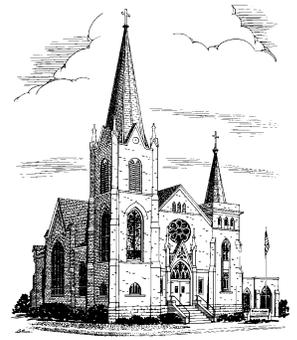


The St. John's Messenger



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

JANUARY 2010

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December 21, 2009

Dear Parents and Member of St. John's Lutheran Congregation,

Do you remember what happened back in 1885? All of us that are reading this note were not around. Yet, something historical and important happened at this place that we call a Lutheran school during that year. Anybody want to take a guess? If you guessed that our school began in that year, you would be correct. This school year marks the 125th anniversary of our school's existence. We would like to celebrate and thank God for the many years of His grace and ask Him to guide us in the next 125 years (if God wills it).

With this letter, we are asking for individuals to step forward and suggest ways in which we might celebrate this wondrous occasion. I think for starters, we should have a worship service and choirs sing. How about a special anniversary dinner? Should we have a guest preacher? Should previous teachers and pastors be invited back for the occasion? Tentatively, Pastor and I have circled May 23rd as the suggested date of our celebration.

Pastor Draper and Mr. Schultz are looking for your input. Jot a few notes down, e-mail or mail them to either of us and indicate if you would like to be on the planning committee for such an event. Share with us any other things that you feel should be included for this occasion. We would like your feedback by January 15th (Friday) so actual planning meetings can take place after the Christmas holiday.

Serving Christ,

Pastor Draper
Mr. Schultz

pastor@christinsight.com
jeff.schultz@stjohnsse.com

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 14, 2009

Present: Leo Derkowski, Paul Maasz, Jeff Schultz, Barry Hillmann, Dave Zimmerman, Jim Mielke, Jerry Dittbenner and Pastor Draper.

Pastor Draper opened the meeting with devotion and a prayer.

Minutes

Leo Derkowski/Jerry Dittbenner made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 2009 meeting. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

No formal report was submitted.

Treasurer's Report

Jim Mielke/Dave Zimmerman made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

President's Report

No report

Board of Elders

Leo Derkowski/Jim Mielke made a motion to grant a release to the Tom (Fabian) Maher family. Motion carried.

Principal & Board of Education

Mr. Schultz reviewed the Christmas season activities. Terranova testing results showed all grades performing at or above grade level. The teachers have started a project to document the curriculum and activities for all subjects taught at the school as suggested by Minnesota statutes. This project will take several years to complete. The process for applying for a pre-school license continues. The first step is to have a fire safety inspection. The findings and recommendations from the inspection will provide information on changes that may need to be made to comply with licensure requirements. The Board of Education will be asked to review continuing education requirements for the teachers and make a recommendation as how budgeted funds are to be allocated.

Worship Committee

Church Christmas decorations are completed.

Maintenance Committee

No formal report. Several small maintenance projects have been completed. Leo Derkowski will look into replacing the drinking fountains or obtaining a bottled water dispenser for both the church and school.

Outreach

Two outreach meetings have been held. Services are now broadcast on cable in Springfield. The committee will begin a planning process with a goal to have a proposed plan in 90 days.

Stewardship

No formal report.

Endowment and Trust Fund Committee

No report.

MVL/WELS

No reports.

Old Business

Jim Mielke will create a small audit committee and review the financial proceedings for the past year.

New Business

None

Next council meeting: 7:30 Monday January 11, 2010.

Leo Derkowski/Dave Zimmerman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Leo Derkowski, Secretary

Principal's Report

Mr. Jeff Schultz

The holiday season is now upon us. I'm sure that you have already seen the commercials on television proclaiming the time has come for you to go shopping for those on your list. We are told that this is a season of giving and receiving, a time of joy and happiness.

The power of advertising is strong. Haven't you been convinced to buy one of those items for \$19.95 or to try one of the new gizmos that supposedly make your life easier?

Advertisements that have a certain lingo or logo take residence in our minds. Isn't it easy to remember that red easy button for Staples or the Capital One credit card ad showing you that your own picture can be on it?

Our God had many ways to "advertise" for the upcoming birth of His Son. He spoke through many patriarchs and prophets throughout the Old Testament many years before the actual event took place. Can you imagine that first Christmas evening while the shepherds were tending their flocks, the choir of angels appeared announcing the Savior's birth? "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11) Talk about emphatic and startling, but yet a comforting announcement for those shepherds and the rest of the world!

