

# 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)



JUNE 2012

VOLUME 11

NUMBER 6

## What Will Heaven Be Like?

Do you ever wonder what heaven will be like? Maybe we don't think about heaven all that much. After all, death comes first, and so to think about heaven means we have to acknowledge that we will die one day. That's not a pleasant thought! Sometimes, though, the death of a loved one, a serious illness, or an accident that could have been fatal leads a person to the question, "What will happen to me when I die?" The Bible gives an answer. Those who believe Jesus has already received the punishment they deserve from God for their sin will have eternal life (John 3:16)! That means heaven is their home after death.

Then, what will heaven be like? The simple answer: unlike anything you can imagine! Heaven will be different than any experience you have had on earth. For that reason, it is difficult to describe or even comprehend. The Apostle John said, "Now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when [Jesus] appears, we shall be like him" (1 John 3:2). Even though there is much we don't know, there are a few things the Bible does tell us.

There will be no sin in heaven. When John the Baptist pointed to Christ, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). Sin is what keeps us out of heaven. Every time we fail to live up to God's standard of perfection we show ourselves unworthy of heaven, but Jesus takes care of that. He has taken away our sin. In Revelation chapter 7 there is a beautiful picture of all believers gathered together wearing white robes. Those white robes are a picture of the perfection we have because our sins have been washed away by the blood of the lamb. Imagine never hearing the expression, "Well, nobody's perfect," because we will all be perfect!

If everyone in heaven is perfect, then our relationships with others will be perfect. If you have ever had anyone hurt you, disappoint you, mistreat you, or in some way not treat you right, then you will enjoy heaven. No one will ever hurt you by thinking of themselves first. Just the opposite, everyone, you included, will enjoy always being kind to others and helping others. It will be a nice place!

Even more, if sin is gone then also the curse on this world because of sin is gone and that means no disease, no cancer, no frustrating and fruitless work, no accidents, no natural disasters, no death, and the list could go on. In fact we have the promise that, "God will wipe away every tear from their eyes" (Revelation 7:17). That means everything in this world that causes sadness, sorrow, or frustration will be gone.

If you can imagine what that will be like, you begin to understand what heaven will be like! I am looking forward to it. What about you?

In Christ who calls us home,  
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 May 2012**

It seems that there is a lot going on and things to do when summer comes in to the picture and here at St. John's it is no different. We have just seen Mother's Day go by and we had confirmation and graduation of our eight graders. The class trip is complete and another successful school year blessed by God comes to an end. Ascension will be Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup> and another Easter season has come to an end. It is all good and God pleasing.

Soon we will be starting the final phase of our organ project and hopefully it will be completed sometime this fall and beautifying our services to God.

Along with Sunday 9 am services we will offer Monday evening services at 7:30 pm throughout the summer. We are doing this to offer those that are gone on the weekend because of work, travel or whatever reasons, another time to worship. There are opportunities for outreach with this service time too that may not happen otherwise. How this is received and attended will determine whether we carry this service time into the future. More on this in the fall!

It can be seen by the road construction that our parking lot paving project will soon be underway. While the street is opened up it is a good time to consider the needs of our school when it comes to utilities such as water, sewer, electric and so forth. We will be replacing waterlines to the school to bring them up to the size needed for daily water needs and a fire sprinkler system should we need to put one in. Fund raising will begin soon to pay for this project. It has been voted that undesignated contributions be put toward this project until it is funded also. We will need other sources to pay for this project, more to follow on the direction we take.

What to do with the school building needs to be seriously considered. Discussion whether to remodel, add-on or rebuild have been had. We will see if we can get Pastor Otterstatter to come to a council meeting with some of the members that were closely involved in how Redwood Falls did their project. Along with Redwood Falls Pastor Otterstatter has two other building projects he has been involved in.

All boards and committees will start working on their budgets for the upcoming fiscal year. The council will review and have them ready for the congregation at the June budget and electoral meeting for approval. We can all work together and see that our time, talents and treasures are used wisely.

I have had several men come to me and volunteer to be on some of our boards and committees. We need at least one Elder, a stewardship chairman and a school board member. Leo Derkowski's term as secretary is up in June too. We will need a secretary for the church council at that time so I still need more men to consider helping out. Come see myself or Pastor if you have questions or would like to volunteer.

