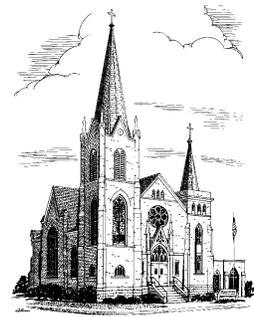


# The St. John's Messenger

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



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## Challenges and Opportunities

After Pentecost the Christian church in Jerusalem grew quickly – certainly a blessing from God! But then a tragic thing happened. The Jewish leaders became bold and struck out against this growing church. In their hatred they tried to kill the church by killing one of its members – Stephen. Luke records for us what happens after Stephen was stoned to death.

On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison. Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. (Acts 8:1-4)

What a sad day for the Christian church! Not only did they have to deal with the tragic death of one of their own members, but now they had to come face-to-face with the possibility of their own persecution. Perhaps many of them looked at those events as horrible happenings and difficult challenges that they now needed to face, not seeing any good coming of it. But did you notice the last line? “Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.” What for many seemed like tragic events were an opportunity to share the Gospel with even more people.

Have you experienced that in your own life? God promises that all of the difficult challenges in your life are opportunities for God to carry out his plan to bless you and others. Have you seen this happen in our own church? We have had our challenges over the years, but God has and will turn them into opportunities. Personally, I see good things happening. I see opportunities: Bible class attendance has increased. Church attendance has increased. We have opportunities to reach out to our community with our school. We have had and will continue to have fellowship events that help our congregation grow closer together.

I encourage you to look for the opportunities God has given us and be ready to take advantage of them. The best and easiest way to do this is simply to learn more and more about the opportunity God took to save us. There is the greatest tragic event (the execution of the innocent Son of God) turned into the greatest blessing and opportunity (the saving of our souls).

In Christ our Resurrection,  
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  
June 2011**

Recently Pastor talked of the gifts we all have, though they are different from each other. I want to reiterate the passage he referenced, Romans 12:3 to 8.

*<sup>3</sup> For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. <sup>4</sup> For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup> We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your<sup>[a]</sup> faith; <sup>7</sup> if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; <sup>8</sup> if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead,<sup>[b]</sup> do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.*

The time has come for us to elect men to the positions we have open in our congregation. I think we have the men available in our congregation to fill these openings completely. Would you all encourage others to take an opportunity to serve the Lord? Many of the jobs will not take a lot of commitment but will give great returns to those doing the work and also to others and the church, more than will be realized by the worker.

June also brings Fathers day, a time to recognize male leadership in the family. Fathers impact a family unit, again more than we realize. Be there for your children and the mother of your children. God asks us to bring our children up in the training and instruction of the Lord. Let us pray that we are able to do so and carry out his desire for our families and his church.

In Christ,  
Steve Windschitl  
President, St John's Congregation



## **Church Council Minutes June 13, 2011**

Present: Steve Windschitl, Leo Derkowski, Van Tallman, Barry Hillmann, Mike Crabtree, Jim Mielke, Dave Zimmerman, Andy Lochner and Pastor Draper.

Pastor Draper opened the meeting with devotion and a prayer.

### **Minutes**

Andy Lochner/Barry Hillmann made a motion to approve the May 2011 minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

### **Pastor's Report**

No formal report.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Dave Zimmerman/Barry Hillmann made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

### **President's Report**

Steve Windschitl submitted written report:

- We need to elect dedicated men to the open positions on the council. We should all encourage others to serve the Lord.

### **Board of Elders**

Jim Mielke/Barry Hillmann made a motion to transfer the membership of Chad and Amber Brown and family to St. Paul's in New Ulm. Motion carried.

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

Pastor Draper will host an open house on St. John's School on Thursday, June 16 beginning at 6:30 PM at the Springfield Library.

The committee formed to investigate options for a school facility had two meetings recently.

New teachers will be installed on July 3.

August 8 is Back to School Night.

The St. Paul's School Board approved a tuition reduction for Molly Stark so she can complete eighth grade at St. Paul's.

### **Worship Committee**

No report.

### **Maintenance Committee**

No formal report.

### **Outreach**

No report.

### **Stewardship**

No report.

### **MVL/WELS**

No report

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

Andy Lochner presented an account summary. Some investment accounts will be consolidated and investments simplified for easier and more accurate management.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

Leo Derkowski/Mike Crabtree made a motion to approve an expense of up to \$1,000 for the school facility committee to conduct feasibility studies for renovating the existing school facility or building a new one. Motion carried.

Leo Derkowski/Jim Mielke made a motion to allocate \$1,500 to purchase a new computer for Pastor Draper. Motion carried.

