

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



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Any Regrets?

A few weeks ago we studied the 2nd commandment in Sunday morning Bible class. One of the topics connected with the 2nd commandment is that of taking oaths – making promises. Sometimes there is a reason to swear solemnly that you intend to do something, such as when you are a witness in a court trial, but for the most part we should simply say we are going to do something and then do it. Our reputation should be of such a quality that people trust we will do what we say.

Keeping a promise can be very difficult if we realize that what we said we would do is really something we don't want to do. That happened for King Herod once. He promised to give a young girl just about anything she wanted without knowing what she would ask for. She asked for the head of John the Baptist. Herod really regretted making that promise!

What about you? Have you ever made a promise that later you realized was a mistake? Did you eventually do what you said you would do or did you change your mind? Do you have any regrets about things you have said? Fortunately for us God made a promise to save us from our own sins and he kept his promise, even though it involved the death of his own son! And he has no regrets!

Let me tell you about a couple of decisions I have made that I certainly do NOT regret. Several weeks ago I told the kids at the school that if they read for a total of 30,000 minutes before May 13th, I would spend the night on the top of the school roof. I wanted to challenge them to read more because reading is an important skill for so many other areas of life. They have risen to the challenge and it looks like I will be spending one night in the deluxe accommodations of the hotel "Roof of St. John's"! You can ask me after I come down from the roof, but I don't think I will regret it.

Another decision I made – this one about 11 years ago – was to study for the public ministry. It took six years to complete. What if I went through all that work and all of that study only to find out that the public ministry was not for me? Would it all be a waste? Would I regret my decision? Others assured me that studying God's Word was never a waste! Of course they were right. Day by day, as I sat in class, I heard God's Word and I was changed by it. It didn't happen overnight and there were certainly days when sitting through another class was not what I wanted to be doing or when it seemed like I wasn't learning much, but God rewards persistence. After six years of study and almost four years in the ministry do I regret it? No, absolutely not!

Studying God's Word is never a waste of time. Come and join me in Bible class. You won't regret it.

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 April 7, 2011

Present: Steve Windschitl, Leo Derkowski, Jerry Dittbenner, Van Tallman, Barry Hillmann, Mike Crabtree and Pastor Draper.

Pastor Draper opened the meeting with devotion and a prayer.

Minutes

Van Tallman/Barry Hillmann made a motion to approve the March 2011 minutes. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

No formal report.

Treasurer's Report

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

President's Report

Steve Windschitl submitted written report:

- Stacy Shrum has accepted the call as the Pre K-K teacher.
- There was good participation in the three long range planning meetings. As we go forward we will implement many of the ideas proposed, time, treasure and talents allowing
- Please consider volunteering to fill one of the many open board positions next year. Contact Steve or Pastor Draper.

Board of Elders

Leo Derkowski/Barry Hillmann made a motion to transfer the membership of Peter Mielke to St. Marks, North Mankato. Motion carried.

The Elders have completed preliminary work on salary budgets for next year. Salaries have been adjusted to comply with Synod guidelines.

The confirmands' examination is scheduled for 7:00 PM April 29, 2011. All are welcome to attend. Confirmation is scheduled for May 1, 2011.

Principal & Board of Education

Leo Derkowski and Pastor Draper are working on a school marketing plan. The focus is on three

geographic areas: Sleepy Eye, Morgan and Springfield.

Worship Committee

No report.

Maintenance Committee

Mike Crabtree completed preliminary work on next year's budget.

We are currently testing two possible replacement vacuum cleaners.

Mike Crabtree/Van Tallman made a motion to approve expenditures of up to \$2,000 for tuck pointing the worst areas of the school exterior walls. Motion carried.

Outreach

No report.

Stewardship

No report.

MVL/WELS

No report.

Endowment and Trust Fund Committee

No report.

Old Business

None

New Business

The tuition issue for eighth grade students who wish to attend school at St. Paul's in New Ulm was discussed. Only one student is affected. We will attempt to negotiate a better subsidy rate with St. Paul's. The issue was tabled until the next Council meeting.

The next scheduled council meeting: 7:30 Monday, May 9, 2011.

