



# 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](http://www.stjohnsse.com)



JANUARY 2008

VOLUME 7

NUMBER 1

**Happy New Year to Everyone!**

Begin  
the  
Year  
with  
God

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 – December 10, 2007

Present: Leo Derkowski, Paul Maasz, Dennis Dittbenner, John Mueller, Barry Hillmann, Van Tallman, Jerry Dittbenner and Pastor Draper.

Pastor Draper opened the meeting with devotion and a prayer.

### Minutes

John Mueller/Dennis Dittbenner made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 2007 meeting. Motion carried.

### Pastor's Report

Pastor Draper provided a written report on statistics. Leo Derkowski/ John Mueller made a motion to transfer Sarah Feucht to Zion, Winthrop. Motion carried. Pastor has a fund of close to \$2,000 for the purchase of a digital video camera and related equipment. Pastor acquired the church management software package discussed at the last meeting and it is now in use. Pastor will be on vacation from January 14 to 20, 2008. He will arrange for a Pastor to handle services while he is gone.

### Treasurer's Report

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

### President's Report

Paul had no formal report. He reminded us of the Quarterly meeting scheduled for January 20, 2008.

### Board of Elders

A verbal report was given by Dennis Dittbenner. Leo Derkowski/Dennis Dittbenner made a motion to approve four weeks of vacation per fiscal year for Pastor Draper, to include no more than four Sundays. Motion carried. Communion at both services on the first and third Sundays of the month appears to be well received.

### Principal & Board of Education

Kurk Kramer submitted a formal written report. Title money was used to purchase a new computer projector for the school.

### Worship Committee

Leo Derkowski/Dennis Dittbenner made a motion to designate Sunday, February 10, 2008 as Unity Sunday and to host a new member dinner after the second service. Motion carried. It is the re-

sponsibility of the choir this year to provide the food.

### Maintenance Committee

No permanent solution to finding someone to shovel snow from the sidewalks around the church and school has been found. John Mueller continues to look into solving this problem.

### Outreach

No report.

### Stewardship

No report.

### Endowment and Trust Fund Committee

No report.

### MVL/WELS

MVL – no report.

WELS – Leo Derkowski provided highlights from the synod newsletter. Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO) show steady improvement over last year and could end up with a surplus this year. The surplus will be used to create a buffer fund.

The Commission on Youth Discipleship produced a five-part Bible study called "Creating Youthful Churches." The goal of the Bible study is to help with youth membership retention and participation in the church.

Leo submitted our Synod Support budget for 2008. Our amount exceeded the recommended increases from the Synod.

### Old Business

None

### New Business

None

The next Council meeting is scheduled for **Monday, January 14, 2008 at 7:30 PM** in the Church basement.

Leo Derkowski/John Mueller made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Leo Derkowski, Secretary

# Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid held their December meeting and Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 5th at 2:00 PM. The School children entertained us with their recitations and songs. It is a tradition we look forward to! We thank the children and their teachers for their efforts.

A motion was made, seconded and voted on by ballot to give \$350.00 towards a new camera for video taping Sunday services. Motion passed. The total cost of the camera has not been determined at this time. A motion was made, seconded and passed to purchase a new stapler to assemble the church newsletter. It was also decided we should retain our booth for the pie sale during Corn Days in August.

Our next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 9th, at 2:00 PM. Come and join us!

Marilyn Deibele  
Secretary



## *Poinsettia Donations*

- (1) Dave and Char Zimmerman in memory of Gerhard and Agnes Bode and Ralph and Delsie Zimmerman
- (2) Jerry and Jan Dittbenner in memory of Danny Vogt and Jerroll Dittbenner Sr
- (2) Leo and Marcia Derkowski in gratitude
- (2) Steve and Mickey Meyer in memory of Arnie and Millie Meyer and Herb and Christine Wandersee
- (1) Harold and Beverly Bartz in memory of their parents
- (1) Ken and Penny Mathiowetz in memory of David and Lois Schewe
- (4) Tom and Sue Jensen, Michelle Weilage, Kris and Brad Bode, and Michael and Stephanie Weilage in memory of George and Elsie Weilage, George Ubl, Adeline Ubl, and Ray and Georgene Rothmeier
- (1) Linda Lang in memory of Bill, Lois & Jerry Milbrodt

Also gave for the church

Arnold and Arlene Hinderman  
Steve and Paula Windschitl  
Pastor and Sallie Draper  
Eugene and Marlys Lochner  
Andrew and Rita Lochner  
Todd and Laurie Hammerschmidt



# From the Principal

Happy New Year! May the Lord bless you and your family with health, happiness, prosperity, and togetherness. Hopefully you have had a restful and enjoyable Christmas and New Year holiday season.

