

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



JULY 2012

VOLUME 12

NUMBER 7

Independence Day

July is the month we celebrate the freedom we have in this country. A brief look at history will show us just how good we have it. For example, it is only in recent times that people have been able to choose their own leaders. We can vote for our leaders and even speak out against them. Imagine doing that while living under one of the ruthless Assyrian kings mentioned in the Old Testament! Execution was a popular method for dealing with those who had contradictory political views.

The ability to choose a career for ourselves and the financial freedom we have is also unprecedented. In the past our options would have been severely limited by our birth and social status, but now our choices are many.

This freedom is not something we deserve or are entitled to (in spite of what our founding fathers thought). This freedom is a gift from God and we thank him for it.

There is an even greater freedom for which we thank God – our freedom from sin and death. **“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death” (Romans 8:1-2).**

As we look around us in this world we see many people who are still subject to the law of sin and death. They still have the chains of their own sins fastened to them and death follows them around, ready to overtake them. Perhaps they desire to be free or perhaps they are so use to their chains they don't realize it could be different. Someone needs to tell them. We need to tell them that there is freedom in Christ Jesus!

We already enjoy that freedom. Jesus Christ has paid the price to free us from the sin that had us chained to God's punishment. Death is no longer the master who slowly strengthens his grip on us until he has us for all eternity. Instead, Death is now our servant who will take us to our heavenly home at God's appointed time. We are free. Go and tell others about your freedom.

In Christ our Freedom,
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 2012

Romans 12: 6-8

⁶We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his^(b) faith. ⁷If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; ⁸if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

Using the talents that we are gifted with is what Paul is talking about and we all have different abilities to carry out God's desire for us and his people. We can use what we are good at to grow in God's Word here at St Johns and share it with others. As with anything we are gifted with, we need to want to share it and then our abilities can be multiplied into great benefits for all around us and more. Would you consider getting involved in a part of what goes on at St John's? There are many opportunities to serve or get involved. You will get to know others in the congregation and beyond along with providing service to the Lord.

We have many projects in progress & boards and committees that need someone to help out. Would you give prayerful consideration to your talents and how you might share a portion of them? God promises you will be rewarded tremendously!

Our parking lot & street project is in full swing. It may be a little tough maneuvering around church but worth the effort to come in! We have several temporary portable handicap signs on Walnut Street to help those that need to park closer to church entrances during construction. The project funding is being worked by council. Progress is reported in the bulletin and undesignated income goes toward this project.

The fire marshal has asked about our progress on the needs of our school that he cited some time ago. We reported back to him that we do have a 6 inch water line coming in from the street to our property line that could service the sprinkler system in the school building should we decide to put it in. Bids are in progress for sprinkler system, monitoring for it and the water service from the property line to the school. This will be discussed at the budget & electoral meeting June 24th.

The positions we need to fill on boards and committees at the electoral meeting June 24th are an elder, council secretary, counters for the finance committee & stewardship chair. See myself or Pastor if you or you know of someone interested in serving.

Monday night services are a great option to worship during the week should weekend commitments not allow you to attend on Sunday. Come and check it out and see how the evening service might allow you to continue your regular weekly worship.

I hear that there will be summer activities to watch for here at St. Johns. Family Vacation Bible School, game & movie nights, see the weekly bulletin for details!

Yours in Christ,

Steve Windschitl
President, St John's Congregation

Church Council Minutes June 13, 2012

Present: Steve Windschitl, Andy Lochner, Shorty Haus, Dave Zimmerman and Pastor Draper.

Pastor Draper opened the meeting with devotion and a prayer.

Minutes

Andy Lochner/Dave Zimmerman made a motion to approve the May 2012 minutes . Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

Pastor reported on District Convention at MLC. Highlights included discussion on bible translations and mission work in China and Pakistan.

Treasurer's Report

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

President's Report

Written report was presented along with a reminder of the Budget & Electoral meeting on Sunday, July 24th. Several positions need to be filled.

Board of Elders

There were no membership changes this month. The 2nd letter was sent to those members who have not attended worship and communion in a very long time. Church services sign with the new Monday night service times has been ordered.

Principal & Board of Education

The school year finished well. The board will be considering some minor handbook changes and adjustments to the Pre-K section.

Worship Committee

No report.

Maintenance Committee

Paving the parking lot will begin in mid July.

Outreach

It was re-posted that the website service which St. John's uses at present will now cost \$32/month or \$384/year.

Shorty Haus/Dave Zimmerman made a motion to add the website cost as line item to the outreach budget. Motion carried.

Stewardship

No formal report.

MVL/WELS

It was noted that the MVL Delegate meeting will be held on Monday, June 18th at 7:00 p.m. at MVL.

Endowment and Trust Fund Committee

There was discussion on various investments, balances and adjustments that the committee has worked on.

Old Business

The 2012-2013 budget was presented after which the council reviewed and discussed it.

Shorty Haus/Jerry Dittbenner made a motion to recommend to the voters the budget as adjusted. Motion passed.

There was discussion on the various positions that are open on the boards and committees and how and who might fill them.

There was an in depth discussion on the school building safety issues including the addition of a sprinkler system.