The next quarterly voters' meeting is rescheduled to July 20 at 7:00 PM.

A slate of potential candidates for vacant church council positions was discussed.

The next scheduled council meeting: 7:30 Monday, July 11, 2011.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted  
Leo Derkowski, Secretary

## Thank You!

Members of PTO, Ladies Aid, and St. John's Church and School,

Thank you so much for the wonderful showering of gifts this past May. I most definitely do not deserve to be showered with gifts of any sort, as you have already given me so much with the privilege of serving here at St. John's! Regardless, I do absolutely LOVE the quilt filled with precious messages from children I have taught, and also adore the beautiful stained glass window hanging, which will always remind me of Sleepy Eye and the wonderful people of St. John's Lutheran Church. Thank you so much! You are all in my prayers, that God would continue to bless the people of St. John's with more opportunities to share His precious Word to so many young children.

In Him,  
Mrs Stephanie Arndt  
(Miss Zastrow)

*Thanks for  
everything*

## Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid met on Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup> for their regular scheduled meeting. Our devotion, "Wrestling with God: Relationship Problems," was led by Pastor Draper. We looked at verses from the Bible that told of God's plan for marriage. These verses can be found in Genesis 2:4-6, 20:26-31 and 30:13. Other verses can be found in Matthew 19:4-6, and Ephesians 5:22-27.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to pay \$59.99 for a new electric roaster for the kitchen.

Pastor and Sallie Draper along with Paula Windschitl plan to attend the Annual National LWMS Convention June 23-26 in Milwaukee.

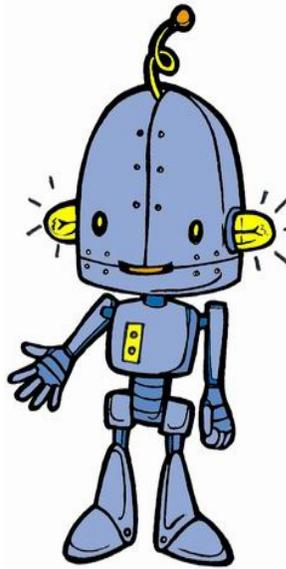
Block 2 served the Edward Heidemann funeral luncheon.

Block 3 is up to serve.

The Ladies Aid does not meet in July. Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Come join us!

Marilyn Deibele  
Secretary

## Summer Bible Camp



Plan to attend "The Robot Connection" **July 24th to 28th** from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Nightly. Registration information is available in the narthex. Please check the list of needed supplies posted on the bulletin board in the ground level entryway and drop off any donations in the box in the church kitchen. Contact Sallie with questions. Thank you!

## WELS Kingdom Workers

It's summer! And that means lots of action for the Minnesota Valley Chapter of WELS Kingdom Workers.

Vicar Rodrigo Concha will be assisting with area VBS programs where there is a greater Hispanic population. Local teens will be traveling to numerous places in the US to help canvass for and put on VBS activities. And locally, the chapter is preparing for our annual meeting to be held at the New Ulm Country Club on August 7<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm. Come and hear how we are assisting local school children with Hispanic outreach and learn how a local (Sleepy Eye!) girl created a logo now in demand by the National WELS Kingdom Workers! Watch the August newsletter for more details.

If you are led to sustain these and more projects promoted by the WKW, please prayerfully consider financial support. Any contribution is greatly appreciated. Contributions should be sent to:

Minnesota Valley Chapter  
WELS Kingdom Workers  
P. O. Box 682  
New Ulm, MN 56073

Paula Windschitl  
WKW / MN Valley Chapter Secretary

## Befriend a Mission

The missionary address for Hong Kong has changed! Please use the following address for any correspondence you send. Any mail that is sent to their previous address must be paid for by them in order to retrieve it, so the correct address is important. And, remember to NOT use any title like Pastor, Reverend, etc in your mailing address.

Steve & Mary Witte  
Flat B 6/F Humbert St.  
Mei Foo Sun Chuen Lai Chi Kok  
Kowloon  
Hong Kong



This month, the following missionary family members are celebrating birthdays:

Raleigh Olson                      Raleigh ( a girl) will be turning 6 years old on July 11<sup>th</sup>.  
64-20 Roosevelt Ave.  
Woodside, NY 11377

Kathryn Olson (same address as above) is the missionary's wife. She is celebrating a birthday on July 18<sup>th</sup>.

Sending a greeting card with a little note about life in Sleepy Eye is always a highlight for missionary families. Thanks to any who have been supporting them by sending these encouraging cards!

Paula Windschitl  
LWMS Reporter

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