By the middle of this month the second quarter of the school year will have come to a close. The second quarter report cards will be sent home on Monday, January 21. As St. John's LES begins this new calendar year, we will be starting some new activities as well. One of the big things that will be taking place is that starting in January we will be raising money through donations and third quarter mission offerings for "**Kid's Against Hunger**". This money will then be used to pay for meals that the students will help package at MLC in New Ulm in March. All of the WELS Lutheran schools in Minnesota will be part of this program. Packaging of the meals will take place at MLC, Bethany, and a location yet to be determined in Rochester. Anyone wishing to donate money for this should contact me for more information.



The basketball season is well underway and a number of games, including a number of tournaments, will be played throughout the coming weeks. There will be one week in January that will stand out as a short school week. During the week of January 14<sup>th</sup>, there will be no school for St. John's on Monday. The Board of Education has approved a faculty in-service day and they will be attending an all day seminar in Brooklyn Center. Then on Thursday, January 17, there is a district early release day, and the next day is a district-scheduled workday with no school.

The students in grades 4-8 computer classes continue to work on things that they are able to put on the school's web-site. Take the opportunity to go to this site at [www.stjohnsse.com](http://www.stjohnsse.com) and see all of the activities that are taking place here, and also enjoy the things that are being displayed by the students. It will give you a great opportunity to learn more about our school, its students, and the things that are happening at St. John's LES.

Final thought – "It is not so much what is poured into the student, but what is planted that really counts."

**Kurk K. Kramer**  
Principal

## Youth Group

Many thanks to those teens who helped package fruit baskets for the shut-in Christmas gifts! Your efforts helped to share God's love and brighten the holidays for these people.



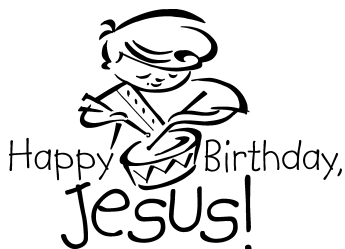
In January, the Youth Group will begin covering the topic "God Works Good Through Tragedy" based on a video about the murder of a WELS teen's sister. We will continue to meet in the computer lab between services on January 6 and 20. It's important that all youth members attend these Bible study meetings! At these times, we will also need to discuss future activities, especially a possible trip to Mount Kato on Sunday, Feb. 10. We need 15 members and friends to make reservations for the group ski and/or snowboard rate, plus you would need to bring your equipment or rent it for about \$15. If you are interested but cannot attend a meeting, please contact Mrs. Evenson ([j\\_n\\_evenson@hotmail.com](mailto:j_n_evenson@hotmail.com) or (507)834-6968). Thank you!

Looking Ahead: Next month, we will meet for Bible study on February 3 (the first Sunday) and February 10 (the second Sunday, a **change** from our usual third Sunday schedule).

Also, please mark your calendars for Wednesdays in February and March when we will be serving Lenten Soup Suppers to help support our group activities.

## Pre-School and Kindergarten News

By Miss Zastrow



Happy New Year! Our Lord has blessed us with another year! I can hardly believe that our school year is already half over! 2007 has been an especially wonderful year, bringing me here to St. John's. I expect that 2008 will be just as exciting! I pray that this year we will all grow closer to our Lord, serving Him in all of the many ways He will lead us to. With the second quarter of the school year nearly over with, I ask yet again, where has the time gone? December was filled with practicing for our Christmas program as well as other various activities celebrating the birth of our Savior. Happy Birthday Jesus!

In our Christ-Light lessons for January, we are learning the Old Testament stories about the Israelites in the desert as God leads them to the Promised Land. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart." – Proverbs 3:5 is one of our memory treasures this month. The Israelites needed to trust that God would take care of them, many times they needed to be reminded that God always keeps His promises. We also need to continually be reminded to trust in God to keep His promises to us as well. What an Awesome God we have!

The Preschoolers are finishing up learning all about our needs. Whether it is food, exercise, or rest, all are needed to stay healthy! In January we will be learning about different kinds of homes that different people have, as well as different transportation that people use. We will also begin learning about animal homes and farm animals with our letter people, Ms. S and Mr. R.

Kindergarten has been doing some research on animals. We have many interesting questions about all different kinds of animals, and we are working to get those questions answered! "Do lions eat flamingos?" and "Do sharks have bones?" are just some of the wonderful questions we have asked. We will continue our amazing animal research into January. We could probably spend the entire school year learning just about animals! Have a Blessed New Year!

## 1st – 3rd Grade News

By Mrs. Halvorson

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. The children are looking forward to reading from the Bible in our afternoon devotions.

