



The St. John's Messenger

Monthly Newsletter

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



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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 have that freedom. Jesus Christ has paid the price to free us from the sin that had us chained to God's punishment. Now death is no longer our master, slowly strengthening his grip on us. Death is now our servant who will take us to our heavenly home at God's appointed time. We are free from sin and death. 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.*

Church Council Minutes – June 16, 2008

Present: Leo Derkowski, Paul Maasz, Van Tallmann, Barry Hillmann, Jim Mielke and Pastor Draper.

Pastor Draper opened the meeting with devotion and a prayer.

Minutes

Van Tallman/Barry Hillman made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 2008 meeting. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

No written report from Pastor Draper. Leo Derkowski/Jim Mielke made a motion to accept Spencer Hammer as a new member by profession of faith. Motion carried. Leo Derkowski/Jim Mielke made a motion to transfer Logan Wilburts membership to St. John's New Ulm. Motion carried.

Pastor reported that the WELS Kingdom Workers have a grant to sponsor a Hispanic outreach planning program for local congregations. A slot is being held in late September for St. John's to bring in Pastor Tim Flunker to lead a planning exercise for an outreach program. Leo Derkowski/Barry Hillman made a motion for Pastor Draper to request that Pastor Flunker work with us to develop a Hispanic outreach program. Motion carried.

Pastor also reported that MLC is considering an after school Hispanic outreach program for congregations in southern Minnesota. He will keep the Council apprised of further developments.

Treasurer's Report

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

President's Report

Paul Maasz thanked all committee members for their work last year and welcomes new members to the Council in the coming year.

Board of Elders

No formal report. The Elders have completed work on salary recommendations for 2008 for our called workers.

Principal & Board of Education

A written report was submitted by Kurk Kramer.

Pastor Draper reported that four notebook computers for the teachers have been purchased, along

with 22 desktop computers. 19 desktops will be used in the computer lab and three in the classrooms.

Worship Committee

No report.

Maintenance Committee

No report

Outreach

No report.

Stewardship

No report.

Endowment and Trust Fund Committee

No report.

MVL/WELS

MVL – a no report

WELS – Leo Derkowski and Pastor Draper provided a brief report on the District Convention held in New Ulm, June 10-12, 2008.

Old Business

A church credit card has been obtained, with 1.1% rebate on purchases.

New Business

The budget and elections meeting is scheduled for June 29, 2008.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for July 14, 2008 at 7:30 PM in the church basement.

Van Tallman/Barry Hillman made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted
Leo Derkowski, Secretary



REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

It is easy to forget about those we do not often see in church or in the community. Our Ladies Aid visits as many of our homebound members as possible, but not all can be visited every month. Won't you help? An occasional phone call, card, or visit would be very appreciated.

Below is a list of our homebound members. Refer to it often as you consider how to reach out. An updated list will be included regularly in the church newsletter.

AT SLEEPY EYE CARE CENTER/COUNTRYSIDE 794-7995; res.'s line -3500

Mr. Elmer Lehnert	(Hall 2)	
Mrs. Minnie Stockstead	(Hall 2)	
Mrs. Jean Schulz	(Hall 1)	
Mr. Robert Sucker	(Countryside Apt. # 204)	794-3836
Mr. & Mrs. Roy & Viola Suker	(Countryside Apt. #206)	794-7708
Mrs. Neoma Schmid	(Countryside Apt. # 109)	794-7697

SLEEPY EYE: EAST

Mrs. Emilie Netzke	117 Remmele St. SE	794-6514
Mrs. Verna Painter	421 Summit St. SE	794-6624
Mrs. Anna Peterman	Divine Providence	
Nita Brown	114 6 th Ave NE	794-3109

SLEEPY EYE: WEST

Mrs. Carol Eckstein	717 Walnut St. SW	794-6910
Mr. Leonard Lowinske	405 W. Main	794-6818
Esther Pabst	724 Water St. SW	794-6726
Agnes Piotter	416 3 rd Ave. NW	794-6044
Mrs. Norma Siegmann	200 5th Ave. SW	794-3196

