

The St. John's Messenger

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The Celebration Continues

Even though Christmas Day has passed, we can continue to celebrate the miracle of God being born as a human being to save us. In fact, in the church year the Christmas season is twelve days long. That's good because there are plenty of good Christmas hymns that we want a chance to sing!

When we think of the twelve days of Christmas, perhaps the days leading up to Christmas come to mind, but really the twelve days of Christmas start on Christmas Day, December 25th, and end on January 5th, the day before Epiphany. Those twelve days are the Christmas season of the church year. (They are also the inspiration for the well known song "The Twelve Days of Christmas". Some have offered the idea that each verse of this song represents a biblical teaching with the first gift of "a partridge in a pear tree" representing God's gift of a Savior, but no one knows for sure if that is what the author had in mind.)

After those twelve days is the day of Epiphany on January 6th when we celebrate the coming of the wise men and recognize that Jesus is not only the Messiah for whom the Jews had been waiting, but he is also the Savior for the whole world. The first Sunday after Epiphany is usually the Sunday we focus on our Savior's baptism and the beginning of his public ministry on earth.

This year, because our New Year's Day worship falls on a Sunday, we will stretch our Christmas celebration into the next Sunday, January 8th. That way we will have another opportunity to sing those precious Christmas hymns we love and reflect on the fulfillment of God's promise to send a Savior. Then on January 15th we see Jesus revealed as the light of the world, a major theme of Epiphany, and on January 22nd we will focus on our Savior's baptism and our baptism.

There are plenty of good things to reflect on in January as we draw close to the Christ child. I look forward to worshipping our Savior with you as our Christ-filled celebration continues into the new year.

In Christ, our Light,
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 December 2011

When our kids were at home growing up we would watch the Charlie Brown Christmas on TV and my favorite part would be when Charlie Brown got frustrated with the commercialism of Christmas and exclaims to Linus “Does any one know what Christmas is all about?” Linus adjusts his blanket and replies using the following verses:



*“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is **Christ the Lord**. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,*

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”

That Charlie Brown is what Christmas is all about.”

We at St. John’s are blessed to know our Savior and to be able to celebrate his birth. The families here that lost loved ones this past month and year can be comforted to know that our Savior lives and they are safe with Him.

The Hosanna Circle held a fantastic Advent by Candlelight supper which was almost filled to capacity. Whether participating in the program or hosting the supper many were involved and there was a true spirit of preparation for Jesus birth.

The children of our congregation will have their program Christmas Eve and it is sure to be a great expression of their faith. Thanks go to everyone that makes these programs possible.

Take the time this season to share the joy of Christmas with a shut-in, friend or family member that may be struggling for some reason. There is so much to celebrate in Jesus’ first coming let us share it with others so that we may all be together in God’s glory.

Have a Very Merry Christmas and Joyous New Year,

Steve Windschitl

President, St John’s Congregation

**Church Council Minutes
December 12, 2011**

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

Pastor Draper opened the meeting with devotion and a prayer.

Minutes

Jim Mielke/Dave Zimmerman made a motion to approve the November 2011 minutes. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

Three funerals were held in the past month.

Treasurer's Report

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

President's Report

Steve Windschitl submitted a written report:

- Hosanna Circle Advent by Candlelight dinner was a success.
- The children's program is Christmas Eve
- Members are encouraged to visit shut ins during the holiday season.

Board of Elders

Leo Derkowski/Dave Zimmerman made a motion to approve the membership by profession of faith of Lori Harms and her two children, Dakota and Kendra. Motion carried.

Andy Lochner/Dave Zimmerman made a motion to approve the transfer of membership of Keith Grant to St. John's, Bariboo, WI. Motion carried.

Principal & Board of Education

Logo designs were reviewed. Leo Derkowski will follow up.

Basketball practice has started. Five games are tentatively scheduled in 2012.

Two teams of four students each will compete in Math Counts, sponsored by 3M, in January in New Ulm.

Our school team is currently in third place in the Meet Math program among WELS schools our size

nationwide. One of our eighth graders is in first place in the individual competition in class sizes four or less

Our team did well in the forensics contest held in November at MLC.

Worship Committee

There will only be one service, at 9:00 AM, on Sunday, December 25, 2011. Our regular schedule will be followed on Sunday, January 1, 2012.

Maintenance Committee

No report.

Outreach

No report.

Stewardship

No report.

MVL/WELS

No report

Endowment and Trust Fund Committee

No activity.

