



The St. John's Messenger

Monthly Newsletter

St. John's Lutheran Church & School

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Sleepy Eye, MN 56085

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A Time to Ponder Time

Have you ever thought about time? I don't mean, "What time is it?" or "What time do we eat?". I mean have you ever thought about the flow of time – how time continues to pass from one day to the next and from one year to the next.

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, the broken relationships, 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 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 – read our Bible, have personal devotion, worship with fellow believers, etc. Jesus promises that this is the only thing we need, that he will take care of all our needs. ("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. As your pastor, what could I improve? I am always willing to receive constructive feedback so that I can change, and the gospel ministry here at St. John's can change for the better.

In January we will have opportunities to think about the future of St. John's Lutheran Church and how we can change for the better. On January 13th Pastor Tim Flunker will return to St. John's to lead an Awareness Session on Hispanic Outreach. On January 31st all members are invited to a Long Range Planning meeting where will consider some major questions regarding the direction ministry should take at St. John's.

Of all the joyful times we have experienced this past year the greatest is knowing that our future is certain. We have a 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. Now, how do we share that good news with others? It is time for us to decide.

In the name of Christ our King,
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 8, 2008

Present: Paul Maasz, Jim Mielke, Van Tallmann, Barry Hillmann, Kurk Kramer and Pastor Draper.

Pastor Draper opened the meeting with a devotion from Romans 1:7.

Minutes

Jim Mielke/Barry Hillmann made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 2008 meeting. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

Pastor has money from the Ladies' Aid to refinish the candle holders in front of church. A motion was made by Jim Mielke/Van Tallmann to transfer out Danielle (Hammerschmidt) Firlie to Oregon. Motion carried. A motion was made by Van Tallmann/Jim Mielke to transfer in Jack and Judy Draper and Mike and Janet Crabtree. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

No report, LeAnn was on vacation.

President's Report

No report

Board of Elders

No report

Principal & Board of Education

Report was submitted and read

Worship Committee

There was suggestion to have a children's sermon with Pastor. No formal report was submitted.

Maintenance Committee

Snow removal was discussed. It was suggested that someone, either a volunteer or hire someone to clean the sidewalks before school starts.

Outreach

Pastor Flunker's follow up on Hispanic Outreach will be held January 10, 2009 in St. James including lunch in which we are invited to.

Stewardship

No report

Endowment and Trust Fund Committee

No report

MVL/WELS

MVL – It was discussed to cut one teacher for next year.

WELS – no report

Old Business

None

New Business

The cost to repair the folding machine in the office is approximately \$150.00 for parts.

Leo will write a thank you note to Patterson Jewelry for the repair of the Communion tray at no cost.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 12, 2008 at 7:30 PM.

Jim Mielke/Van Tallmann made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Barry Hillmann, Acting Secretary



Prayer Pal Party

Prayer Pals will hold their annual party in the church basement on January 11, 2009 after the second service. A brunch-style luncheon will be held during which gifts will be exchanged and secret pals revealed. All ladies who are currently in the program will receive a postcard with more information about this event. Anyone interested



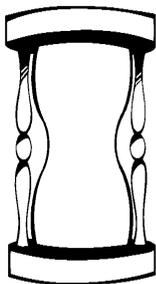
in joining in is welcome to join us that day as well. For planning purposes, please contact Paula Windschitl, 794-2310 by January 4th if you wish to attend.

Thank You

A special thank you to Patterson's Jewelry in New Ulm for repairing our communionware.

Newsletter Reminder

**The Newsletter
Deadline is
January 19th.**



Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid met on Wednesday, December 3rd for their regular scheduled meeting. It was also our Christmas Party. Thanks to the Hosanna Circle for the beautifully decorated room.

The school children entertained us with their Christmas songs and narration. It is a tradition we look forward to. We thank the children and their teachers for sharing their talents with us. We treated them with a decorated cupcake.



*Christmas
Program*

Our devotion led by Pastor Draper was from the book of Job, chapter 2, "Job's Three Friends".

The Craft and Bake sale held on December 7th was a success. Thank you to all who participated. The proceeds will be used to fund our various projects.

Block 2 is up next to serve.

Our next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 7th at 2PM. All ladies of the congregation are invited to join us!