Advertisements come and go, but this one stands the test of time. What a blessing to be given a Savior that would deliver us from sin, death and the power of the devil.

My prayer is that each of you remember what a special gift that this was from our heavenly Father. Rejoice in the fact that God's gift keeps on giving us benefits, not just for a month- its special for eternity! Praise the Lord!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,
Principal Jeffrey Schultz



December is quite a busy month in the fifth-eighth grade classroom. Aside from getting ready for the Christmas service on December 24, we are involved in many activities throughout our many subject areas. Here is a brief rundown of those activities:

Grades 7-8

In Algebra 1/2, we are investigating percents, order of operations and volume. Scientific notation and working with different forms of measurement are keeping the 7th graders on their toes in Math 87. In History class, we are studying the US Constitution and what it means to us and for our country. English class is concentrating on verbs and their tenses as well as the differences between the active and passive voice. In Bible History, we are looking at the many miracles that Jesus performed and the fact that many did not believe or accept Jesus as the promised Savior. Science has brought us into a study of the animal kingdom, while literature has concentrated on the novel, "Where the Red Fern Grows."

Grades 5-6

In math, we are focusing on fractions and reviewing place value. Social Studies has been focusing on the time when Minnesota became a state and our involvement in the American Civil War. English class has brought us to a study of adjectives and troublesome verb pairs. Our Christ-Light lessons have been concentrating on Moses and the story of the Children of Israel. Our literature class has been reading a book entitled "Loser". This story involves a boy who can't do anything right and figures out the proper way to make relationships with others. Science has been focusing on a study of waves, currents and wind.

Grades 5-8 are learning how to make videos, edit photos, and make their own web pages in computer classes on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. In art, we have been making cards for our shut-in members and also making star ornaments.

Preschool and Kindergarten News

Miss Zastrow

January is here! January always brings well-rested children back to school, eager to begin the second half of the school year! The Christmas vacation time is always welcome. I always find myself not too excited about the start of school again, however once the children fill the building, excitement builds and it is indeed a good thing to get back to the routine!

During the month of January, we are learning more Bible stories about the Israelites. The tabernacle, the twelve spies, and the bronze snake are just some of the stories we are learning about. At the end of the month we will hear about the God bringing His people to the Promised Land! One of our memory treasures this month especially reminds us to... "Trust in the Lord with all your heart" --Proverbs 3:5 Our God is awesome! He *always* keeps his promises!

We are learning the letters U, Z, C, and E this month. We are also learning all about our earth! From the four seasons, to the rain, snow and wind, to the different landforms that God has placed on the earth... it is no secret! God is our awesome creator!

Have a Blessed New Year!

Grades 1-4 News

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.

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. Grade 4 will be reading some historical fiction that coincides with their study of the Revolutionary War period in our country.

JANUARY

Grade 1-2 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!

Grades 3-6 News

Mrs. Brown's

Grades 5-6

Christ Light: The Israelites are free! By God's almighty hand they were delivered from the Egyptian in an amazing way. The students were awed by hearing again how God showed his power in his dealings with the Egyptians from the plagues and the Passover to the destruction of the Egyptian army in the Red Sea. God protected, guided, and provided for his special people. Through these lessons we have been reminded that God also takes care of us by providing for our needs and protecting us from danger and the devil.

Science: The students have completed their study of the world's oceans. They ended their unit with presentations on ocean topics of their choice. The presentations included posters or using the computer for their presentations (wikipedia/power point). The students agree that the oceans are another amazing part of God's creation.

Grades 3-4

Science: Students recognized structural and behavioral adaptations God gave animals in order to survive. They especially enjoyed learning about the use of camouflage and even making and hiding their own camouflaged insects. "Extinct" and "endangered" were two main vocabulary words. Students did activities to demonstrate the effect good/bad weather and careful/destructive human activities have on animal populations.

Social Studies: Our second unit of the school year is looking at the environment, culture, and history of the Northeastern region of the United States, from Maine to Pennsylvania, to Maryland. What an amazing area, so full of natural variety and rich history. Our first lessons taught us about the Appalachian Mountains and coastal plains. Next we will be studying the role of fishing as part of this area's history and present day economy.

Ladies' Aid

The Ladies' Aid met on December 2nd for their Christmas party and regular monthly meeting. The basement was beautifully decorated! We thank all who helped in any way.

The school children entertained us with their Christmas carols and recitations. We thank the children and their teachers for their efforts. It is a tradition we look forward to each Christmas.