Shorty Haus/Dave Zimmerman made a motion to pay for 2 people to attend a WELS Mission Hearing Impaired meeting on August 4th and 5th at Living Hope in Shakopee, MN. Motion carried.

Pastor Draper informed the council of a continuing education trip he will be attending in early January 2013. This trip is a WELS group going to Israel.

It is noted that \$6,591 of trust funds are available for use in paying down the parking lot paving project. This information will be brought to the attention of the voters at the Budget and Electoral meeting and may be acted on at the July Annual Voter's meeting.

New Business

The next scheduled council meeting: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 12, 2012.

Dave Zimmerman/Shorty Haus made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted
Jerry Dittbenner, Acting Secretary

Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid met on Wednesday, June 6th at 2:00 p.m. For their regular scheduled meeting. President Marlys Lochner presided. Marlys led our devotion, "Jesus Calms the Storm" from Luke 8:22-25. We should keep our faith and fear nothing.

A bill for \$29.99 was presented for the cake for the Baccalaureate reception. After a brief discussion a motion was made, seconded, and passed for the Ladies Aid to discontinue hosting the Baccalaureate reception due to lack of interest.

The LWMS and MLC spring rally reports can be found in the church's May newsletter.

The July work day for St. John's is Friday the 6th. All volunteers are welcome and appreciated. Store hours are from 10:00 a.m. To 4:00 p.m.

Block 2 is up to serve.

I would like to thanks, Mary Jane Haus for handling the secretary's duties in June. Great job!



The Ladies Aid is planning to host the pie stand at the Sleepy Eye Corn Days in August. Watch for more details on this project.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 1st at 2:00 p.m. The Ladies Aid does not meet in July.

Marilyn Deibele

Secretary



Thank You

A special thanks to my church friends for your prayers, cards and good wishes.

It certainly helps the morale when confined to long hours in bed.

Eunice Sandhoefner

Thank You

Hello to our friends at St. John's,

I am now home again as of Sunday, June 17th. The Lord has been gracious to Ron and me and sustained us through life's trials. Many sincere thanks to all whose thoughts and prayers were sent heavenward for us. I say sincerely that I could feel them lift me and comfort me. The many cards and messages were and remain an encouragement and I have given them multiple readings! I have medications to help with the blood clots and am slowly regaining strength and endurance. I will begin cardiac rehab shortly.

I am looking forward to the day when we will again worship with you and be able to greet everyone. You and your Christian friendship have been a mainstay in our lives and we continually thank God for you! To God be the glory!

Karen and Ron Shilling

This is the day the Lord has made: let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24



LWMS/ Befriend a Mission

This month we have the opportunity to encourage two members of the same family who serve at Sure Foundation, New York City. Pastor Dan Olson serves this metropolitan church. His wife, Kathryn, and daughter, Rileigh, will be celebrating birthdays in July. Cards, notes or little expressions of encouragement are always welcome for our mission families! Their address is:

Kathryn (Or Rileigh) Olson
5021 61st St.
Woodside, NY 11337-5829

Kathryn's birthday is on July 18th and Rileigh's is on the 11th. Rileigh will be six years old!

The National Convention of the LWMS was held near the end of June in Winston-Salem, NC. There will be a report of that convention in the next newsletter.

Paula Windschitl, LWMS Reporter

Bible Camp



Bible Camp will be held July 22-26 from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

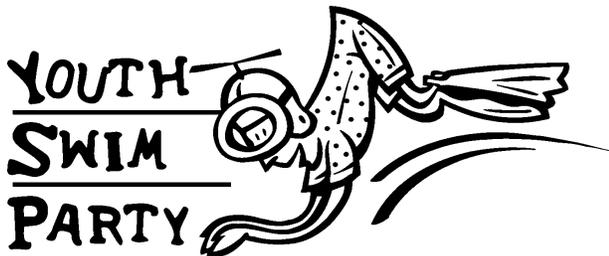
We need kids to register, youth and adults to help out, and craft and snack supply donations. Registration forms are in the narthex. Crafts and snacks can be left in the church kitchen. Needed items include empty toilet paper and paper towel rolls,

black electrical tape, dry rice, aluminum foil and tea bags. Contact Sallie Draper with questions or to volunteer.



Back to School Night

Back to school night will be held **Thursday, August 9th** beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the church basement. Following registration and classroom visits everyone is welcome to join us for "splish and splash" fun at the Sleepy Eye Aquatic Center from 8:30 - 10:30 p.m. St. John's Church and School members are all invited. Come and join the fun!



Game Night

We had a wonderful fellowship evening on June 2nd. We had about 19 men, women, and children who met at church by 6:00 p.m. for a potluck meal. After our meal, we played various games for all ages. We had Bongo, Court Whist, Wii Games, various board games and even games for small children. Fun was had by all and the fellowship we shared with each other is just another way to grow closer to our Lord and closer within our congregation.



Church Picnic

Our annual Church Picnic is planned for **Aug 5th at Sportsmen's Park**. The church service will start at 9:30 a.m. We will have games after the service and a potluck meal following the games. Please bring a dish to pass, your own plates and silverware. We will have some drinks available. You may want to bring a lawn chair or two and any other items your family may need. Save this date, come hear the Lord's word by the lake and share fellowship with us. Hope to see you there!