OUT OF TOWN

Hanska – Mrs. Elaine Keim	Rt. 1, Box 74	794-6697
New Ulm - Mrs. Melva Christensen	Orchard Hill L.C. 1220 Karl Dr #107	233-9617
Mankato – Don Radel	N. Point Senior L.C. 2135 Lor Ray Dr. #208	



Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid Society met on Wednesday, June 4th at 2PM for their regular monthly meeting. President Marlys Lochner, led our devotion, "God's Cook Out", based on Isaiah Chapters 25-26.

Due to the formation of the Congregations Block system to serve for food events in our church, number 8 of our by-laws will be changed to reflect that. It will be voted on in our August meeting. Number 9 of our by-laws states that a \$25.00 fee is to be charged for the use of the church basement and equipment, when the society is not asked to serve. This is to help pay for lights, gas and any abuse or loss of the equipment that may occur. Number 11 by-law states the property of the Society will not be loaned, rented, or removed from the church basement without permission of a Ladies Aid officer. At this time a 45-cup coffee maker is missing from the kitchen. If anyone knows of it's whereabouts, please contact a Ladies Aid officer or the church office. These coffee makers are used for serving for funeral luncheons and other events.



**the missing
coffee maker**

The Ladies Aid does not meet in the month of July. Please join us for our August 6th meeting at 2PM. All ladies of the congregation are invited and encouraged to attend.

Marilyn Deibele,
Secretary

Computer Lab Update

We have sold ten of the old computer lab computers, and have received a couple of Thrivent matching fund donations to be used for technology. A number of computers are still left for anyone to purchase for a minimal fee. There are also a few other items that are for sale at school, a couple of small tables and a desk. Proceeds would go to the technology fund. Any donations toward the Tech Fund would be greatly appreciated! Contact Mr. Kramer or Mrs. Draper if you need more information.

WANTED: SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Would you enjoy sharing Bible Stories and their truths with the children of St. John's? Could you give 10 Sundays between September and May to do so? If so, teaching Sunday School might be something you would like to try. Teachers are needed in every level for the coming year.



If you are interested, please call school 794-620, Mrs. Halvorson 507-276-2757 (cell), or email ljhavorson@hotmail.com for more information. The rewards of sharing God's Word will amaze you!

† Memorials †

In Honor of Eunice Sandhoefner's Retirement

St. John's Church – \$25.00

Mary Ann & Jim Broich
Ione Woessner
Delores & Chuck Windschitl
Ordell Krambeer
Mickey & Tex Geschwind

In Memory of Charles Eckstein

Technology Fund

Family & Friends – \$100.00

In Memory of Stuart Steffen

St. John's Organ Fund

Family & Friends – \$10.00
Wally & Mary Ann Trebesch – \$5.00

Soar High at Family Bible School!

Soar High at Family Bible School! FBS will be held July 20th-24th, 2008 from 6:30-8:30pm. Never been to FBS? Come and see what you've been missing out on! Classes will be held for ages 4 through 127 and older! Pre-registration is appreciated. **Teachers and helpers are still needed.** Registration forms and teacher/helper sign up sheets are located on the table at the back of church. Won't be here to help out? See the list below to donate craft supplies and/or snacks. Thanks for helping to support this great outreach opportunity! Questions? Contact Stephanie Zastrow at 507-217-1652

Craft Supplies still needed for FBS 2008

- Painter's tape
- CDs
- Ribbon (1/4" wide)
- *\$\$ donations to purchase many more much needed craft supplies*

SNACKS—*Snacks are needed for FBS. If you would like to donate cookies and/or juice... please leave them (labeled "FOR FBS") in the kitchen or let Miss Zastrow know you will be bringing snacks, sometime before Sunday, July 20th.*

Please leave all donations on the counter in the kitchen. *Thank you!* ☺

