

The St. John's Messenger

St. John's Lutheran Church & School 221 Walnut St. S.E.
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Church 794-6202 School 794-6200 Pastor 794-4500
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The Blessings of School

Another school year has ended. The children were noticeably more and more excited about the end of school as the final day drew closer. I am happy for them and I hope they enjoy their summer. I also look forward to seeing them next year. It is good to have a break, but as all of you know, school is important. As the school year ends I want to share with you a few words Martin Luther said about school that still apply today.

I hold that there was never a better time to study than right now, not only because knowledge is so abundant and cheap, but also because of the great wealth and honor to which it leads. Those who study in these times will become so highly prized that two princes and three cities will yet compete for one scholar. ¹

Luther gives special mention to training children for the work of preaching and teaching. It is necessary for the survival of the church that some are trained to work as pastors and teachers in the church. Please consider encouraging the children of our congregation that you have contact with to study for this important work. Luther has this to say:

Now if it is true and certain that God himself has established and instituted the spiritual estate with his own blood and death, we may conclude that he will have it highly honored. He will not allow it to be destroyed or to die out, but will have it maintained until the Last Day. . . . But where shall we get men for [the ministry] except from those who have children? If you will not raise your child for this office, and the next man will not, and so on, and no fathers or mothers will give their children to our God for this work, what will become of the spiritual office and estate? ²

Finally Luther has this encouragement for parents.

Therefore go ahead and have your son study. And even if he has to beg bread for a time, you are nonetheless giving to our Lord God a fine bit of wood out of which he can carve you a lord. That is the way it will always be: your son and my son, that is, the children of the common people, will necessarily rule the world, both in the spiritual and the worldly estates. ³

Our Lord has given us a wonderful gift in our children. By this gift the world will continue to exist and the Gospel will continue to be preached. May we raise our children to glorify God, both as inhabitants of this earth and especially as members of God's eternal kingdom.

In Christ our Resurrection,
Pastor Draper

¹ Luther, M. (1999, c1967). Vol. 46: Luther's works, vol. 46 : The Christian in Society III (J. J. Pelikan, H. C. Oswald & H. T. Lehmann, Ed.). Luther's Works (46:244). Philadelphia: Fortress Press.

² Ibid. p.221.

³ Ibid. p.251.

Presidents Report to St Johns Church Council & Congregation May 2011

⁶ He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: Luke 24:6 (New International Version, ©2011)

It is an exciting time! The Easter season is upon us. It is the time when Jesus rose from the dead and gave us salvation. The whole reason for our church and the work we do.

We do have many exciting things going on at St John's. The school year is coming to an end in a few weeks and our students will be moving on to a new level in their education. We had five 8th grade students get confirmed on Sunday May first. They to will now move onto high school and exciting new times in their lives.

Two of our teachers are moving on and we have one new one coming in along with our call going out shortly for upper grades teacher in the next few days. Wow so much activity in our school.

In appreciation for the teachers that are leaving and who have given so much to our school and students, there is pot luck for them on Sunday May 15th. We can thank them for all that they have done for St Johns school, students and congregation.

We do have our school building issues to contend with. A group is being formed to evaluate the direction we need to take with it. Give them your prayerful support & consideration.

The church has much activity going too. The LWMS group completed a great rally on April 9th. It was impressive to see how the ladies had done up the church and pulled together to serve great hospitality and food to the 100 plus visitors that came to the rally that day.

Bible study offers so much in the way of learning and understanding that is easy to take in. We have many attending with room for more. The current study on the 10 commandments brings to light so much more than the words that are written in the commandments. Come and hear what God has to say about them!

We have our church/school budget to consider for the upcoming 2011-12 fiscal year. Take a look at it and give your prayerful consideration to it. We would appreciate your input and thoughts on it at our upcoming voters meetings.

We have many opportunities to serve on Elders, Stewardship and Board of Ed if you would be so inclined to do so. Talk to myself, Pastor, Jerry Dittbenner or Dave Zimmerman for more information.

I offer a prayer of thanks and support to all the Mothers that give so much to their children. God truly can and does work through these special women to see that his children are brought to faith. We owe them much gratitude.

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

Church Council Minutes May 9, 2011

Present: Steve Windschitl, Leo Derkowski, Jerry Dittbenner, 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

Dave Zimmerman/Barry Hillmann made a motion to approve the April 2011 minutes. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

No formal report. Pastor recently attended a Pastors' Conference

Treasurer's Report

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

President's Report

Steve Windschitl submitted written report:

- Five eighth grade students were confirmed on May 1.
- We are calling our upper grade teacher from MLC.
- A committee is being formed to address school facility issues.
- 100 plus visitors attended the LWMS rally on April 9.