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.

In Reading class Grade One will begin longer stories this month. We are proud that we are that we know many Word families now.

We will study God's marvelous Solar System this month in our unit study. We will learn about the planets and our place in the solar system.

In Phy. Ed class the children will be practicing our relays and jumprope skills.

Beginning this month, we will highlight a student in our classroom every week. Each "Cool Cat" of the week will share many things about themselves so we can all appreciate how God made us each different, yet special!

We will Stay warm!



## 4th – 6th Grade News

By Mrs. Evenson

As God kept His promise to fight for the Israelites by miraculously destroying the Egyptians in the Red Sea, so we trust Him to fight for us against our enemies, especially Satan. We are also learning from our ChristLight lessons to ask God to forgive us for our ingratitude and grumbling and to make us content with the blessings that He has provided for us.

In Math, sixth grade has been introduced to prime numbers and how factor trees can be helpful in reducing fractions. While fifth graders have been

converting fractions to percents and multiplying three-digit numbers, fourth grade is multiplying two-digit numbers and learning one-digit division with a remainder.

We have been working with all kinds of verbs in Language class, including linking, regular, irregular, and their past, present, and future tenses. In Social Studies,

we studied a Patriotic unit about American symbols, songs, monuments, and presidents.

Our Science lessons have focused on keeping our bodies healthy, and we have also started working on achieving the President's Physical Fitness goals in PE. As for our 50,000 Page Challenge, the class has read well past the 30,000 page mark already, and February is "I Love to Read" month – we'll be looking forward to that!

## 7th & 8th Grade News

### By the Students

**Math:** The 7th graders are learning about fractions, reviewing decimals, and scientific notation.

The 8th graders are learning about ratio and proportion. Recently they covered fractions and symbols of inclusion and percent.

**Geography:** This month, the students studied Europe's land features, how it has a mild temperature and is good for farming. They have also learned that people have been moving to cities and industrializing and how people have begun to become concerned about their environment. They have just begun to study Russia.

**Spelling:** The 7th graders learned about words like, continent, treasure, competition, microbe and microfilm. After Christmas vacation they will be learning new words including astronomer, astrology, and astronomy.

The 8th graders worked on directional prefixes like, transportation, subcommittee; and also related words like comprehension, and exclamation.

**Literature:** The students say for once they are not reading a book about wars or historical fiction. They are reading "Heat" by Mike Lupica. It is about a Cuban boy who's life is all about baseball.

**Catechism:** This month, the students are learning about the commandments and how they got introduced and their meaning.

**American History:** The students learned about the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the Amendments in their American History Class.

**Literature:** The students completed reading of "My Brother Sam is Dead" and "The Fighting Ground." Both books are works of historical fiction which take place during the Revolutionary War.

**Bible History:** Paul and his missionary journeys are what the students are currently learning. They state in Paul's second journey, Paul and Barnabas split up and Paul goes with Silas while Barnabas goes with Mark.

**Hymnology:** For the month of December the students have been learning and reciting their Christmas recitations.

**Science:** The students are learning about the scientific theory of Evolution this month. They comment that they no it is not true. Recently they did a poster about a specific breed of dogs. The poster included a picture of the breed, a half page report, and a punnett square.

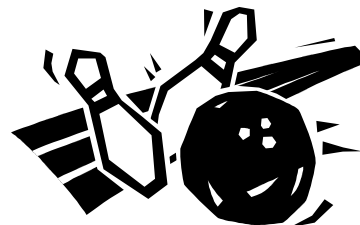
**Art:** 7th & 8th graders have just finished up making portraits heads out of paper. Right now they are making flower gardens made out of different colored paper using a ripped paper technique.

**Music:** The students are still working with hand chimes. They say it's fun and they can't wait till you see their performance at the Children's Christmas Eve Service.



**Current Events:** Recently the students learned about finances, earning and spending money, saving, interest, investing and collecting, as well as many others. They also learned about credit cards and how to use them wisely!

**Phy Ed:** The students have begun bowling at the Sleepy Eye Bowling Alley. They are learning how to keep score and have fun at the same time. Thanks to SE Bowling Alley Andrew Hillmann has improved his score from a not so impressive 10 to a whopping 93! S E Bowl has built a ramp in which he puts the ball on and if you want to see the rest go to [www.stjohns.com](http://www.stjohns.com)



# CARE CONNECTOR

## A Word of Thanks

### Thank you!

We would like to thank you for your donation of groceries to the MLC Food Bank. Because of a donation like yours, our Food Bank is able to serve more married students each year. This semester we have about 25 families.

