



The St. John's Messenger

Monthly Newsletter

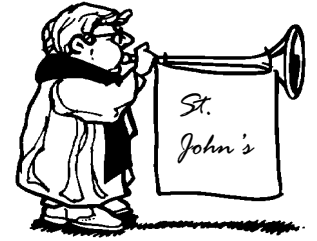
St. John's Lutheran Church & School

221 Walnut St. S.E.

Sleepy Eye, MN 56085

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

www.stjohnsse.com



FEBRUARY 2009

VOLUME 8

NUMBER 2

Unconditional Love

During February, many people will talk about "love". That's wonderful! God wants us to express our love for others. However, the love that people talk about most often is the love they have for people who love them in return. We should also talk about the kind of love Jesus showed us – an unconditional love that was there even when we did not show love in return. It is easy to love those who love us, but consider this month, loving those who have hurt you or caused you pain. The following Q&A was taken from the WELS web site (www.wels.net/jump/qa) and speaks about a love that overcomes past pain.

Q: How can we reaffirm our love to someone who has caused us grief?

A: I appreciate your question because you seem to be working with the assumption that we are indeed to affirm love for others despite the fact that they may have wronged us or brought us grief. There is no question in Scripture that our love is to be patterned after that of our heavenly Father and our Lord Jesus Christ -- a love that is freely given, also (or especially) to those who have not necessarily shown love and kindness to us first.

You ask "how" we can affirm Christian love to such people. If you mean how we can find the strength or sufficient desire to do this, the answer would be through the power of the Holy Spirit given through the gospel. As we grow spiritually and understand just how deeply loved we are and how secure and blessed we are through Christ, then the motivation and ability to love others comes with our faith. Showing a Christlike love is a fruit of saving faith, an expression of our faith-life. It sees others as an object of divine love, seeks what is best for the other person, and is willing to risk being hurt because it is confident that our Lord will meet our greatest needs no matter what. Sections like 1 John 3 and 1 John 4 remind us of this connection between God's love and our love. The more familiar 1 Corinthians 13 offers a memorable description of Christian love but at the same time reminds us of the love Christ showed to us first.

Or if you are asking "how" in the sense of "what is the most fitting way to express love" to the other person, that will depend on the needs of the other person, the kind of relationship you have with that person, and a good measure of sanctified common sense that seeks to do what is most appropriate at a given time and place with specific people. In these matters, you should seek the counsel of your pastor or another trustworthy Christian who can share advice that reflects a greater familiarity with you and the situation in which you find yourself.

In the name of the One who loved us first,
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, 2009

Present: Dennis Dittbenner, Paul Maasz, Todd Marotz, Van Tallmann, and Pastor Draper.

Pastor Draper opened the meeting with a devotion.

Minutes

Todd Marotz/Dennis Dittbenner made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 2008 meeting. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

Pastor presented a written report.

Treasurer's Report

A written report was presented and a motion was made to accept by Todd Marotz/Dennis Dittbenner.

President's Report

No report

Board of Elders

Unity Sunday will be on Sunday, February 8th with one service at 10:30AM. A meal will follow the service. The Long Range Planning Meeting is scheduled for January 31st @ 1PM in the church basement.

Principal & Board of Education

No report

Worship Committee

The new supplement was discussed.

Maintenance Committee

No report

Outreach

Pastor Flunker's follow up on Hispanic Outreach was discussed. Our congregation would be responsible for funding \$5,000 and a three year commitment for this Outreach bridge. A special meeting will take place at 9:30 on Sunday at school to vote.

Stewardship

A Thrivent match form and note will be in the church newsletter. "Thrivent" Sunday is set for February 22nd.

Endowment and Trust Fund Committee

No report

MVL/WELS

MVL – A debt reduction titled, "Faith, Family, Future will begin on February 1st.

WELS – no report

Old Business

None

New Business

Thank you to Hackers and Patterson Jewelry were discussed. A motion for Parsonage allowance of \$12,000 for 2009 was made and carried.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 10, 2009 at 7:30 PM.

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

Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted
Paul Maasz, President

Members Present: Kurk Kramer, Jim Mielke, Todd Marotz, Tom Jensen, Paul Maasz and Dennis Dittbenner

A devotion was read by Kurk Kramer.