Board of Elders

Jerry Dittbenner/Barry Hillmann made a motion to release Jason Helget from membership. Motion carried.

Jerry Dittbenner/Dave Zimmerman made a motion to transfer the membership of Mike Weilage and family to St. Paul's New Ulm. Motion carried.

Principal & Board of Education

At approximately 3:00 PM on May 16 Pastor Draper will move on to the roof of the school to remain overnight to fulfill a promise to the students if they completed an ambitious reading program.,, Popcorn and root beer floats will be served.

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

The fire marshal recently stopped by the school and met with Pastor Draper. He responded with answers to questions regarding required improvements. The response seemed to satisfy the fire marshal, who requested only that we improve our fire safety plan.

Worship Committee

Summer schedule begins May 29. Services are at 7:30 PM Saturday and 9:00 AM Sunday.

Maintenance Committee

No formal report. Fire and carbon monoxide detectors have been installed in the school and are linked together.

Outreach

No report.

Stewardship

No report.

MVL/WELS

Principal Tim Plath spoke to the council and provided an update on MVL:

- Two positions have been cut for next year.
- 63% of eighth graders ion member congregations enroll in MVL, which is better than the national average for WELS high schools.
- Enrollment is predicted to decline through 2017 and then slowly recover and increase sharply in 2020.
- Increased emphasis will be placed on communications.
- Loan repayments are ahead of schedule.

Endowment and Trust Fund Committee

No report.

Old Business

None

New Business

Jerry Dittbenner/Van Tallman made a motion to approve the 2011-2012 budget with the following changes: increase Synod support to \$25,000 and increase the cook's wages to \$9,270. Motion carried.

A fellowship committee is working on activities with the first planned for June 16 – an outdoor movie.

The next scheduled council meeting: 7:30 Monday, June 13, 2011.

The budget and election voters meeting is 7:00 PM Monday June 20, 2011.

The next Quarterly Voters meeting is Sunday, June 24 after the 9:00 AM service.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted
Leo Derkowski, Secretary

Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid Society met on Thursday, May 4th at 7:00 p.m. for a joint meeting with the Hosanna Circle. Our devotion, led by Pastor Draper was the continuing story of Jacob as he made some hard choices in his life. These words are found in Genesis 29:15-30. We often find ourselves having to make hard choices and with trust in God's promises we will find God pleasing solutions.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to pay \$125.00 for Cradle Roll Packets.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to pay \$21.40 for placemats.

The full report of the LWMS Spring Rally held at St. John's on April 9th can be found in the church's May newsletter. One hundred and twenty four guests were registered. Twenty-four from St. John's attended. The theme for the day was "A Gospel Oasis South of the Border."

Thank you to all who brought lilies, azaleas or other flowers to beautify the altar for Easter.

St. John's is once again delivering Meals-On-Wheels for the month of May. A big thank you goes to Judy Maasz who coordinates this project, and also to those who delivered the meals.



A new block listing dividing our church members into 4 groups was in the May newsletter. These blocks are assigned for serving food events such as funerals and potlucks. Please save this list for further reference

in which you will be called on to help in some way. Thank you!

Block 1 served the Milda Day luncheon. Block 2 is up to serve.

Our next meeting will be held Wednesday, June 1st at 2 p.m. Come join us!

Marilyn Deibele
Secretary

Thank You

Just a note to express our gratitude to you for so graciously hosting our Chorale concert this spring. It was truly a pleasure to sing in your sanctuary and we appreciated the opportunity for fellowship following the concert.

May the Lord continue to bless you as you faithfully serve Him.

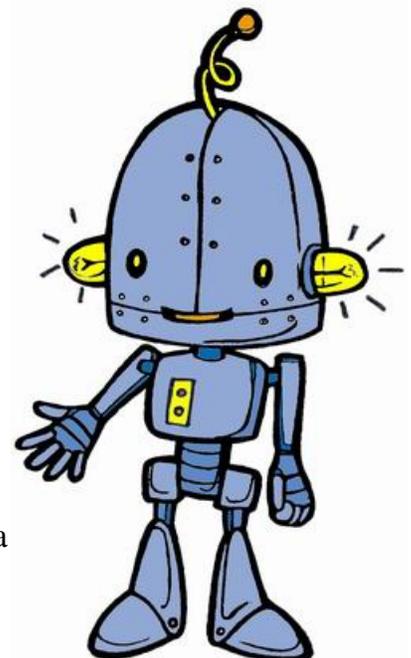
In the Lord's Service,
The Chorale

Summer Bible Camp

Plan to attend "The Robot Connection" July 24 to 28 from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. nightly.