Yours in Christ,

Steve Windschitl  
President, St John's Congregation

## Church Council Minutes May 14, 2012

Present: Steve Windschitl, Barry Hillmann, Andy Lochner, Shorty Haus, Dan Rick, Jim Mielke, Mike Crabtree, Dave Zimmerman and Pastor Draper.

Pastor Draper opened the meeting with devotion and a prayer.

### Minutes

Andy Lochner/Shorty Haus made a motion to approve the April 2012 minutes with a correction of an additional gift of \$56,000 given to the Endowment and Trust Fund Committee in memory of Harold Bartz instead of current fund amount listed. Motion carried.

### Pastor's Report

Three members were confirmed on May 6; Luke Draper, Tim Haag and Molly Stark. A written report followed.

### Treasurer's Report

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

### President's Report

Written Report.

### Board of Elders

Shorty Haus/Jim Mielke made a motion to transfer in Brian, Rebecca and Emma Hoffmann. Motion carried.

Pastor has some vacation dates planned. There will be a guest preacher the weekend of June 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Pastor and Justin Shrum (serving as Lay Delegate) will be attending the District Convention June 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>.

### Principal & Board of Education

In May the students enjoyed many events including the track meet, upper graders class trip, Adopt a Highway clean-up and the dunk tank. The last day of school was May 16<sup>th</sup>.

### Worship Committee

Ascension and Pentecost services were held.

### Maintenance Committee

Mike Crabtree gave a report on street assessment costs. The estimated street renovation cost will be approximately \$35,000.00.

### Outreach

A parish nursing meeting will be held next week with member nurses.

### Stewardship

No report.

### MVL/WELS

Two MVL teachers returned their calls.

### Endowment and Trust Fund Committee

An additional gift of \$56,000 has been given to the Endowment and Trust Committee in memory of Harold Bartz. 75% will go into the church operating endowment fund and 25% will go into the Synod endowment fund.

On approximately June 1<sup>st</sup> a 4% payout of \$23,707.00 from the endowment fund will be given to the church.

### Old Business

The Audit committee is reviewing records.

### New Business

We have borrowed \$15,200.00 from our line of credit at the bank to keep up with expenses.

The next scheduled council meeting: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 14, 2012.

Dave Zimmerman/Andy Lochner made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Barry Hillmann, Acting Secretary



### Street Project

The street repair cost for our congregation will be about \$35,000. The project should be completed by July 31st. If you are interested in contributing to this project you can put your offering in the offering plate in an envelope marked "Street Repair." Thank you!

## Financial Note to Congregation



We have borrowed \$15,200.00 from our line of credit at the bank to keep up with expenses.



### Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid met on Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. for a joint meeting with the Hosanna Circle. President Marlys Lochner presided. Pastor's devotion was from Ephesians 2:11-12. Once there was derision between Jews and Gentiles, but in Christ, Jews and Gentiles can stand before God and are at peace with him.

Proceeds from our Bake-less Bake Sale amounted to \$307.00. This amount has been put into our General Fund to pay for our various projects. Thank you goes to those who generously gave to the collection. We greatly appreciate your support!



A motion was made, seconded and passed to pay for 25 copies of the Forward in Christ subscription at the cost of \$10.50 each.

St. John's congregation was in charge of Meals on Wheels for the month of May. Our coordinator for this project was Judy Maasz. Thank you Judy! Thanks to all who delivered the meals.

The MLC spring meeting was held Monday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at Zion in Winthrop. St. John's of Sleepy Eye is scheduled to host the spring meeting in 2013. No date has been set.

Block 1 served for the Arlene Jensen funeral May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Block 2 is up to serve. The Hosanna circle is working on updating the block system list.

Our next meeting will be held Wednesday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Come join us!