A Special Meeting was held January 18th @ 9:40AM to discuss the Hispanic Outreach bridge project. A motion to recommend to the voters funding of \$5,000.00 and a three year commitment for Hispanic Outreach was carried.

Todd Marotz/Tom Jensen made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

Hosanna Circle

Hosanna Circle did not meet in January due to the bad weather. We will meet on Thursday, February 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the church basement. The plans are to have a Bible Study and then work on the new banners. If you are interested in helping with this project, please come.

May the Lord bless you and your families.

Your sisters in Christ,
Pam Dittbenner and Connie Trebesch

Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid met on Wednesday, January 7th for their regular scheduled meeting. President Marlys Lochner presided at the meeting. Pastor Draper's devotion was from the Book of Job, Chapter 19, verses 25-27.



Bake Sale

The MLC Auxiliary Spring Rally will be held at St. Paul's in New Ulm on April 20th at 7:30PM.

The Treasurer Haus sales have been very good. Donations are again being accepted on all days the store is open. Store hours are from 10:00AM to 4:00PM. Volunteers are always welcome. St. John's day to work at the Treasurer Haus is the first Friday of the month.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to give \$50.00 to the East Fork Lutheran School.

We want to thank Laurie Halvorson for setting up the Giving Tree for our shut-ins this Christmas season. Also, thanks to all who took cards and visited our shut-ins.

Our next meeting will be held Wednesday, February 4th at 2PM. All ladies of the congregation are invited to join us!

Marilyn Deibele, Secretary

† Memorials †

In Memory of Velma Honeman
St. John's Ladies' Aid
Brad & LeAnn Berkner – \$10.00

In Memory of Marie Vollmer
Organ Fund – \$1,000.00

Poinsettias Given in Memory of

Eugene Lochner's Parents
George & Esther Lochner
Marlys Lochner's Parents
Herbert & Schiroo
Given by Eugene & Marlys Lochner

Mark Jensen
Given by David, Kelli, Megan, Allison & Cindy Jensen

Harold & Bev Bartz's Parents
Given by Harold & Bev Bartz

Arny & Milly Meyer
Given by Steve & Mickey Meyer

Herb & Chrissie Wandersee
Given by Steve & Mickey Meyer

Bill, Louise & Jerry Milbrat
Given by an anonymous donor



*Memorial
Flowers*

Love & Logic

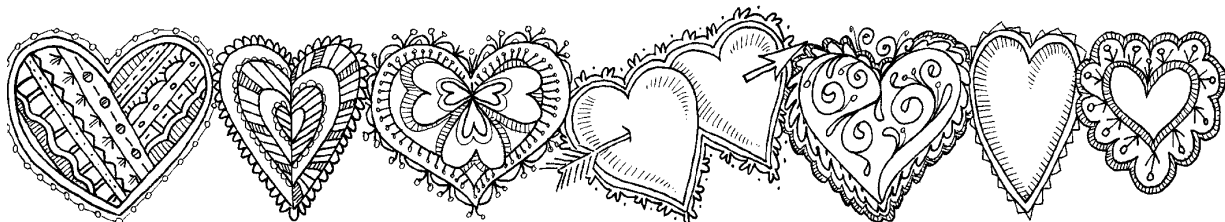
The month of February is usually related to the word “love”. There is a special day this month set aside to observe our love for that someone special in our lives. As educators we hold a special place in our hearts for those students who sit in our classrooms. It would be difficult to be an educator if you didn't love working with kids.

The faculty at St. John's will be attending a “Love & Logic” seminar in Brooklyn Center on Thursday, February 19. This seminar will focus on bringing more success to the classroom with underachieving students. A few of the topics that will be addressed at this seminar will be getting kids to work harder in the classroom, how to eliminate discipline problems, information on raising test scores, and how to avoid battles over homework. We are looking forward to this day of training because it will offer more help for the teachers to enable them to continue expressing that love and concern that they have for each of the students in their classrooms.

I also would be hard pressed not to mention the fact that when we speak of love in February we certainly, and most importantly, need to remember the great love that our God has shown to us by sending His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. Greater love has no man than this, that He would lay down His life for His friends. That's what Jesus did, He loves us so much that He died for us and is going to one day take us to be with Him forever in heaven. What love! Remember this great love that God has shown to us, share this love with each other.

