1960-2010**

2009-2010 MLC Ladies Auxiliary Project List

Standing projects:

A) Scholarships (4 @ \$750 each) Renewable for three years following award	\$3,000
B) Library	1,250
C) Outreach Support for MLC Students and staff (5 @ \$500 each)	2,500

New Projects for Year:

1. Banners, Paraments and stole for The Chapel of the Christ	\$2,500
2. Student Financial Assistance for 2010 Spanish Immersion Program (6 @ \$500 each)	3,000
3. Refurbish Handbells	2,000
4. Treadmill for Fitness Center	4,700
5. Multimedia Headsets for computer lab (27 @\$30 each)	810
6. Furniture for Children's Literature Area in Library	2,500
7. Computers for Daylight International Office (2 @ \$900 each)	1,800
8. Library Digital Sign	415

TOTAL \$24,475.00

The Ladies Auxiliary thanks God for the project work they are able to fund through generous contributions from groups and individuals who desire to support the teaching and preaching ministries of Martin Luther College.

If you desire to be a part of this support, please mail contributions to:

Ila Possail, Treasurer
2277 280th Ave.

Tyler, MN 56178 (Checks should be made out to Martin Luther College Auxiliary.) *Thank You!*

Unity Sunday



Sunday, February 7, 2010

Welcoming: New Members
Guests: Everyone

Bible Class/Sunday School @ 9AM
Combined worship featuring:
K-8 School Students & Adult Choir @ 10:30AM

Catered meal provided: Free-will offering
Hostesses: Ladies Aid and Hosanna Circle

Couples are invited to celebrate
Valentine's Day
with a screening of the movie Fireproof

When: Sunday, February 14th - 3 p.m.

Where: Church Basement

Bring: A snack to share - Drinks will be provided

FREE babysitting provided by the Youth Group until 7 p.m., so you'll have time for dinner out!

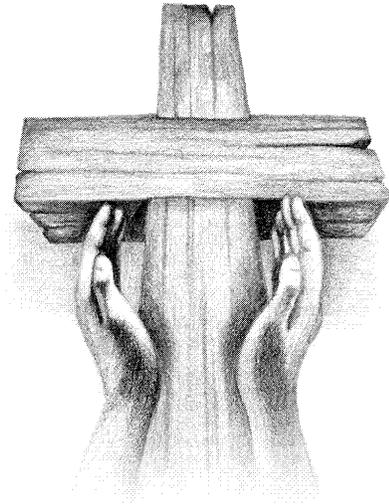


Clean Up, Clean Up, Everybody Clean Up

Please check the kitchen counter in the church basement for items you may have forgotten or items others have left for you. All unclaimed items will be donated to the Treasure Haus after February 12th. Thank you.



Come, Join Us For...
Where Two or Three Come Together:



the Christian in Conflict

A presentation given by:
Prof. Mark Paustian

Monday, February 22nd at 7 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran Church, Sleepy Eye
221 Walnut St. SE
(507) 794-6200

Continuing Education Units
will be available!

Volunteers for Seniors Luncheon

Volunteers for Seniors serving Brown County needs your help to provide and connect older adults and their caregivers with local services. Please join us for a delicious German meal and support our vital program. Thank you!

Sunday, January 31st
11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.
New Ulm Community Center
(600 North German Street)

Meal includes: Landjaegggers, German Potato Salad, Sauerkraut, rye bread, coffee, milk, (hot dogs and chips for the kids), and Black Forest cake (\$1.50 per piece)
Cost: Free-will donation