We continue to open the Food Bank every second Saturday of the month, including the summer months. At this time the families are able to obtain groceries based on their family size.

The "food shopping" is very much appreciated by the students. We sincerely thank you for your contribution! It is truly a blessing to our future teachers, pastors, and staff ministers.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year  
The Married Students of MLC

### Thank you!

Thanks to all who contributed money for the shut-in fruit baskets and gifts. And, thanks to the Youth Group who did a great job making up the baskets, and to Annie Vogel who contributed the beautiful hand-made cards. Thanks, also, to those of you who took a basket and delivered it to our shut-in brothers and sisters. They were appreciative of the gift, but mostly grateful for us remembering them with this small token.

## Events

### Prayer Pal Party

**What:** Prayer Pal Party

**Who is invited:** Any females in our church who would like to participate

**When:** Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 2:00 p.m.

**Where:** W.W. Smith Inn / 101 Linden S.W. / Sleepy Eye

**Why:** To reveal who the 2007 Prayer Pal Partners were, to welcome anyone who would like to be a Prayer Pal in 2008, and to enjoy some fun and fellowship.

**Bring:** A snack or pretty little treat to share with the group. Beverages will be provided.

**Optional:** If you haven't given your Prayer Pal a Christmas gift, you could bring it at this time.

**Mission:** To encourage women of our congregation to share in the joys and burdens of their sisters in Christ through prayer as we get to know one another better.

**Enroll:** Please contact Paula Windschitl at 794-2310 before January 4<sup>th</sup> if you wish to participate in the 2008 group of pray-ers! You can be a "secret" partner or a "revealed" partner.

**Party RSVP:** If you wish to attend the party on January 6, please RSVP to Paula by phone or email no later than January 4<sup>th</sup>. 794-2310 or paulajwinds@yahoo.com

## 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]



**Remember  
Our  
Members  
in the  
Military**

# † Memorials †

## *In Memory of Rose Horton*

### Organ Fund

Harold & Bev Bartz – \$10.00  
Wally & Mary Ann Trebesch – \$5.00  
Gilbert & Millie Maas – \$10.00  
Anonymous – \$10.00

## *In Memory of Ella Strum*

### St. John's Choir

Dave & Char Zimmerman – \$5.00

## *In Memory of Gilbert Maas*

### St. John's Church

Nick & Diane Roman – \$25.00  
Lucille Orth – \$20.00  
Arnie & Arlene Hinderman – \$5.00  
Todd & Jodie Marotz – \$20.00  
Greg & Mary Bartz – \$25.00  
Alda Rydin – \$15.00

### St. John's School

Lyla Schottenbauer – \$5.00  
Gene & LaDonna Rodewald – \$10.00  
John & Kelly Burden – \$10.00  
Steve & Mickey Meyer – \$10.00  
Rich & Connie Trebesch – \$25.00  
Eugene & Joleen Huiras – \$4.00  
Kurk & Janet Kramer – \$10.00  
Marlene Lambrecht – \$10.00  
Family & Friends – \$386.00

### St. John's Debt Fund

Ralph & LaRae Grundmeyer – \$5.00

### St. John's Choir

Dave & Char Zimmerman – \$5.00  
Family & Friends – \$45.00

### St. John's Ladies Aid

Delbert & Eunice Sandhoefner – \$10.00  
Kevin & Marilyn Leopold – \$10.00

### St. John's Video Equipment

Brad & Kris Bode – \$10.00  
Family & Friends – \$240.00

### St. John's New School Fund

Steve & Paula Windschitl – \$25.00

### St. John's Organ Fund

Ron & Karen Shilling – \$10.00  
Elaine Black – \$10.00  
Wally & Dorothy Shellum – \$10.00  
Jim & Joyce Bloemke – \$5.00  
Lorna Havemeier – \$7.00  
Al & Hazel Maasz – \$10.00  
Harold & Bev Bartz – \$25.00  
Armin & Leona Lendt – \$5.00  
Shorty & Mary Jane Haus – \$10.00  
Linus & Marilyn Deibele – \$10.00  
Ken & Penny Mathiowetz – \$15.00  
Armin & June Grundmeyer – \$10.00  
Milda Dey – \$5.00  
Family & Friends – \$279.00

## *In Memory of Lois Steinhaus*

### Chair Lift

Earl & Bev Altmann – \$2,000.00

## *A Special Thank You*

Thanks to the anonymous donor who paid for all the peanuts for the children's Christmas treat bags.

Thanks to the Finance Committee for their work decorating the church for Christmas.

Thanks to Dan & Lynn Hacker and Hacker's Nursery for their donation of Christmas trees, roping and wreaths to beautify our church at Christmas.