Pastor Draper's devotion was from Luke 5:1-11. It was the Miracle of Jesus in the net full of fishes and the calling of the first disciples.



The Paschal candle and stand fund has been growing due to generous memorials. We have been looking at different selections in catalogs. Pastor Draper explained that the word paschal is Hebrew for Passover. The candle represents sacrifices of the Cross. The candle would be lit on Easter as well as other occasions such as baptisms and funerals.

Christmas Party

Block 4 is up to serve.

Our next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 6th, at 2PM. Come join us!

Marilyn Deibele
Secretary

Hosanna Circle

We held our meeting on December 3rd at 7:00 pm in the church basement. Pastor shared a bible study with us about being Fishers of Men. How timely this message is at this time of year. So many people feel lost and alone. We all need to be Fishers of Men the year round and share the wonderful message of God's love for us all. Thank you, Pastor.

We started decorating the basement for our Advent by Candlelight dinner held on December 6th. Thank you to all who helped make that evening so special. Hosanna Circle is planning to put together a survey of questions about what you enjoyed, what can we do to make this an even more joyous time. When the survey is ready, please let us know your opinion. We will have the survey on a table in the narthex after our January meeting.

The Elders decorated the Church on December 5th and we thank them for a fabulous job. Our Church is beautiful and reflects the reason for the season, **OUR SAVIOR COMING TO EARTH TO SAVE US ALL FROM OUR SINS.**

Let's make 2010 a year to touch as many lives as possible with the Lord's love and kindness for our fellowman. Invite someone to church, offer to pick them up. Volunteer to help your neighbor or co-worker do some task they are struggling with. Let's live our lives in such a way that the "LIGHT" shines through us.

Our next meeting will be held on January 7th. Please come if you wish.

Your Sisters in Christ,
Pam Dittbenner and Connie Trebesch

† Memorials †

In Memory of Harley Hinrichs
(brother of Vernon Hinrichs)

Organ Fund

Larry & Carrie Hansen 10.00

In Memory of Walter Trebesch

Organ Fund

Arla Lehnert 10.00
Arno & Orpha Lendt 5.00
Delbert & Eunice Sandhoefner 10.00
Arnie Guhlke 10.00
Dan & Lynn Hacker 10.00
Shorty & Mary Jayne Haus 5.00
Dennis & Pam Dittbenner 10.00
Neoma Schmidt 5.00
Chuck, Deloris & David Menk 15.00
Armin & June Grundmeyer 10.00
Ralph Grundmeyer 10.00
Melvin & Lois Lendt 5.00
Doug Schwartz 10.00
Don & Ruby Guhlke 20.00
Doc & Marilyn Deibele 20.00
Erv & Barb Windschitl 5.00
Pete & Lois Windschitl 5.00
Bob Evans (Ag Star) 35.00
Helen Haala 5.00
Lynn & Joyce Krenz 5.00
Dan & Deanne Lendt 5.00
John & Kathy Covington 10.00
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Ploehn 10.00
Gerald & Jo Tumbleson (Corn Growers) 5.00
Duane & Toni Laffrenzen 10.00
Leo & Marcia Derkowski 10.00

St. John's School

Steve & Mickey Meyer 10.00
Kelly Burden 3.00
Joleen Huiras 5.00
Layne & Sara Evers 10.00
Don & Laurie Halvorson 10.00
Kosmatka Family 2.00
Richard & Phyllis Schowieller 20.00
Bob & Missy Maas & family 25.00
John Burden & family 20.00
Todd & Jodie Marotz & family 10.00