The school activities for St. John's LES this month are once again numerous. The new student mission project for the third quarter, The Japanese Missions, begins this month. Specific information regarding this project will be given by Rachel Rosenow, one of our faculty members, who spent last year teaching in Japan. There will be three consecutive weekends that our basketball teams will finally be playing some home games. Starting with the Ish Tak Ha Ba Tournament, then the following weekend there will be games against St. Peter and Mankato, and the weekend after that against St. James. The basketball season will conclude that last weekend of February with the MLC Basketball Tournament at the college in New Ulm. The program entitled “Time for Kids” will be implemented this month. Students receive a booklet that they can offer to parents, friends, and others, that enables those who wish, to order or renew magazine subscriptions. Third quarter mid-term reports will be sent home on February 23, and the PTO also has their third quarter meeting on this date. The season of Lent begins the last Wednesday of this month as well.

“When love and skill work together, expect a masterpiece.” John Ruskin (1819-1900) English Writer

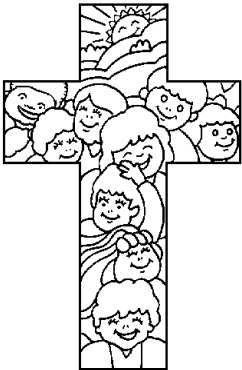


Preschool and Kindergarten

Miss Zastrow

"I am the resurrection and the life." -John 11:25 Christ is life. Sometimes it takes a child to bring my focus back to Christ. I truly believe that I have one of the best jobs this world has to offer. Teachers are supposed to teach students, but I can't count the number of times my students have taught me, already, in just 1 ½ years of my teaching experience. Faith like a child...

One morning, towards the end of our Bible Story Time, my students had some questions for me about heaven. We had a good time thinking about heaven. No "owies," no sin, and everybody is always happy. We



discussed how nobody ever gets to heaven without Jesus, that whoever is in heaven is only there because of Jesus. To describe to you the looks on the faces of my students throughout this entire conversation is a challenging task. Picture a small child walking downstairs on Christmas morning to find gifts surrounding the Christmas tree. Now multiply that excitement and awe by at least ten.

That was the look on the face of one boy who raised his hand, almost unable to wait his turn, as he said "Miss Zastrow? When I get to heaven, the FIRST thing I'm going to do is go and find Jesus and tell Him 'thank you for bringing me to heaven!'" His comment created a wave of every other student raising his/her hand and excitedly telling me the same thing with possibly an added thank you for a relative or friend as well. "We love because he first loved us." -1 John 4:19 This is one of our memory treasures coming up in February. I can see that my students already understand, Christ did indeed first love us. Remember to thank Him for heaven, with every part of your life.

In our Christ-Light lessons for February, we are learning about Jesus' ministry while he was on earth. From Mary anointing Jesus to the story of the workers in the vineyard, we are hearing many different accounts of Jesus' teachings and different ways in which people showed love to their Savior.

Our letter people, Ms. U, Ms. J, Mr. X, and Ms. L will be teaching preschool about everything from light and dark to land, water, and planets this month. Kindergarten will be learning all about the four seasons, different landforms, and how to keep our earth clean. Kindergarten is also very excited about learning how to read!

We will be celebrating Valentine's Day this month with a classroom party! Speaking of parties, we will also be having a classroom party in honor of our 100th day of school! God's blessings on your month of February!

Grades 1-2

Mrs. Halvorson

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.

We are on the countdown! The 100th day of the school year falls on Feb. 4th! This long awaited celebration day is filled with fun Math games and learning activities in our room.

Our class has many avid readers who are earning reading prizes to prove it! In Reading class the first grade will explore more challenging texts. Grade two is enjoying author studies of Marc Brown and Leo Lionni this month and is also working on literature pockets which are famous folktales with wonderful activities. They will have a book to share with parents at the end of the year.

In our Social Studies unit this month we will learn about the history and meaning of our American symbols such as the Statue of Liberty, Mount Rushmore, Washington Monument, the Flag, and more.

Our days are busy learning new concepts in Math, Phonics, Reading and growing in our faith in God's Word. The days seem to fly by! A Valentine's Day party and basketball tournament weekend will round out yet another busy month for us!

