

The St. John's Messenger

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Are You Ready for a Quiz?

When it comes to knowing our Bible, we certainly all have room to grow! Has it been a while since you covered the basics of what the Bible teaches? It is always good to review those basic truths and that is exactly what we will be doing in Sunday morning Bible class. Here are some questions to get you thinking.

- Have you worshiped any idols lately?
- When is it God-pleasing to swear?
- Is “not” coming to church a sin?

These are some of the questions we will answer in Sunday morning Bible class during the month of March. Please join us in March and beyond as grow together in faith and refresh our knowledge of the basic teachings of God's Holy Word.

Sunday is not the only time available for Bible class. A group of members also meets on Wednesdays at 10AM and 8PM. Currently we are looking at the amazing growth of the early church in the book of Acts. Whether you come on Sundays or Wednesdays, a church that joins in Bible Study enjoys some wonderful benefits. Here are a few.

- A growing faith both individually and as a group
- A stronger fellowship and connection to one another
- A good example for the next generation
- Bible class is a good complement to Sunday worship

This month we also start an article in the newsletter on the topic of Bible class. In this article different members will have the opportunity to share their thoughts on Bible class. They may encourage you to attend, share what they learned, tell how Bible class has helped them, or in some way give you some insight into our Bible class. Look for the article “How do you slice your pie?” in this newsletter.

I pray that I see you in Bible class.

In the name of our Savior,

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
February 14, 2011**

Present: Steve Windschitl, Jim Mielke, Jerry Dittbenner, Van Tallman, Barry Hillmann and Pastor Draper.

Pastor Draper opened the meeting with devotion and a prayer.

Minutes

Jim Mielke/Jerry Dittbenner made a motion to approve the January 2010 minutes. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Draper gave his report and stated attendance is headed in the right direction.

Treasurer's Report

Jim Mielke/Andy Jerry Dittbenner made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

President's Report

Steve Windschitl submitted a written report.

Board of Elders

Jerry Dittbenner/Jim Mielke made a motion to transfer the membership Kevin Radel to Messiah Savior in Witchita, KS. Motion carried.

Principal & Board of Education

The After School Care Program in running in the black. St. John's School received \$940.00 and another \$200.00 from Thrivent Choice Program of which \$200.00 will go into the general church fund. Lutheran School Week is scheduled for March 7th-13th. A congregational meeting will be held on February 28th at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the future of our school.

There will be a special voter's meeting on March 6th to call staff for the 2011-2012 school year. Jim Mielke/Van Tallman made a motion to accept. A letter of resignation was received from Stephanie Zastrow.

Worship Committee

No report.

Maintenance Committee

No report.

Outreach

No report.

Stewardship

No report.

MVL/WELS

MVL delegate information was discussed.

Endowment and Trust Fund Committee

The Keim estate has been invested.

Old Business

Jerry Dittbenner/Jim Mielke made a motion to release the remainder of the Keim estate of about \$820.00. Motion carried.

New Business

Tuckpointing is needed and being looked into for our school.

The next scheduled council meeting: 7:30 Monday March 14, 2011.

Jim Mielke/Barry Hillmann made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted
Barry Hillmann, Acting Secretary



Preschool and Kindergarten News Miss Zastrow

March has arrived! I can hardly believe how quickly this year is flying by. At the same time, I am as eager as ever for the month of March! Why? Because of all my “new” students, and because of our upcoming amazing Bible Stories! This month we will be learning all about Jesus' death on the cross and his rising from the dead! While I have told each student these stories before, it is even more exciting that these are our scheduled Bible Stories for the month. Now we will have time to “dig deep” into who Jesus is as our Savior, during our actual Bible Story time!



This month we will be learning all about animals!!! The topic is endless, and we have so many questions to begin with. A huge perk to being a student at St. John's is that everything is taught in light of “this is how our wise Heavenly Father made them!” We will also be learning the letter Q this month, which wraps up all of the letters in the alphabet! We have learned them all! Now onto more challenging concepts, like the digraphs “ck” and “sh”!

The first week of March we will be busy with Lutheran Schools Week! We hope you enjoy “ARRRRR” play performance! Its all about pirates! We will also be having fun with other fun activities all week long!



Grades 1-5 News Mrs. Halvorson

During Lent, we turn our thoughts to our Savior's great love for us through his suffering and death. We will hear devotions with “Resurrection Eggs.” Each of the twelve eggs contains a symbol of Jesus' suffering and death and helps us better understand our Lord's great sacrifice for us.