New School Building Fund

Steve & Paula Windschitl 25.00

Building Fund

La Monte & Elaine Helget 5.00

St. John's Ladies' Aid

Pastor & Sallie Draper 25.00

Paschal Candle

Mike & Barb Lux 20.00
Alvin & Hazel Maasz 10.00
Milda Dey 5.00
Tom & Charlene Weilage 10.00
Arlene Harrison 10.00
Jim & Joyce Bloemke 5.00
Daryl & Nanette Schwartz 20.00
Vern & Betty Hinrichs 20.00
Schwartz Farms 15.00
Greg & Mary Bartz 20.00
Beverly Wischstadt 5.00
Arleen Seifert 5.00
Marjorie Greeley 10.00
Harill & Eileen Schroeder 5.00
Mike & Darlene Sittlow 20.00
Lorna Havemeier 10.00
Delores Kruger 1.00
LaRae Grundmeyer 1.00
Violet Schloman 5.00
Marlys Lochner 10.00
Violet Krebs, Verna Mude, Leona Wog &
Sonny & Arlene Vogel 20.00
John & Helen Toomey 25.00
Elaine Sorenson 3.00
Ed & Charyl Heideman 5.00
Andrew & Rita Lochner 15.00
Dorothy Shellum 6.00
Ardis Christensen 10.00
Gordy & Nancy Erickson 20.00
Matt & Chris Steffen 5.00
Jon & Pam Melby & family 20.00
Jim & Gail Lendt 10.00
Eloise Finstad 10.00
Greg & Michelle Lindstedt 20.00
Brad & Nancy Bartz & family 50.00
Harold & Bev Bartz 25.00
Ken & Penny Mathiowetz 10.00
Arnie & Arlene Hinderman 10.00
Kevin & Marilyn Leopold 10.00
Curtis & Carol Meinzer 10.00
Jon & Doreen Ziesmer 10.00
Gary & Heidi Kuelbs 10.00
Commerford Agronomics 20.00
Mark & Sue Radel 20.00
Bradley & Elen Stark 10.00
Dave & Char Zimmerman 5.00
Melvin & Lois Lendt 10.00

Wes & Laurie Helget 5.00
 Bernice Trebesch Syverson 10.00
 Bruce & Shannon Kuelbs 20.00
 DuWayne & Mary Lou Witte 5.00
 Jim & Sarah Mielke 20.00
 Armin & Leona Lendt 5.00
 Roger & Marsha Marti, Nora Haber 10.00
 Allen & Leona Weckworth 5.00
 Harold Trebesch 5.00
 Barry, Lisa & Andrew Hillmann 10.00
 Earl & Bev Altmann 10.00
 Hazel Meinert 5.00
 Milo & Arlene Christensen 5.00
 Marie Vollmer 10.00
 Pastor & Rosie Liggett 20.00



Poinsettias Given By
 Steve and Paula Windschitl
 Pastor and Sallie Draper
 Mike and Barb Lux
 Dennis and Pam Dittbenner
 Jeff and Heidi Schultz
 Steve and Mickey Meyer
 Marlys Lochner
 Mike and Janet Crabtree
 Lois and Melvin Lendt
 Jerry and Pam Dittbenner
 Leo and Marcia Derkowski
 Don and Ruby Guhlke
 Bill, Lois and Jerry Mibrodt

SCRIP

Shop with Scrip in January and win a Subway meal - As a special bonus for everyone purchasing Scrip gift cards in January, there will be a drawing for a \$10 Subway gift card. Contact Sallie Draper at 794-4500 to place your order. Special thanks to everyone who purchased last month! We had over \$4,000 in sales which generated over \$150 of proceeds for St. John's School.

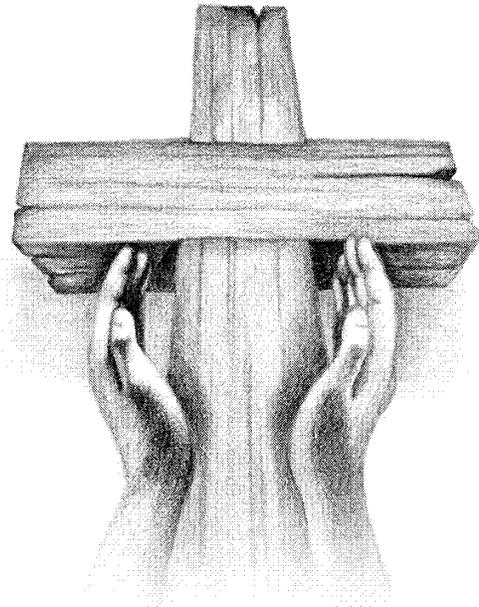


Prayer Pals

The 2009 Prayer Pals will be revealed and sign ups for 2010 Prayer Pals will be collected at our annual Prayer Pal Party scheduled for January 17th at 2 p.m. at the W. W. Smith Inn, 101 Linden St. SW in Sleepy Eye, home of Leo and Marcia Derkowski. Prayer Pal sign up forms are available in the back of church. All women of St. John's are invited to participate in this special opportunity to encourage a Christian sister with prayer throughout 2010. Contact Sallie Draper if you have any questions about the Prayer Pal program.

Come, Join Us For...

*Where Two or Three Come Together:
 the Christian in Conflict*



A presentation given by:
 Prof. Mark Paustian

Monday, February 22nd at 7 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran Church, Sleepy Eye
 221 Walnut St. SE
 (507) 794-6200

Continuing Education Units
 will be available!