Old Business

None

New Business

We need two people on the Board of Education.

The church council is responsible for taking down the Christmas decorations on January 10, 2012.

The organ fund currently has a balance of \$32,237. An additional \$5,335 is needed to complete the repairs.

The next scheduled council meeting: 7:30 Monday, January 9, 2012.

Leo Derkowski/Jim Mielke made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted
Leo Derkowski, Secretary



Hosanna Circle

The Hosanna Circle would like to thank all who participated in making the Advent by Candlelight Dinner a success. We had the opportunity to spend the evening in Christian fellowship with family and friends, to share God's word and help us prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of the promised Savior.

Thank you to all who purchased Poinsettias to beautify our church throughout the Christmas season.



Hosanna Circle will meet again on Thursday, January 5th, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. We invite all the women in our congregation to join us.

Your Sisters in Christ,

Pam Dittbenner and Connie Trebesch



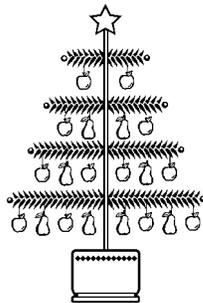
Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid regular meeting and Christmas party was held December 7th at 2:00 p.m. The school children entertained us with recitation and Christmas carols. It was a tradition we look forward too and we all enjoyed it! We thank the children and their teachers for their efforts. They were given a doughnut as a treat.

As of December 7th, the Ladies Aid Chair Fund has reached a total of \$370.00.

The Hosanna Circle hosted the Advent by Candlelight dinner on Sunday, December 4th. The tables and the basement were beautifully decorated and the program was inspiring. Thank you to all for their efforts.

The Shut-in Giving Tree has been up for all members of our congregation to remember our shut-ins at Christmas.



We wish to thank Nori Houldson for her donation of a drink cooler dispenser to be used for church events.

Block 1 served for the Emilie Netze funeral and Block 2 served for the Harold Bartz funeral. Block 3 is up to serve.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 4th at 2:00 p.m. Come join us!

Marilyn Deibele, Secretary

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

Preschool-

The Preschoolers are growing in their academics every day! The students have learned about letters Tt, Bb, and Kk, and the sounds they make, by meeting letter people! A new 3 year old student named Madisyn was enrolled in our class last month, the rest of the children enjoyed helping to make her feel very comfortable at school. The Preschoolers prepared for the Christmas program by practicing their recitation: Tiptoe to the Manger.

Kindergarten-

The Kinders are reading, reading and reading some more! Mrs. Shrum is so impressed with how well they are sounding out the words they see. They are continuing to work on short and long vowel sounds, as they help make words. Ava, Elizabeth and Kimberly prepared for the Christmas program by practicing many songs like "Away in a Manger" and "Silent Night".



The children in Preschool and Kindergarten have enjoyed having our student teacher from MLC, Miss Haskell teach in our class for the last 9 weeks! They will miss her greatly when she goes! Blessings to her as she graduates and begins her teaching career! The students all had a wonderful time sharing the message of Jesus' birth to the St. John's Ladies Aid group and many friends at Countryside, Sleepy Eye Care Center and Ross Park.

Happy New Year!



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

Winter is chilly but we are keeping warm and busy this January!

In our Bible lessons we continue our study of the Israelites as they wandered in the desert for 40 years. God showed His mercy again and again to His people then as He still does to us today.

This month in Math class Grade One is learning how to read a thermometer, add 2-digit numbers, and tally. Grade 3 are writing numbers in expanded form, multiplying by



four, writing fractions greater than one and squaring numbers.

In Reading class Grade One is tackling longer stories this month. We are proud that we are that we know many sight words and phonics rules.

Grade 2 is doing an author study of Kevin Henkes and Marc Brown books.

God's marvelous Solar System is the topic for 1-2 graders this month in Science. We are learning about the planets and our place in the solar system.

In Social Studies third and fourth graders are discovering more about the history of our country began as we continue our study of the Northeastern states.

Stay warm!



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

Music

For the last three weeks our student teacher, Miss Haskell, has been teaching music! We have been working on our Christmas Eve program. One of the songs we are singing is *Peace, Peace, Silent Night*. A few upper grade students are also playing chimes with the song. We hope to see all of you at Christmas!

-Abby

History & Physical Education

The 8th grade Geography students have been learning about Latin America and its culture. The 4th grade Social Studies students have been learning about Southeastern states. Grades 5-6 in Ancient History are learning about Ancient India.