“Lutheran Schools Week” will be celebrated by our area WELS Lutheran schools from March 7-13th. We will celebrate at St. John's with Parents' and Grandparents' Days complete with entertainment by the children. Movie afternoons and all school bowling will round out the fun later in the week. The children will perform their play “How To Be A Pirate” again on Sunday, March 13th for anyone who would like to come. You won't want to miss this fun presentation!



We will tour the Brown County Historical Museum on March 2nd. This trip is “piggybacked” with a trip to MLC that we take every year to allow freshman students to practice teaching mini lessons to our area Lutheran elementary school children.

After our MLC morning experience and a pizza lunch we will visit the museum to learn about the fur trade while a guide shows us furs. We will also learn about New Ulm's role in the Sioux uprising. The 5th Grade are studying Minnesota State History this year and this will be of special interest to them.

In our Science unit Grade 1-2 will help build a rainforest in our classroom. This is an exciting unit as we learn about animals and different layers of our world's disappearing Rainforests.

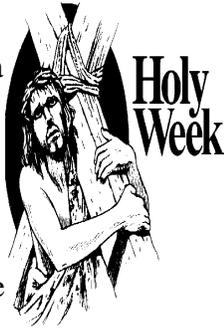
One morning in March Grades 1-2 will join other first and second graders from other WELS area schools at MVL. The children will tour the school, visit some classes, and join in some fun activities with MVL students. They will learn how MVL is a wonderful place to continue their Christian education into their high school years.

As the days get longer and move toward Spring, we are reminded of God's constant love and care for us through every season!



Grades 3-5 News Mrs. Brown

Christ Light (grades 4-5) Our lessons followed the church year very closely this past month with a study of Palm Sunday and the Holy Week in class just before the students heard it in church. It was neat hearing how parts of the church service were more meaningful to the students because of the background information we shared in class. "Thanks, God, for this awesome 'coincidence!'"



Minnesota History (grade 5) What were some causes of the Great Depression? How was Minnesota affected? St. John's 5th graders now know the answers to these questions. They also are more appreciative of the blessings we have that make day-to-day life easier. Right now they are trying to solve a crime committed by one of St. Paul's gangster families in the 1930's.

Science (grades 4-5) Building blocks are to a city as cells are to the body. This was the idea this past chapter in Science class when the students had an introduction to plant and animal cells, cells work together to form organs, which then create systems in the human body. It has been an awesome experience for the students and me to use microscopes to begin to see how intricate the bodies God has given us really are!

Science (grade 3) This was the first time I taught about the planets since Pluto officially was renamed a dwarf planet rather than just a planet. The students' amount of knowledge of space has really surprised me, until they admitted that most of it came from watching Star Wars, then it made sense. Naming the planets in order, researching specific facts for each of the planets, and looking at space exploration have made for interesting classes.

Social Studies (grades 3-4) Aloha! Did you know that the Hawaiian language only contains 11 letters? As the third and fourth graders learn about the environment West we cover lots of territory and

variety as we go from Hawaii to Alaska to Nevada and so on. The students are ready to start traveling!

Music (grades 1-5) "How to Be a Pirate in Seven Easy Songs" is the mini-musical the students are working on for Lutheran School Week, March 7-13th.

Physical Education (grades 3-5) The students have been enjoying trying out the new equipment! Recently we used Jump Bands, which are stretchy bands that partners hook on their ankles and jump rhythmically to music while others jump between the partners' bands. A great workout!



Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid Society met on Wednesday, February 2 for their regular scheduled meeting. President Marlys Lochner presided. Our devotion was a Bible Study conducted by Pastor Draper on Genesis 27:30-28:5. Isaac, his wife Rebekah and twin sons Esau and Jacob wrestled with God and suffered the consequences of sin. We marvel at the Grace of God that overcame it all.

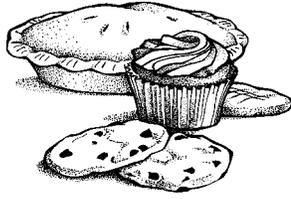
A motion was made, seconded and passed to pay \$26.00 for the banner for Unity Sunday. The banner, beautifully done, is a picture of our church with a rainbow above.

Plans are underway for the LWMS Spring Rally on April 9th @ St. John's. There will be a LWMS Sunday at St. John's prior to the rally and a door collection will be taken. This will give our congregation an opportunity to support this mission. The Annual LWMS Convention will be held in Milwaukee, June 23-26. Sallie Draper plans to be our delegate. The Ladies Aid will pay her registration fee of \$60.00. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to pay the LWMS dues of \$75.00.



Block 1 served the meal for Unity Sunday, February 6th. Block 2 will serve the lunch for the Arnold Gohlke funeral. Block 3 is up to serve.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to give \$20.00 in scrip for MVL's after prom party.



