

The St. John's Messenger

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JANUARY 2013

Are You Still Here?

If you are reading this article, then apparently the world hasn't ended. Good thing, right? After all, we want to be able to enjoy our Christmas gifts a little longer. I only mention this because some were concerned that the end of the world was coming on December 21st, 2012. They believed that because the 13th cycle of the Mayan "Long Count" calendar ended on December 21st that the world would also end on that day. They were obviously wrong.

People claiming the world is going to end on this day or that day is nothing new. Do you remember Harold Camping in 2011? There have been others too. Jerry Falwell, Sun Myung Moon, Hal Lindsey, the Jehovah's Witnesses, and many others have predicted the world would end on dates that have already passed. In fact, the website wikipedia.org has a list of over 150 end of the world predictions by notable groups and individuals going all the way back to the time of Christ.

With all those predictions having come and gone it would be easy to think that the end of the world isn't coming. That would be a mistake. Certainly, God has given us another year of grace. That means we have another year to grow in faith, to share that faith with others and to enjoy the good things he has created and given to us. But that doesn't mean God will allow this world to continue forever. Jesus has promised that he would return, and he even promised that we wouldn't know the day.

Instead, Jesus warns us to be prepared every day for his return, "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour" (Matthew 25:13). This new year let us continue to keep watch and prepare for the real end of the world by listening to our Savior in his Word. There we find God's forgiveness for our sins and assurance that his righteous wrath has already been satisfied so that the end of the world is not a frightening thought, but a day we as Christians eagerly await.

In Christ, the Lord of Time and Eternity,
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 2012

Proverbs 24:3-43

*By wisdom a house is built,
and through understanding it is established;
through knowledge its rooms are filled
with rare and beautiful treasures.*

St John's Church will be offering to its members, Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University every Thursday evening for 9 weeks at 6:30 pm running till 8 pm starting January 17th thru March 14th, 2013. It is a video 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.

There is a cost of \$89 plus \$6 shipping to each family unit, not per person, signing up for the class. We plan to offer childcare for families that need someone to watch their children while in class.

Information has been presented on the class after several services in December. If you wish to discuss this more with someone see Dave Silfies or Steve Windschitl. They will be the presenters for the class, offering up guidance for good interaction on how to apply the principals offered by the class and in accordance to what the WELS teaches.

We want the sign-ups in by January 6, 2013 and we are looking for a minimum of 10 families to do the class. You can sign up by talking to myself, Dave or Pastor or just put your name on the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

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. At our voters meeting January 27th we will consider what direction to take with those that will not respond to our concerns for their spiritual well-being.

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.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas season,

Steve Windschitl
President, St John's Congregation

Church Council Minutes November 15, 2012

Present: Jerry Dittbenner, Barry Hillmann, Dan Rick, Dave Silfies, Steve Windschitl, Shorty Haus, Pastor Draper

Pastor Draper opened the meeting with devotion and a prayer.

Minutes

Shorty Haus/Andy Lochner made a motion to approve the November 2012 minutes. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

Pastor is working on Christmas worship.

Treasurer's Report

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

President's Report

Written report was presented.

Board of Elders

Shorty Haus/Dave Silfies made a motion to release Jennifer Peterson and girls. Motion carried.

Principal & Board of Education

The children are doing well with Christmas program practice.

The basketball team had two wins at Nicollet on December 11th.

As of January 2013 all adult meals will have to be paid for. The cost is \$3.25 each. Shorty Haus/Andy Lochner made a motion that all staff meal be covered by the administrative fund. Motion carried.

Worship Committee

The New Year's Eve service will be held Monday evening during our regular worship time.

Maintenance Committee

There was discussion on church cleaning.

Outreach

A motion was made by Shorty Haus/Dve Silfies to let Sarah Mielke and Marcia Derkowski go to a

parish nursing program. The cost is about \$500-\$600. The parish nursing program will be funded by donations. Motion carried.

Stewardship

Dave Silfies reported on the Dave Ramsey Financial Peace Univ. stewardship program. The cost will be \$95 per family. It will begin on January 17th from 6:30-8:00 p.m and run on Thursdays for nine weeks. Daycare will be provided.

MVL/WELS

No report.

Endowment and Trust Fund Committee

No report.

Old Business

Pastor will be in Israel from January 7th - 20th.

New Business

No new business.

The next Church Council meeting will be held Tuesday, January 15th at 7:30 p.m.

Jim Mielke/Andy Lochner 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

After we spent November learning about giving thanks for all that God has given us, we learned about the winter season and how animals get ready for winter! We even discussed "hibernation". We have learned learned about

the letters in the first half of the alphabet and how each letter makes it's own sound. We have also been studying many New Testament Bible stories this year.

These Bible stories have gone through the life of Jesus, and taught us about His many wonderful Miracles! We know



that Miracles are something "only God can do!" We've also been learning some music in preparation for our upcoming program on Christmas Eve.

The Kindergarten boys are learning more word families and have started using their Starfall reading series. The first story they read was about "Zac the Rat", he's a funny little rodent who teaches them about the short /a/ sound! The Kinders are reading more and more and enjoy writing in their journals everyday.

Have a blessed Holiday!



Mrs. Halvorson's Classroom News



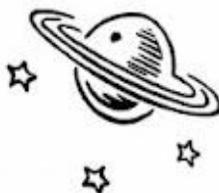
Winter is chilly but we are keeping warm and busy this January!