Marilyn Deibele, Secretary

## WELS Kingdom Workers Concert

*Join us for our Third Annual*

**“In the Spirit of Jesus:**

**A Night of Christian Music**

**For Missions”**

**MLC Auditorium**

**Wednesday, June 6, 2012**

**7:00-9:00 pm**

**Christian Artists:**

MLC Students (FIDE)

Piano Duet of TJ

& Michele Fluegge

Mankato Choral

Soloist Stacy Shrum

and Youth Orchestra

Refreshments served “under the stars”

Freewill offering for chapter mission projects

Sponsored by WELS Kingdom Workers

Minnesota Valley Chapter



## LWMS News & Notes

Thank you to all the ladies of St. John's who took the time to cast a ballot for this year's national officers and projects. Your votes have been tabulated and a ballot from our congregation has been sent in to the national office reflecting our choices. Final results will be announced at the National Convention in Winston Salem, NC in June.

For the month of June, we have two occasions to remember for our Befriend a Mission program, and both of them are anniversaries. Pastor and Mrs. Dan Olson at Sure Foundation in New York City will be celebrating their anniversary on June 15<sup>th</sup>; and Pastor and Mrs. Paul Werner of Englewood, Florida will celebrate theirs on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Encouraging and newsy cards are always welcome by our missionaries! Please drop them a line if you have the opportunity. Both of the above missionaries serve in our WELS Home Mission field.

The following is a prayer taken from the current LWMS Projects booklet. God promises to hear our prayers! Please pray ~ *Lord, bless the gospel message wherever it is preached, taught, read, and heard. Open ears, minds, and hearts to receive the life-giving message that Jesus is our only hope for this life and the life to come. Amen.*

Paula Windschitl  
LWMS Reporter



### Thank You!

To all our Friends and Family at St. John's,

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all your prayers, gifts and memorials for Kora. We are so blessed to be surrounded by fellow Christians who support us during times of trial, and sorrow. You have shown your love for Christ in your generosity, and we are so very grateful. Please know that we thank God for each and every one of you.

With faith and confidence that we will all be reunited in Heaven, Justin and Stacy

## Game Night

Come join us for a night of fun and fellowship!!

Saturday, **June 2nd**

6:00 p.m. in the church  
basement

to share a meal

play some games

Adults and Kids alike

Please bring some "finger

food" to share and we will  
provide some drinks. We are

planning to play Bunko and Court Wist and will  
have some Wii Games available.



## Memorials

### *Given in memory of Arlene Jensen*

#### Church

Family & Friends \$5  
Ralph Grundmeyer \$10  
Arlene & Arnie Hinderman \$10

#### Parking Lot

Family & Friends \$225  
Melvin & Lois Lendt \$10  
Alvin & Hazel Maasz \$10

#### Multi Purpose Building

Family & Friends \$300

#### Ladies Aid

Brad & LeAnn Berkner \$10  
Delbert & Eunice Sandhoeffner \$10

#### St. John's School

June Grundmeyer \$10  
Shorty & Mary Jayne Haus \$5  
Steve & Mickey Meyer \$10  
Mary Siegler \$75  
Steve & Paula Windschitl \$25

# *Christian Life Ministries*

*2756 Lake Shore Ave.  
Little Canada, MN 55117*

*Rev. A. Lemke  
Dir. of Education  
6781 Redwing Ln.  
Chanhassen, Mn. 55317*

May 14, 2012  
St. John Lutheran Church  
Sleepy Eye, MN

Dear pastor & friends at St. John Lutheran:

It was indeed a privilege and joy to have been with you for the special Life Sunday services and bible class that took place this past weekend, and to share the message of God's gift and the sanctity of human life at the worship and fellowship there.

We wish to thank you for this opportunity to speak to this gospel and life saving work carried on by Christian Life Ministries in its outreach to troubled hearts and lives by way of its counseling and educational programs. We are also grateful for your prayers for this work, and the support offered in the past.. These are a great help and encouragement to those who are bringing the love of Jesus to the moms and others mostly unchurched who are often struggling with difficult decisions that have to be made in their lives.

Our thanks also to Leo and Marcia Derkowski for putting us up overnight the evening before.

If CLM can be of assistance for presentations or bible classes on matters having to do with important human life issues in the future, do not hesitate to get in touch with us. May God continue to bless your congregation in the gospel and educational work carried on in your midst for many years now, which we pray will continue by his grace also for years to come.

Sincerely,

Rev. A. Lemke  
*CLM, Dir. of Education*