Marilyn Deibele, Secretary

Band Dances

Wisconsin Lutheran College Concert Band
2009 Winter Concert Tour

Performing
@ MVL
January 7th
7PM



PRINCIPAL'S ARTICLE
ST. JOHN'S LES

Lose some weight, break that nasty habit, improve a relationship, etc. etc. Resolutions, making a promise to yourself, or at least a reasonable effort, to improve on some aspect of your life. Sound familiar at this time of the year? We all have made them, or at least given consideration to making them.

So why start this month's article with thoughts on resolutions? As this school year is now about halfway completed, I begin to think about the things that need to be done for the next school year. These things include looking at making some changes, making some improvements, deciding on what things need to be ordered and reordered. Which subject in the curriculum needs to be reviewed? What are the coming year's enrollment numbers looking like? What will the Board of Education recommend in regards to filling an upcoming faculty position? Will we need to make some budget adjustments? So many things that need to be considered and determined.

Unlike some of our personal resolutions which may not go beyond the weeks or months that follow, and really don't change our personal lives very much whether we keep them or not; the resolutions that are made in regards to every young person's education need to be made with forethought, seriousness, and resolve to make them "stick". So the many things that will be considered, discussed, and decided here at St. John's LES will be done with the thought of what is going to be best for each and every student for the coming year and years.

January is the month that starts a period of time in the school year that can seem to drag on for some. Maybe that's because it follows all the activities of December, maybe it's because it is in the middle of the winter. Maybe it's because we wish we were on some tropical island. Whatever the case, it is still a time in the school year that things continue to move forward for faculty and students, and there are still many things that are part of every day school life, and here are some of them: Grades 6-8 visiting the Sleepy Eye Care Center residents, bowling on Fridays at the Sleepy Eye Bowling Alley, the end of the second quarter and report cards being sent home, basketball games at Mankato, Nicollet, and Fairfax. A new mission project for the students involving missions in Japan, and a few days of "no school" mixed in over the course of the month. The activities of this school year continue each week, as does the planning for the school year to come.



Preschool and Kindergarten

Miss Zastrow

Happy New Year! Our Lord has blessed us with another year! 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 some of the New Testament stories. "Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and obey it." -Luke 11:28 is one of our memory treasures this month. What a great reminder, especially right after Christmas, for us to continually read and learn God's Word above all things. Bible Story time is always the highlight of every day in Preschool and Kindergarten. I learn so much from my students, just seeing their childlike faith every day at school.

The Preschoolers are learning about transportation and our community this month. Our letter people, Ms. V and Ms. T will also be teaching us about seeds and plants, beginning at the end of January.

Kindergarten has been learning all about our community and the different places and jobs that can be found within our community. We are also learning about transportation, just like preschool. Beginning at the end of January, we will begin a unit on the earth and weather!

Have a Blessed New Year!



Grades 1-2

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 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.

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 Kevin Henkes and Marc Brown (Arthur books.)



We will study Polar Regions this month. We will learn about Antarctica and the Arctic regions as well as Arctic animals and Penguins in Antarctica.

Stay warm!

January

Hosanna Circle

Hosanna Circle met on Monday, December 1 at 7:00 p.m. There were 4 members present. Pastor led us in Bible Study. We discussed how best to handle the blankets that Thrivent donated to our congregation. Some of our shut-ins will be receiving those blankets.

We decorated the Christmas tree in the basement as well as put up the garland and other decorations in time for the Ladies Aid Christmas meeting.

In our discussion, we talked about the Christmas bags for the children on Christmas Eve. Sallie Draper and her boys have graciously offered to stuff the bags again this year. Thank you Sallie, Stanley, Luke and Benjamin. Connie Trebesch will be getting the peanuts, Pam Dittbenner will be getting the bags and we are asking the Congregation for money donations for whatever else needs to go into those bags. Anyone willing to donate bags of candy is asked to please leave your donations on the counter in the kitchen and mark it for the Children's bags.



Laurie Halvorson is handling the Caring Tree located in the Narthax. Please consider taking a card and visiting one of our shut-ins. Instructions are printed next to the tree for those who are interested in helping out and sharing some of their time with our fellow Congregation members.