Registration information is available in the narthax.

Volunteers, snack donations and craft supplies are needed, so everyone can lend a hand and join the fun!! Contact Sallie Draper for more details.



Advent by Candlelight

Hosanna Circle will be meeting on June 2nd at 6:00 p.m. at the church to start the brainstorming plans for the Advent by Candlelight event in December. Anyone who is interested in brainstorming, please come on June 2nd and we'll get started.



LWMS News

The Lutheran Women's Missionary Society will meet for its international convention June 23-26 in Milwaukee. Sallie Draper and Paula Windschitl will be attending from our congregation.

Thank you to all the ladies who cast their ballots in May for the next year's projects and slate of officers. Our one congregational ballot, reflecting the votes of our ladies, is being sent in to the Central Office to join hundreds of others in determining the winners, which will be announced at convention.

Please remember missionaries, speakers and attendees as they travel to this year's convention and back home. Remember the work of WELS missions in your prayers.

Paula Windschitl

LWMS Reporter



Memorials

Easter flowers given in memory of

Mark Jensen -

Dave, Kellie Jensen & girls

In memory of Milda Dey

Alvin & Hazel Maasz - \$10

Alda Rydin - \$20

Del Monte - \$40

Ladies Aid

Delbert & Eunice Sandhoefner - \$10

Linus & Marilyn Deibele - \$10

Organ Fund

Greg & Mary Bartz - \$10

Harold & Bev Bartz - \$10

In memory of Arnold Guhlke

Ladies Aid

Delbert & Eunice Sandhoefner - \$10

Choir

Penny Mathiowetz - \$10

Organ Fund

Harold & Bev Bartz - \$20

Bev Wischstadt - \$20

Dennis & Pam Dittbenner - \$15

Greg & Mary Bartz - \$25

Chuck & Delores Menk - \$15

St. John's School

Alvin & Hazel Maasz - \$10

Linus & Marilyn Deibele - \$5

Ralph Grundmeyer - \$5

Armin & Leona Lentz - \$5

Andy & Rita Lochner - \$5

Mary Ann Trebesch - \$10

Rosie Fromm - \$10

JoAnn Ibberson - \$5

Brad & Sue Sellner - \$5

Doug & Holly Miller - \$25

Francis Ibberson - \$20

New School Building Fund

Steve & Paula Windschitl - \$25

St. John's Building Fund

Rich & Connie Trebesch - \$10

Jim & Joyce Bloemke - \$5

St. John's Church

Kevin & Marilyn Leopold - \$5

Armin & June Grundmeyer - \$10

Harill & Eileen Schroeder - \$5

Marlys Cornelissen - \$10

The Uniform

Have you ever been irritated or frustrated with someone? Did you stop to think that there might be something going on that you were not aware of? Perhaps it was an opportunity not to be frustrated, but to share your faith with a hurting soul. Here is a true story from a friend in Mexico where frustration turned into an opportunity.

In February, I met with a seamstress, Dora, to sew my striped dress and white smock to wear while volunteering at the hospital. Her office is a classroom where she leads projects in croqueting, knitting, sewing, and other handicrafts. She took my measurements and advised what materials to purchase. A week later, I returned with the fabric and buttons. She said it would be ready in a week and a half.

Two weeks later, I returned to pick up my uniform, but Dora wasn't there. I left my name and phone number for her with one of her students.

The following week, I returned and Dora was in the classroom, but my uniform was not. Dora apologized as she told that she had lost my measurements and telephone number. She took my measurements again and promised to sew the uniform during the weekend, and have it ready on Monday. We agreed to meet the following Friday, at 10 am, just to make sure the uniform would be ready. ;)

Friday came and I went to see Dora – for the 6th time. She wasn't there. Again, a student greeted me and took my contact information.

At this point, the frustration set in. I understood that there are cultural differences between Dora and me. I thought I was being generously flexible, as it had been a nearly 2 month wait. I really needed this uniform. Without it, I can't visit patients alone.

Last Friday, I went to see Dora, with letter in hand to leave with a student, documenting all the times I came to pick up the uniform along with my phone number; assuming she was not going to be there. I was going to hold her accountable. When I walked in the classroom, she was there. She invited me in. Told me again that she was very sorry and would have the uniform finished and would deliver it to my house. We went to her desk to write down my address.