We have been doing various exercises and games in Phy. Ed. specifically Wall-ball and Fox & Goose. We have also been bowling recently at the Bowling Alley on Tuesday and Friday afternoons. Everyone has been doing a great job knocking down those pins!

-Colten

Reading & Math

Group 3 has been reading about the exciting adventures of *Tom Sawyer* and are nearing the end the book. Group 2 has been reading *The Bronze Bow* and the adventures of Daniel searching for Peter. Group 1 is reading multiple stories in the book of Flight and is learning about *How to Read Science*.

The 6th grade is learning how to subtract fractions and mixed numbers. The 4th grade is learning about

multiplication, division, percentage, and fractions. Here are some concepts students have been learning: Luke is learning about Substitutions and Eliminations of Equations, Tim is learning about Like Terms and Addition Terms, and Ben is learning about Circle Graphs.

-Tim

Christ Light

Recently in Christ Light, we have learned about the ten plagues and the Passover. After that we studied the exodus, the crossing of the Red Sea, and how the Israelites received food in the desert. We will soon learn about the ten commandments and tabernacle.

-Luke

English

In 8th grade English, Luke and Tim have been learning about word choices, commas to separate parts of a sentence, and irregular verbs. The 6th grade class has been learning the same concepts and also subject-verb agreement. The 4-5 grade class has been learning about spelling verbs correctly, using a comma, and prefixes.

-Kendra

Computer Class

In Computer class, the students have been typing and using *Kerpoof*. *Kerpoof* is a website where school students can navigate and be creative. Grades 4-8 have also been playing games on the Wacky Wonderful Websites school page.

-Ben

Art & Currents Events

In Art class, we have crafted "Bouncing Christmas Trees." Many people enjoyed this project. Upcoming projects will be "God's Eye" and "Popsicle Trees."

In Current Events, we have had many students present and teach things from home. On Dec. 16 the class enjoyed a presentation from Colten with his dog! We have also been doing *Time For Kids*.

-Chantel



Save the date

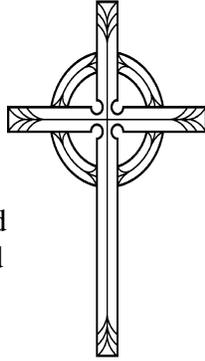


The annual women's Prayer Pal event - for old and new participants - will be held Sunday, January 22, 2012 from 2 to 4 p.m. Watch the bulletin for more details as the date approaches. All women of the congregation are encouraged to attend!

Thank You

Thank you to the members of St. John's for your prayers, cards, visits, food and flowers during Harold's illness and for the ongoing support at his passing. We are especially grateful to Pastor Draper, Professor Shilling, and Jan Dittbenner and the choir for the meaningful funeral service, and to all who contributed food and worked at the luncheon. We are truly blessed by our wonderful church family. To God be the glory.

Bev Bartz and Family



Memorials

In Memory of Lane Arnold Meyer

St. John's School

Family & Friends - \$235.00
Steve & Mickey Meyer - \$250.00
Florita Tews - \$20.00

In Memory of Emilie Netzke

St. John's School

Steve & Mickey Meyer - \$10.00
Alvin & Hazel Maasz - \$10.00

St. John's Church

Philip & Jane Wold - \$50.00

Chair Fund

Delbert & Eunice Sandfoefner - \$10.00
Armin & Leona Lendt - \$5.00

Organ Fund

Melvin & Lois Lendt - \$5.00
Arnie & Arlene Hinderman - \$10.00
Harold & Bev Bartz - \$10.00
June Grundmeyer - \$5.00
Dennis & Pam Dittbenner - \$10.00
Harill & Eileen Schroeder - \$5.00
Mary Ann Trebesch - \$5.00
Lorna Havemeier - \$10.00

Poinsettias

Pastor & Sallie Draper
Don & Ruby Guhlke
Dennis & Pam Dittbenner
Harold & Bev Bartz
Penny Mathiowetz
Steve & Paula Windschtil
Leo & Marcia Derkowski
Mike & Janet Crabtree
Jerry & Jan Dittbenner
Spencer & Heather Hammer
Marlys Lochner
In memory of Arnie & Millie Meyer/Herb & Chrissie
Wandersee - Steve & Mickey Meyer
In memory of our parents & twin daughters -
Melvin & Lois Lendt
In memory of Lois Steinhaus -
Earl & Bev Altmann/Barry, Lisa & Andrew Hillmann



