

# The St. John's Messenger

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## More Time, By God's Grace

The passage of a New Year can bring both joy and sadness as we remember both the good times and the troubled times – the births, the funerals, the fellowship, new friends, and how each of us is a year older and a year closer to eternal youth.

At the New Year many also think about the future. Many people think about and the things they would like to change and they make a “resolution” to change. One New Year's resolution we could always have on our list is to strengthen our relationship with our Savior – reading our Bible, personal devotion, worshiping with fellow believers, Bible class, etc. Jesus promises that this is the only thing we need, that he will take care of everything else. (“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” - Matthew 6:33). It really is the only New Year's resolution we need.

We also look at what we have done in the past as the body of Christ here at St. John's. What have we done well in the past? Let's keep doing it. What could we improve? Let's consider how. Recently, a letter was sent to the entire congregation regarding the future of St. John's Church. The primary focus was a call to members to increase the time they spend in God's Word. That is the only way for our congregation to grow in a God-pleasing way. If you have any comments about that letter, please let me know.

Of all the joys we have experienced this past year the greatest is knowing that our future with our Lord is certain. We have joy filled eternity in heaven waiting for us. It is not what we deserve for the sins in our past, but it is the future God gives us because Jesus took the future we deserved.

In Christ our Savior,  
**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 13, 2010**

Present: Steve Windschitl, Jim Mielke, Van Tallman, Leo Derkowski, Jerry Dittbenner, Barry Hillmann, Dave Zimmerman and Pastor Draper.

Pastor Draper opened the meeting with devotion and a prayer.

### **Minutes**

Van Tallman/Jim Mielke made a motion to approve the November minutes. Motion carried.

### **Pastor's Report**

A proposed letter to the congregation requesting support in establishing a strategic planning committee was reviewed. The consensus is that the letter will provide a good start in re-energizing and revitalizing the church and school. It is suggested that the letter come from Pastor Draper; Steve Windschitl, President; and Jerry Dittbenner, Chairman, Elders. The suggestion was accepted. Pastor will send the letter soon.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Leo Derkowski/Dave Zimmerman made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

### **President's Report**

Since this was Steve Windshitl's first meeting as President, he had no formal report.

### **Board of Elders**

Jim Mielke/Jerry Dittbenner made a motion to transfer the membership of Eric Leopold to St. Paul's, New Ulm. Motion carried.

Dave Zimmerman/Van Tallman made a motion to transfer the memberships of Steve and Rena Wog to Risen Savior, Austin, TX. Motion carried.

Jim Mielke/Dave Zimmerman made a motion to accept Dan Hemming into membership via transfer from St. Paul's, New Ulm. Motion carried.

### **Principal & Board of Education**

The Board of Education recommends calling a male teacher from MLC for the 2011-2012 school year, with the idea that he would be groomed to assume the principal's position in two to three years. The Council will take this up at in the January meeting.

It was also noted that Stephanie Zastrow may have

to leave after her marriage, unless her future husband can sell his home in Wyoming. There is a possibility we will have to call a teacher to fill her position for the next school year.

### **Worship Committee**

No report

### **Maintenance Committee**

The school furnace needed repair recently – this is an unbudgeted expense.

### **Outreach**

No report.

### **Stewardship**

No report.

### **MVL/WELS**

MVL reported that, due to declining enrollment, two full-time positions will be cut next year.

There is a possibility that we do not have lay delegates representing St. John's at MVL. Pastor Draper will check to see if any members are currently appointed to that position.

### **Endowment and Trust Fund Committee**

No report.

### **Old Business**

A notice in the next few bulletins will ask that members convey their thoughts to Pastor Draper on whether or not to go to one service on Sunday. Only a few replies to a previous request have been received.

### **New Business**

None

The next scheduled council meeting: 7:30 Monday January 10, 2011.