God bless you this month with his love,

Mrs. Halvorson



Grades 3-5
Mrs. Rosenow

**Written by "6th – 8th
Grade Students"**

We've only been back to school for a few short weeks since Christmas, but we have already accomplished many things! Our last two weeks of the quarter were filled with learning. The hardest thing for our class to learn is my new name. Luckily, there is a chorus of voices correcting most of the time so we usually only hear "Miss Foel-" before the correction is made.

In Hymnology we learned a New Year's hymn, number 75 "Father, Let Me Dedicate." It was new to the whole class but we decided it wasn't too bad to learn since it rhymed. We have also worked on "Jesus Sinners Does Receive." We've added on more verses to learn for that hymn so now most of the class knows at least half of the hymn's verses!



Christ-Light has been learning more stories of Jesus life on earth. We've recently been working on a few different parables. We like to act them out, understand them, and apply them to our lives. I am amazed at the awesome questions that they keep coming up with! It is wonderful to see them search the Scriptures for answers.

In Literature, we have recently finished a unit on short stories from Cricket magazines. We read stories from all around the world and many different genres. Everyone came away with different favorites. An added bonus was that the stories were "so short!"

Most of January was spent working on learning all about deserts in Science class. We learned about some interesting plants, animals, and facts about the deserts in general. Quite possibly the coolest fact we learned was that most cacti suck sugar and liquids out of whatever gets stuck to them. It made some in our class want to hop a plane and go to the deserts and others to want to avoid deserts forever.

Bible History 6-8

In Bible History we learned about how the Israelites were defeating all of the cities in the Promised Land, and about how Joshua died with good faith in the Lord. Right now we are learning about the period of Judges.

Math 6

In past lessons we learned multiplying mixed numbers, using prime factorization and naming solids, dividing mixed numbers, lines, reducing fractions before multiplying, and rectangular coordinates. One of the favorite lesson is about lines and learning the differences between lines, rays, segments, parallel lines, oblique lines, and perpendicular lines.

Math 7

We are learning the circumference of a circle and pi, adding and subtracting negative number, volume of geometric solids, scientific notation, scientific notation with negative exponents, algebraic addition, and ratio problems. This math is awesome! We are having a great time learning about these important facts!

Math 8

In math we have been working with equations quite a lot. We worked with proportions and using different rules to solve equations. We also worked on circumferences, semicircles, and Pi. One of our favorite lessons was working with rates and ratios.

Geography 7

In geography we talked about the land areas and the seas in Southwest Asia and northern Africa. Then we learned where petroleum products were found. We also discussed the climate and vegetation in North Africa and Southwest Asia. After that we reviewed everything we learned from this unit and did a review assignment and worksheet.

**"See what love the Father has given us,
that we should be called children of God."**
1 John 3:1



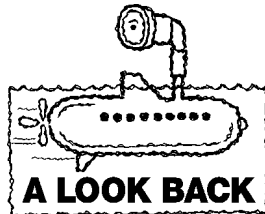
Literature 6-8

We have just finished "The Land." It's about an African American boy fulfilling his dreams to purchase his own land. Now we are reading the book "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" by Mark Twain, aka Samuel Clemens. This book is about a mischievous boy named Tom who is known to cause trouble with his friends Huckleberry Finn and Joe Harper. This story is filled with fun, adventure, naughty episodes, romance, and suspense! We also get to work on interesting vocabulary words and comprehension questions after each chapter.



World History 5-6

In World History we learned about China. When we learned about China we learned about their rulers and religion, and their cultures. Now we are learning about the Hebrews and Judaism. These lessons had some things about the Bible in them. Next we are going to learn about the Jewish beliefs and texts.



American History 7-8

The "Roaring Twenties" were some of the most prosperous times in America's History. We as seventh and eighth graders are reviewing the great time experienced in the Twenties. In the Twenties, many jobs were available, the stock market was booming, and the first talkies came out, but it didn't last for long. In a few short years things changed for the worst. We will be studying the Great Depression and World War 2, some of the more challenging times in America's History.

English 6-8

In English we have just finished a review lesson on verbs. Some things we reviewed were verb phrases and helping verbs. Now we are learning about pronouns, pronouns and antecedents, and personal pronouns.