In our Bible lessons we continue to learn about Jesus' public ministry. We see how he strengthened the faith of the disciples and others by his preaching and showed his almighty power through his miracles.

This month in Math class Grade one will be learning how to read a thermometer, add 2-digit numbers, and tally. Grade 3 will be writing numbers in expanded form, multiplying by four, writing fractions greater than one and squaring numbers. Grade 4 will be working with division and remainders, estimation, and fractions.

In Reading class Grade One will begin 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. Grades 3-4 and reading several different novels in small groups.

Grade 1-4 will study God's marvelous Solar System this month in Science. We will learn about the planets and our place in the solar system.



Stay warm!
Mrs. Halvorson



Mr. Rick's Classroom News

Music

For the past four weeks, the students have been practicing their Christmas program music! Songs they are singing are *Peace Came to Earth*, *The Gift*, and *The Wonder of it All*. The upper grade students are also practicing their recitations for their characters. We hope to see many of you at 6:30pm on Christmas Eve!

History & Physical Education

The 7th grade students have been mapping, labeling, and coloring states in Geography. Grades 5-6 in Minnesota History are learning about Minnesota soldiers in the Civil War and the Minnesota Civil War between the Dakota and settlers.

The students have been doing various exercises and games in Phy. Ed. specifically kickball and tag games. They have also been bowling recently at the Bowling Alley on Friday mornings.

Everyone has been doing a great job knocking down those pins!



Math

The 6th grade is learning how to subtract fractions and mixed numbers. The 5th grade is learning about multiplication, division, percentage, and fractions. Finally, 7th grade has recently learned how to find average and how to add and subtract mixed measures.

Christ Light

Recently in Christ Light, students have learned about John the Baptist's death and Jesus Feeding the 5,000. The students do a variety of activities in this class such as independent reading, listening to an audio bible, group work, and break-up applications.

English

All grades have finished up grammar chapters on Verbs and Adjectives.

Computers Class

In Computers class, the students have been typing and using many websites where the students can navigate and be creative. Grades 5-8 have also been playing games on the Wacky Wonderful Websites school page.

Art & Currents Events

In Art class, Mrs. Crabtree has been teaching perspective, vanishing point, and space. Thank you Mrs. Crabtree! Many students have enjoyed these projects!

In Current Events, students read *Scholastic Magazine* using the Smart board. The students are able to hear an audio for the text and watch videos according to the stories. The students love this technology!



Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid met on Wednesday, December 5th at 2:00 p.m. For their regular meeting and Christmas party. The school children entertained us with their recitations and carols. They did a wonderful job as we heard the real Christmas Story as recorded in Luke. We thank the children and their teachers! They were given a treat as they went back to class.

Vice President Rita Lochner presided at the meeting. The children's program served as our devotion for the day.

Twelve more dinner forks have arrived at the cost of \$35.77. A thank you goes to Marcia Derkowski for ordering the forks.



Block 1 will serve the workers for the Blood Bank on January 14th. Block members will be providing salads. Block 2 is responsible for 30 dozen cookies. Block leaders will be calling for salads and or cookies for that day.

Portions of a newsletter from CAMM was read. It was decided to collect pill boxes for that mission. There will be a box put up to collect them and the Ladies Aid will pay the postage to send them when a bunch has been collected.

Block 3 is up to serve.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 2, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. All ladies of the congregation are invited and encouraged to join us at our meetings.

Marilyn Deibele
Secretary



Hosanna Circle

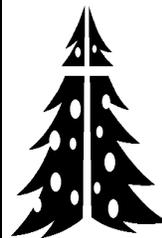
December 4th meeting of the Hosanna Circle started with devotion on planning and prayer by Pastor Draper.

Marcia Derkowski gave an update on the Central Africa Medical mission. The circle will cover the expense of mailing collected prescription bottles to CAM if the cost is between \$0 and \$50.

We discussed the bake sale sponsored by us on December 16th.

A correction to last month's notes, the Draper families will fill the Christmas Eve treat bags on December 24th. We looked at several carts commercially available to ease the church cleaning. No decision was made on that yet.

The remainder of our meeting was spent decorating the church basement for Christmas while we listened to carols and munched on sweet bars.



Thank you to Hackers for the donation of the beautiful tree.

The next circle meeting will be January 3rd. We will be cleaning kitchen drawers and shelves.

The Prayer Pals Brunch will be January 27th at 11:30 at the Drapers.

Your sisters in Christ,
Mickey Meyer and Connie Trebesch



Memorials

In Memory of Warren Marti

Organ Project

Marsha & Roger Marti - \$20

In Memory of Roger High

St. John's

Beverly Wischstadt - \$20

Gifts

St. John's

Shareen Halvorson - \$300

St. John's School

Bev Bartz - \$500

Poinsettia Donations

Steve & Mickey Meyer - In memory of
Arnie & Milly Meyer and Herb & Chrissie Wandersee
Jerry & Jan Dittbenner

Dennis & Pam Dittbenner

Beverly Bartz - In memory of Harold Bartz

Don & Ruby Guhlke - In memory of our parents

Barry, Lisa & Andrew Hillmann
and Earl & Bev Altmann -

In memory of Lois Steinhaus

Todd & Laurie Hammerschmidt

Andrew & Rita Lochner

Greg & Mary Bartz - In honor of Ben Bartz

and in memory of Harold Bartz

Marlys Lochner - In memory of Eugene Lochner

Pastor & Sallie Draper, Stanley, Luke & Ben -

In memory of Pete & Stanley Wilson,

Carl Draper and Ed Hammerberg