Our next meeting is January 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the church basement where we will undecorate the basement and with any time left, we will start working on the new banners. Anyone interested in working on them is asked to come, bring your talents and let's beautify our church and praise the Lord with gladness.

Your sisters in Christ,

Pam Dittbenner and Connie Trebesch

† Memorials †

Julie Brown
St. John's Choir
Shareen Halvorson – \$25.00

*From the Lucille & Herbert
Orth Family*
Organ Fund – \$5,500.00
Ladies's Aid to refinish brass pieces on the altar – \$500.00

Marion Albrecht
Daughter of former pastor Rev. William Albrecht
Organ Fund
Marie Anderson Sprengler – \$25.00

*In thanksgiving to God
for my successful radiation treatment*
Phase 2 Organ Fund – \$100.00
Prof. Ron Shilling

Joyce Sternberg
Mother of Marcia Derkowski
Organ Fund
Greg & Mary Bartz – \$15.00
Harold & Bev Bartz – \$20.00
Wally & Mary Ann Trebesch – \$10.00
Dennis & Pam Dittbenner – \$10.00
Pastor & Sallie Draper – \$10.00
Arnie & Arlene Hinderman – \$5.00
Delbert & Eunice Sandhoefner – \$10.00
Doc & Marilyn Deibele – \$5.00
Mark & Sandy Beito – \$20.00

New School Building Fund
Steve & Paula Windschitl – \$25.00

Choir
Dave & Char Zimmerman – \$5.00
Elaine Keim – \$5.00

Altar Brass Refinishing Fund
Brad & LeAnn Berkner – \$10.00

In honor of Harrill & Eileen Schroeder
Choir Fund – \$25.00
Jane Lebens, Shirley Swenson, Susan Swenson



Grades 3-5
Mrs. Rosenow

**Written by "6th – 8th
Grade Students"**

December was a very busy month for our class! Most of our class could spend all day playing in the snow, regardless of the temperatures, but we also spend quality time doing classes as well. In Hymnology, we have learned a few Christmas hymns (or have learned more verses) to expand our repertoire of songs of praise to our Lord. We loved practicing "Oh Come, All Ye Faithful" and "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come." They were also excessively proud to sing in two part harmony in church with "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

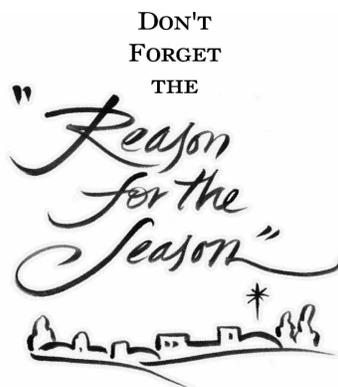
A large portion of our time this month was spent practicing for the Christmas service. Everyday we had a little "private practice" time and "buddy practice" time to help spread out the amount of memorizing. We've worked very hard at trying not to sound monotone while reciting.

In our Literature Groups we finished reading two new books. Group One read *There's a Hamster in My Lunchbox!* and enjoyed its humorous moments. Group Two read *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* and enjoyed the mystery and also enjoyed getting into some art history with it.

Social Studies and Science ended the month with big project reports. In Social Studies, the students were in charge of increasing the tourism for their selected state by showing all the cool things to do and learn about their state. It was fun hearing things like, "Wow, did you know..." for every little detail that they discovered.

Science has been covering oceans and finished off with a research on ocean animals. The students loved the chance to work at their own paces and do research on interesting animals.

It is sometimes easy to get caught up in the Christmas rush but thank God for our opportunities to study his Word and be brought back to the true reason for our joy.



Bible History

In Bible History we are doing Tabernacles. Some of us has to did larger scale items, some did smaller. For instance, the whole Tabernacle , or parts of the Tabernacle, like the Holy Place, the Holy of Holies, the gate, or the walls. Some of us did the interior parts with the furnishings like the alter of incense, the Ark of the Covenant, the Table of Show bread, and others.

6-8th Grade Science

As we start the new year, we are starting a new science book, Earth Science. We finished up the study of Life Science where we studied the reproductive system, the human life cycle and the endocrine system, circulatory system and others.