Then she proceeded to tell me why the uniform wasn't ready. She has cancer. Cancer of the tongue. She was going in for surgery in two hours. She noticed the lump on her tongue four months ago. It started to grow bigger, but she thought it was a cut or canker sore, as she didn't have any pain. Then one day her son said, "Mom, there is blood coming from your mouth!" She went to the mirror and looked inside her month. Sure enough, this lump on her tongue was bleeding. She went to see the doctor and had a biopsy. She showed me the results, it was malignant. She told me she was a survivor of uterine cancer.

I could see the desperation and hopelessness in her eyes. I told her I had something for her as I watched her hands tremble. As she told me she was so scared and in constant fear, I gave her a pamphlet for times of sickness, full of comforting Bible passages and prayers. Then I knelt down and reached into my bag to get her a Gospel In Colors cross pin along with a sheet describing our black sin, Jesus' red precious blood, Jesus' white innocent righteousness, our blue faith, and a green new life in Christ. When I got up, she was reading the prayers and crying. I held her arm. As she continued to tell me how scared she was, I continued to assure her that Jesus is with us and our lives our in God's hands, so there is no reason to be scared. Through her tears, she put on the cross pin. She was endlessly thankful. I told her I would continue to pray for her and be back to visit soon and added "not to worry about the uniform".

If the uniform would have been ready right away, I would have never been able to share the comfort of God's Word and peace in Jesus a few hours before her surgery. A humbling reminder that God's timing is always better than mine.

Forgive me Lord, when I put my own needs ahead of others. Please give me the ability to trust that you know what is best, especially when it isn't according to my plan.

– Julia Wagenknecht

Befriend a Mission

It is interesting to note that all three mission couples that our church is assigned to support will be celebrating their wedding anniversaries in June! They are:

Sure Foundation Lutheran Church

Dan & Kathryn Olson
5021 61st St.
Woodside, NY 11377-5829
(Anniversary: 6/15/2003)

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Paul & Barbara Werner
2222 Englewood Rd.
Englewood, FL 34223-6316
(Anniversary: 6/25/1972)

Asia Lutheran Seminary – Hong Kong

Send letters or cards to this address:

Steve & Mary Witte
Unit A 3/F 6 Nassau St.
Mei Foo Sun Chuen Lai Chi Kok
Kowloon
Hong Kong
(Anniversary: 6/20/1982)

Send packages to this address:

Asia Lutheran Seminary
15-17/F, Chun Hoi Commercial Bldg
688 Shangai St., Kowloon
Hong Kong

Simple greeting cards with words of encouragement and support are always welcome. They do like to hear about news from our area, our families and our church, so feel free to tell them about what is going on around here. Gift cards are also appreciated if you so desire (check out the St. John's scrip cards!) and would make a great way to help them celebrate their special day.

Now that school is out, this could be a fun project to get the kids going on. Making their own card, crafting a letter or picture and getting it addressed and mailed also helps their developmental skills while you model the Christ-centered act of sharing encouragement. (I would also venture to guess that most of them have never mailed an *international* letter!)

May we be blessed to give as we've been given.

Paula Windschitl
LWMS Reporter

MLC Ladies Auxiliary

The auxiliary is blessed to be enjoying its 51st year of service to our Lord through the students, faculty and staff at Martin Luther College. A major emphasis each year is to help out by funding a number of selected projects that fall outside the college budget, but serve to enhance student life. The following is a list of projects for this period. You will see that some are funded, others are not fulfilled yet.

Annual Projects:

MLC Ladies Auxiliary Contact
Library Support (funded) \$1,250
Scholarships (funded) \$3,000

New Projects - to be funded in order shown

Daylight Outreach Projects (funded) \$2,500
Preschool cots (funded) \$540
Video camera for Chapel of the Christ \$4,000
Multimedia headsets for computer lab \$810
Parament & stole set for Chapel of the Christ \$2,500
Seasonal banner set for MLC campus mall \$ 1,500
Landscaping for Chapel of the Christ \$2,000
Window treatments for MLC campus house \$1,000-\$1,500
Marriage candle for Chapel of the Christ \$1,225
Step exercise machine for Fitness Center \$2,600

If you are so compelled to contribute to this list of projects, please forward your donation to:

Martin Luther College
Ladies Auxiliary/Financial Services
1995 Luther Court
New Ulm MN 56073

Please do not forget to write 'MLC Ladies Auxiliary' on the memo line of your check. The auxiliary is truly grateful for the memorials and all contributions it receives.

Paula Windschitl

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.*