A bake/craft sale is being planned for March 27th will all circles hosting the sale. The congregation is invited to participate.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 2nd at 2:00 p.m. Come join us!

Marilyn Deibele
Secretary



Hosanna Circle

We held our meeting on February 3, 2011. Pastor continues to share the Bible Story of Jacob and Esau. We see what they reaped from their sinful manipulations. God had plans for them but their sin got in the way for them all to reap the rewards of the blessings that could have been theirs. God still uses our sin and bad decisions to teach us and guide us back to him so when we listen and learn, the Blessings are plentiful.

The Lap Robes for the Shut-ins were put together and we thank those who came to help make this event so successful and enjoyable with much fellowship.



Lenten Services start on March 9th with services at 4:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. There will be a supper between services and we invite everyone who can make it to come and share with us. Hosanna Circle will put together the Ash Wednesday meal and serve. The menu we are planning is Turkey Supreme on a bun and Connie Trebesch's famous Calico Beans. Hope to see many of you there.

Our schedules seem to conflict each other at this time so we have decided to table the "Bad Girls of the Bible" event for now until after Lent and the LWMS Rally in April. We will go forward with it, just at a later time.

The LWMS Rally is April 16th and St. John's is hosting it so we do have much to do to get our church ready for company. Paula Windschitl is handling this event and is asking for volunteers to help were you can to get the church ready. Any questions, please contact her.

Our next meeting will be on March 3rd at 6:00 p.m. We invite you to join us if you can.

Your Sisters in Christ,
Pam Dittbenner and Connie Trebesch



Lenten Suppers

Lenten suppers will be served between Lenten services from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Member contacts will be made asking for donations of bars. Thank you!

March 9th

Turkey Supreme & Calico Beans
Hosanna

March 16th

Chili
Youth Group

March 23rd

Tatortot Hotdish
Youth Group

March 30th

Taco Salad
Youth Group

April 6th

Tomato/Chicken Noodle Soup, sandwiches
Youth Group

April 13th

BBQ's
PTO



BRING THE FAMILY!

MLC Auxiliary Spring Meeting

When: Monday, April 18, 2011

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Where: St. John's Lutheran Church, Fairfax

More information about this event will be forthcoming. Mark your calendar now!



CenterPoint Energy

Grant money is now available to help with your Natural Gas Bill. Visit CenterPointEnergy.com/paymentassistanceMN or call 800-729-6164. A guideline for assistance has been posted on the church bulletin board.



Living on too little?

South Central MN Project Community Connect is sponsoring a day of resource information @

Verizon Wireless Center
1 Civic Center Plaza, Mankato
Tuesday, March 15
9 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

For more info. www.scmnpcc.wordpress.com or call (507) 389-6995 or visit St. John's church bulletin board in the church basement.



LWMS News

Upcoming local events:

- Annual door collection for missions will be held on Sunday, February 28
- Spring Rally hosted by our church on Saturday, April 9th
Theme: "A Gospel Oasis South of the Border"
This is a great opportunity to hear what is happening in missions
- Many plans for cleaning, decorating, meal preparation and church readiness are underway. See a separate article for details!

National Convention:

- June 23-26 Hyatt Hotel, Milwaukee, WI
- Registration forms and convention info on basement bulletin board
- Sallie Draper will be St. John's representative
- Contact Paula Windschitl or Sallie Draper with questions or go to www.lwms.org

Befriend a Mission

- Information about the following mission assignments will be available after the church basement is painted (check out the basement bulletin board in late March!)
- Sure Foundations Lutheran Church – Woodside, NY
- Prince of Peace Lutheran Church – Englewood, FL
- World Mission: Hong Kong – Kowloon, Hong Kong
- **Please remember these missions in your prayers**