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

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted  
Leo Derkowski, Secretary

## Preschool and Kindergarten News Miss Zastrow

Happy New Year! With the start of the new year, the question always comes up if an individual will make a New Year's resolution or not. Ironically enough, this ties into our first Bible Story lesson quite well. The first memory treasure this January is "I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'" -Psalm 122:1 As I read through the lesson of Mary and Martha, I thought it might just be a good idea to teach the Preschool and Kindergarten students about New Year's resolutions! Wikipedia.org defines a New Year's resolution as: "A commitment that an individual makes to a project or the reforming of a habit, often a new lifestyle change that is generally interpreted as advantageous." I ask you, what resolution could possibly be *more advantageous* than coming to church every Sunday for worship, Sunday School and Bible Study? Or dare we even say, coming to church regularly for Bible Study, Choir, Hosanna Circle, Ladies Aid, Council and Voter's meetings, aside from the normal Sunday worship, Sunday School and Bible Study? Considering all the ways we are blessed through these activities, there absolutely is no possible resolution that would be more advantageous to us. Wikipedia defines resolutions as "a project, reforming of a habit, lifestyle change." That is exactly what regular worship, Bible Study, etc. should also be. Unfortunately, children are at the mercy of their parents, and far too young to know the difference it is making in their lives. This is where prayer comes



in. Please pray for the families of these young children to become more and more and more involved at church. These children will be blessed through those experiences throughout the rest of their lives. Thank you!

December was a crazy month filled with many Christmas-related activities! We (especially Miss Zastrow!) are SO excited to get back to the "normal" school day routine. It makes for much calmer days and far more learning! We hope you enjoyed our Christmas Eve Program! We

spent a lot of time hoping to perfect our parts, so that we could share the story of Jesus' Birthday with you! It was a very special night for us, as every Christmas will be!

This January we will be learning the letters Z, C, E, and Y. We will be learning all about the earth and the seasons, all kinds of weather and what we can do to help our earth to stay clean! We want to take care of the beautiful creation that God has given us! We will also be visiting our friends at Ross Park at the end of January. This year we have gone for a visit to Ross Park almost every month. We are establishing friendships with many of the residents and are truly enjoying our time spent with them! What a great opportunity to live so close to so many wonderful people who love to have us visit and hear us sing the gospel message to them! Even 3, 4, 5, and 6 year old children are involved in regular witnessing! God is so good!



## Grades 1-5 News Mrs. Halvorson

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

In our Bible lessons we continue to learn about Jesus' public ministry. It is exciting that the younger children are able to read most of the words in the Bible stories now.

This month in Math class Grade one will be learning how to read a thermometer, add 2-digit numbers, and tally. Grade two will practice adding 2-digit numbers with re-grouping as well as begin work with fractions. Grade 3 will learn about squaring numbers and comparing fractions while grade 4 measures liquids and solids. Grade 5 will work with decimals, reducing fractions and prime and composite numbers.

In Reading class Grade One will begin longer stories this month. We are proud that we are able to use our Phonics rules in our writing and that we know many Word families now. Grade Two will do an author study of Marc Brown (Arthur books.) Grade 3 will enjoy a fanciful winter novel entitled Mr. Popper's Penguins while grade 5 will delve into

a more serious theme with the book Freedom Train.

Grades 1-2 will study Polar Regions this month in Science We will learn about the northern Arctic regions as well as arctic animals and penguins in Antarctica.

Stay warm!



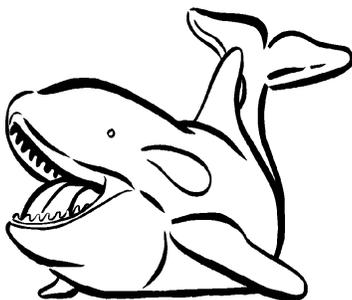
### Grades 3-5 News Mrs. Brown

Between preparing for the Christmas Eve Children's Program, the snow days, late starts, and early releases (due to weather) this last month, you might be surprised to hear that we've actually had time for our classes! The students have been working hard to get things done and stay focused this past month.