Phy Ed

In phy ed we have been going bowling. We have been taking bowling tests and about half the class is done with those. In the tests we score actual bowling games. We learned that when you score in bowling, strikes are 10 plus the next 2 balls and spares are 10 plus the next ball. Bowling is really fun!

6-8th Art Projects

In Art class, we have been working on a Christmas tree made out of Popsicle sticks. The sticks spiral around a dowel, which is the center of the tree. The sticks are cut various lengths, to make it thinner, as it ascends. We loved doing this project for our parent's Christmas present!

We also made hand wreaths, where we shaped a wire into a circle, then put our hands on a green sheet of paper, and traced them. Then we glued the paper hands on to the wire. Then we decorated it with puff balls. This project was called "Hand Wreathes"

We also did a stencil coloring of advent candles. The color of these candles were limited to Purple, Blue, and Red. The border was to be colored either red or green. The border was 1 inch thick. This project was done with a piece of cardboard under the poster, and then we rubbed a crayon on its side over it, which brought out the shapes of the candle.

6-8th Grade Literature

We just finished "Bound for Oregon", a story about a little girl going to Oregon with her family on the Oregon Trail. It explained the hardships of traveling in covered wagons in the 1800s. We recently started a new book called "The Land". It's about a boy named Paul who has a colored mom and a white dad. Paul meets a boy named Mitchell, who sticks up for him and helps him as he works toward his goal to buy his dream land somewhere that he can call his own.

World History

We are learning about Ancient China. First we learned about its Geography and the early Chinese dynasties. We found out that the size of China is about the size of the U.S.A! After that we learned about the Zhou dynasty and its new ideas. After that we learned about the Qin Dynasty. The great Wall of China was all made by hand! Now we are learning about the Han dynasty.

Hymnology

For hymnology we have been memorizing our songs and recitation for the Christmas Eve service.

Geography

In geography, we are learning about Russia and the Eurasian Republics. We have already learned about their cultural geography, ethnic groups, different kinds of people, population, and cities.



Recently, we learned about what the Eurasian Republics and Europe are like today. In that section we covered economies, agriculture, industry, and transportation.

In our next unit, we will cover the land, the climate, and vegetation of these areas. At the end of the lessons we will have a review sheet and book assignments.

6-8 Grade Current Events

We are studying how serious the effects of inhalants and tobacco are. We also learned about the major categories of inhalants which are volatile gases, solvents, aerosols, nitrates, and anesthetic gases.

7-8 Grade American History

Do you recall what started the First World War? Well after studying it in American History, we could tell you that Franz Ferdinand and his wife were assassinated. That was the beginning but not even near the end. Before the end, the United States entered the war and over 10 million people died in battle. In the new year,

we will learn about America's hard times during the Great Depression, and how they got through it. We will also do extensive studies of the Second World War, with some hands on projects.

6th Grade Spelling

In spelling we were learning about easily confused words. For example words like since and sense. Those get mixed up a lot. We also learned about using just enough letters in certain words. Examples would be words like doesn't and helicopter. This week we are learning about plurals.

7th Grade Spelling

We just finished Greek word parts, vowels in final syllables, vowels in unstressed syllables, words with -ice, -ise, and -ize, and compound words. Our next lesson will be suffixes with -ary, -ery, and -ory.

8th Grade Spelling

Last week we learned about Latin and Greek word parts. We learned that scrib, script, and graph mean "write", and voc and vok mean "call", loq means "speak". Some words are, scribble, manuscript, and advocate.

This week we are learning word that are easily confused. For example, collage, college, hardy, and hearty. And next week we are learning about words from many cultures. Some examples are banjo, macramé, and ukulele.

6th Grade Math

This month we had a number of new math lessons. We learned to add and subtract fractions, mentally divide decimal numbers by 10 and 100, and simplifying fractions. Also, we learned common denominators part 1 and 2 and looked at the decimal chart to help us in dividing, adding, subtract, and multiply fractions to make it easier. We did reducing fractions and wrote a lot of problems.

7th Grade Math

We are currently learning about lines of symmetry, number lines, the function box, subtracting and adding mixed measures, and multiplying rates.

8th Grade Math

In math we continued our work on equations. We have also looked at scientific notation, exponential expressions, and radicals. Finally, we worked on order of operations and fractional equations.