Spelling 6

In spelling we have learned about using just enough letters to form a word, irregular plurals and related words. Now we are on a review unit. Words from each lesson are used in paragraphs that have spelling errors. We have to find the errors in the paragraphs and write the correct word

on the line. We also learned about vowels in unstressed syllables.

Spelling 7

We finished vowels in final syllables, vowels in unstressed syllables, Greek word parts, words with ice, -ise, -ize, & compound words. Our next lesson will be suffixes with -ary, -ery, & -ory.

Spelling 8

In spelling the eighth graders learned about words from many cultures. Some words are calligraphy, banjo, macramé, and ukulele. This week we had a review unit. It involved Lessons 13-17. Some words are subcommittee, graphic, elude, and umbrella. Next week we are learning about unusual letter combinations. Some examples are limousine, cantaloupe, and connoisseur.

Art 6-8

Our most recent art project was called "Scrape Painting". In this project we lightly spread 3 colors over a sheet of paper. We made various designs while doing this. We waited about an hour, then took a piece of cardboard (paper length) and scraped the paint onto a piece of scrap paper. For Christmas we made a Christmas tree out of popsicles, a hand wreath on a hanger, and a Advent Candle .

Current Events 6-8

In current events, we are using a Drug Prevention Book put out by the Sleepy Eye Police Department. In this book, we are currently learning about the seriousness of inhalants, marijuana, hashish, and depressants.

Hymnology 6-8

We have studied Hymn 80:" Angels From the Realms of Glory", and recited verses 1-4, hymn 446: " I am Trusting You Lord Jesus", reciting verses 1-4 and 6. We are looking forward to the rest of the hymns we will learn in the coming weeks.

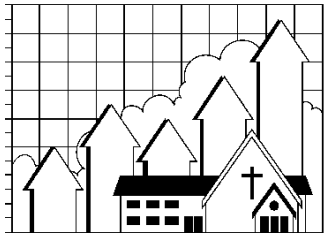
Phy Ed 6-8

In phy ed we are still bowling. Everyone has passed the quiz, after weeks of working on how to add in bowling. We are all improving our games. There will be a 1st & 2nd place trophy for both boys and girls who have the best bowling average, so we're all trying to win!



Thrivent Funds Received

ANNUAL REPORT



Are you participating in the Thrivent Giving Plus program? In 2008 our church/school general budget received **27,540.50!!** God has truly blessed this congregation with faithful giving hearts to

further His purpose. Thank you for being a part of this program! **On Feb. 22nd** we will have a "Thrivent" Sunday when we will ask you to sign another form for 2009 and be available to answer any questions you may have. In this newsletter a Giving Plus form is attached. Please sign it and place it in the collection plate at your earliest convenience. To participate remember these three simple things:

1. Make your giving check to "St. John's School"
2. Write "MATCH" on your giving envelope
3. Sign a form

Help us reach our goal of \$30,000 in 2009!

MLC Auxiliary News

Spring Rallies are just around the corner! The New Ulm Area Rally will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, April 20th at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in New Ulm. Come and find out what's new on the MLC campus! New project ideas will also be considered for the upcoming year. These projects support non-budgetary needs at the college, and are tremendously appreciated by the students. A student presentation will be given and light refreshments will be served. Mark your calendar now to attend this interesting event. Call Paula Windschitl for more information or to arrange for carpooling. On another note, don't forget to check out the link to the MLC Auxiliary found on their web site: Just type in the search word 'auxiliary' and you will be directed to the Auxiliary pages. Learn more about the Auxiliary and the college next time you are out surfing the web!

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Windschitl,
MLC Auxiliary 1st V.P.



Newsletter Reminder

**The Newsletter
Deadline is
February 16th**



The 46th Annual Convention will be held June 25-28, 2009 in Denver. This year's theme is "Missions with an Altitude". Convention news, information and registration sheets can be found at [www.lwms.org](#) as well as on our church bulletin board. Area tours are also an option. This year's convention looks to be as wonderful as ever with many missionary speakers lined up to share news from their mission fields. Even if you have never attended a single LWMS event in your life, it is truly worth considering attending a National Convention. If the opportunity presents itself for you this year, check it out. You will be filled with blessings! If you have any further questions or would like more copies of information, please contact me at 794-2310.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Windschitl, Reporter