Christ Light (grades 4-5): Learning about the miracles Jesus performed while on earth not only show us that he is God, but that he cares for all people. The students have great discussions during these lessons as we look at how to apply what we've read in the Bible to our own lives. My prayer for them is that they do apply what we discussed to their lives.

Science (grades 4-5) Newton's Cradle, catapults, and launchers wrapped up our unit on "Forces". The students reviewed simple/complex machines and the scientific definition of "work".

Science (grade 3) What amazing creatures God has placed in the ocean! The third grade studied currents and tides during class and then worked on researching and writing a report on an ocean animal of their choice. They were excited to learn that there are still areas of the ocean yet to be explored and that new sea creatures are still being discovered... outer space is not the "final frontier".



Minnesota History (grade 5) Three main industries helped to form Minnesota: flour (Charles Pillsbury), lumber, and iron mining. The students spent time looking at the natural resources, machines, people, and ideas that brought these industries to Minnesota.

Social Studies (grades 3-4) Settling in the Midwest in the early 1800's had many challenges from traveling in Conestoga wagons, breaking sod, working to be self-sufficient and dealing with the Lakota Indians. The students are learning that you had to be tough to live in the Midwest, and there were also many natural resources that continued to bring people west.

### Ladies Aid



The Ladies Aid met on Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 2 p.m. For their monthly meeting and their Christmas party. We were entertained by the school children with their recitations and Christmas carols. The story of the first Christmas as told by the children served as our devotion. It is so wonderful to hear the children sing and we thank them and their teachers for their efforts.

### Christmas Program

We thank the Hosanna Circle for decorating the basement in time for our party. Eunice Sandhoefner is resigning from sending cards to our visitors who sign the guest book. Eunice has been so dedicated for many years and has sent over 1000 cards. Eileen Schroeder volunteered to take over the duty beginning in December. Both ladies deserve a big thank you!

A motion was made, seconded and passed to reimburse the church for the cost of the subscription for 25 copies of the Forward in Christ magazine and 5 copies of the large print Meditation booklet. The total cost in \$315.00. This has been a project of the Ladies Aid in the past, but was inadvertently paid for by the church earlier this year.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. Come join us!

Marilyn Deibele  
Secretary



## Hosanna Circle

The December meeting for Hosanna Circle took place on November 29<sup>th</sup> so the basement of the church could be decorated for the Christmas season. The weather that night turned out to be quite a snowy one and some of us could not help. Thank you to those who stayed, the basement looks very nice.

Hosanna Circle will be hosting a brunch as the Prayer Pals of St. John's ends for 2010. We will meet at Sallie Draper's home right after the service on January 16<sup>th</sup>. If you have a Prayer Pal and would like to remember her at this time with a special gift, card, or encouragement please come. This invitation is also for any St. John's women who would like to join us for the 2011 year.

We will be planning a "Bad Girls of the Bible" event for February, the exact date and time will be announced in the February Newsletter.

St. John's is hosting the LWMS Spring Rally on April 9<sup>th</sup>. The theme for that day is "South of the Border".

Our next Hosanna Circle meeting is January 6, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in the church basement. If you would like to join us, we welcome you.

Your sisters in Christ,

Pam Dittbenner and Connie Trebesch



## Memorials

### In Memory of Roy Suker

Melvin & Lois Lendt - \$5.00  
Anonymous - \$20.00

### Organ Fund

Delbert & Eunice Sandhoefner - \$50.00



### Poinsettias Given by

Mike & Barb Lux  
Jerry & Jan Dittbenner  
Marlys Lochner  
Brad & LeAnn Berkner  
Steve & Paula Windschitl  
Melvin & Lois Lendt – In memory of the parents of  
Melvin & Lois and of twin daughters  
Harold & Bev Bartz  
Steve & Mickey Meyer  
The family of Wally Trebesch, in his memory  
Earl & Bev Altmann/Barry, Lisa & Andrew  
Hillmann - in memory of Lois Steinhaus (Bev's  
sister)  
Dennis & Pam Dittbenner  
Arlene Jensen  
Pastor Draper & family – in memory of Pete Wilson  
(Sallie's dad)