Basement & Entry Painting Project in March

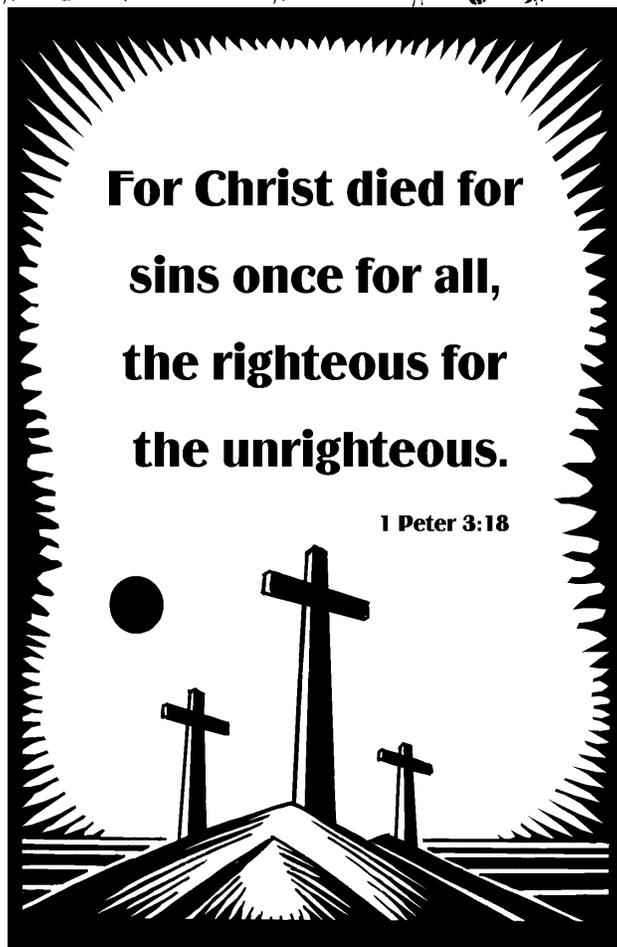
Time to put your talents to use! We have a wonderful variety of tasks available in March for everyone in our congregation. We will be painting the church basement and new entry way.

- Prep and repair work will begin the first half of March under the direction of Mike Crabtree. Painting will be done March 18th and 19th. You can come whenever and for however long you are able!
- Specific charts listing tasks are on clipboards in the narthex. If you are able to help, please list your name by specific tasks (this will help us plan). Other jobs beside painting also need to be done such as: wash basement windows & curtains, moving floor items in basement so painting can be done, remove items from walls, clean switch plates, etc.
- If you cannot physically help, but would like to assist in this project, contributions of supplies would be welcome: Paint rollers, pans, roller covers, plastic drop cloths, 1" blue painter's tape, paint brushes, TSP cleaner, additional use of ladders, interior latex primer (just 1 gallon) and **contributions of money to pay for the paint** would be very much appreciated! One more area to help out might be to bring some snacks, beverages or light meal contributions for the workers. Please contact either one of us if you want to contribute in any way.



We had a fantastic crew help out when we last painted the parsonage. Let's get together again and have a great time sprucing up our beloved and well-used basement.

Mike Crabtree & Paula Windschitl



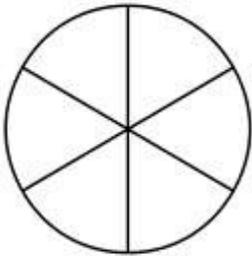
How do you slice your pie?

I love to make pies! I also love to eat them. But I am not a big math fan, so I don't have as much fondness for pie *charts* as I do for the actual culinary delight.



You remember pie charts – sliced into generally uneven wedges, they help us visualize certain things such as how our money is spent, population trends or maybe even something fun like movie, music or video ratings.

Let's make a pie chart right now. You can do it on paper or in your head, it doesn't matter. Here goes:



The entire pie represents one week. Now divide your pie into six sections:

Section one will represent time spent at church services.

Two: time spent listening to audio of worship services & Christian speakers.

Three: Time spent listening to Christian music.

Four: Time spent watching video or television presentation of Christian topics or worship.

Five: Time spent reading the bible, scriptural reference material or Christian publications.

Six: Time spent in Bible study class at church or with another Christian outside of church.

Now estimate how big you should make each wedge of your pie according to the time spent in each section. Take a moment to evaluate this little chart. (And tell yourself you're going to put it in the back of your head and think about it more this week.)

Many of us may come to the sad realization that some areas might be woefully lacking. Maybe you have nothing to put in any section. Maybe only one or two sections have anything in them. Ouch!

We travel through life wondering why our families fall apart, why addictions never end, why we just can't seem to get our life together... and more... and often fail to see that we have been ignoring or paying very little attention to the master guide book. That master guide book, the Bible, has the words of life in them. We get those words in all the various ways suggested in that little pie chart. It makes sense to fill that vacuum in our lives with more of His Word! But, you say, where do I start?

Come to Bible study. It's the perfect place to be fed the truth - what we're doing wrong, what God tells us about conducting our lives in ways that bless us, how he loves us and how to find lasting and real joy through him.

Bible Study gets a lot of bad raps. (We'll cover some of those misconceptions in another article.) It's time to check it out for yourself and see what it really is: opportunity to grow in wisdom, love and contentment alongside other sinners who need God just as badly as you do.

Oh, and we may have pie there. Okay, maybe not pie, but usually cookies ☺ !

Submitted by Paula Windschitl, a bible class participant

PS – Bible study starts about 9:15 on Sundays and is also held Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. in the church basement. See you there!