Leo Derkowski/Barry Hillmann made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted
Leo Derkowski, Secretary

Preschool and Kindergarten News Miss Zastrow

May has arrived! As we close off the school year, I look back and think of all the children that have entered my classroom this past year. Each child is so unique. Each has been blessed with different gifts and abilities, just as we adults have been blessed in different ways as well. It is indeed a good thing that we are all so unique. If everyone had the same gifts and abilities within a congregation or school, there would be large gaps in learning, large gaps in outreach, and large gaps in general, in all aspects of worship and education. Yet, God equips us each in different ways, and sends us out to "Go into all the world and preach the good news." (Mark 16:15) A teacher has the challenge of teaching to a variety of learners. Thankfully, each of those learners has a unique way of sharing the gospel message with others, as well. We share the gospel message in the way that we know how, and God blesses it. God works around our weaknesses! As one of our memory treasure this month shows, His command is simple "Go out into all the world and preach the good news."

We have been busy this past month with continued reading progress, and learning all about animals, insects, and our earth! We have also been enjoying some of our new phy-ed equipment that is made for outdoor play. Preschool and Kindergarten has learned quite a bit this school year. We are ready for whatever next year might bring! We are looking forward to our summer "vacation" and are as eager as ever to have days free to enjoy as much of the warm weather as we can soak in. Before the year is out, we'll be fitting in a walking field trip to visit the police department, and the bank! We are praying for a fun and safe summer, that allows us all to return ready and rejuvenated, eager to learn more and more in the school year to come!



Grades 1-5 News Mrs. Halvorson

Our year has flown by and the calendar tells us that summer is just around the corner! But we still have new things to learn this month!

In our Christ-light bible lessons we are studying the stories after Jesus' resurrection. These include Jesus' instruction to his disciples and great commission to preach the gospel, the coming of the Holy Spirit, and the early Christian church.

Our mathematicians are practicing their multiplication skills, subtracting two-digit numbers, counting money, rounding to the nearest ten, locating points on a coordinate graph, and sharpening their long division skills. Wow!

May is month of fun "extras".

- Grade 5 will participate in the track and field day for our area Lutheran schools at the track at Sleepy Eye Public School on May 6th.
- Grade 3-4 will join other children of Sleepy Eye for Arbor Day at one of Sleepy Eye's parks. They will do readings and skits and plant a tree.
- Then there is the "Bike Rodeo" where we get to practice safe biking skills on our bikes (with our helmets on of course!)
- We are also looking forward to visiting the Public Library the last week of school and learning about the Summer Reading Program.
- We are working hard to put Pastor on the Roof during the last week of school with our "Read To the Roof" challenge. Check our progress weekly on the poster at church!



It has been exciting to journey with the children through another year of learning. But even more, it has been a joy and privilege to see their faith grow daily! We thank God for this blessing of Christian Education here at St. John's. May God bless us with many more years of of learning His Word at our school.

Grades 3-5 News from Mrs. Brown's Group

Christ Light (grades 4-5): Roman 1:16 "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes..." An awesome verse for us, but also the theme we are studying in the work of the apostles and the early Christian Church. After Pentecost the disciple boldly proclaimed Christ and the message of Law and Gospel. The students are looking at ways they too can boldly present Christ to those around them.

Minnesota History (grade 5): Protests seemed to be everywhere in the mid 1900's in Minnesota. This past month we looked specifically at 3 movements in Minnesota: Civil Rights Movement (Martin Luther King, Jr., Hubert H. Humphrey, and the 1969 AAAC takeover of Morrill Hall at the University of Minnesota), American Indian Movement (1971 takeover of the Twin Cities Naval Air Station by AIM), and the Women's Movement (12 years old Kathy Striebel being allowed on a swim team. This led to Title XI, which makes it illegal to discriminate against women and girls in any educational program that receives federal funding).

Social Studies (grades 3-4) The western region's history is very different from any of the other regions in the amount of changes that happened over a short time period. The two big changes we are study now include the Gold Rush and Women's Suffrage.

Science (4-5) The students are being exposed to new topics to them such as mitosis/cellular division, life cycles, plant and animal reproduction. There is plenty of new information and vocabulary to keep them busy this month as they aren't topics that the kids discuss in their everyday lives. They have expressed a new level of wonder at the creation God has given us and how amazing it truly is.

Science (3) Muscular and circulatory systems have been keeping us busy. The students are enjoying looking at the systems of the body individually, although they do wish lunch wasn't so close to Science class. Students have a new appreciation for the miracle that is our bodies and what is all involved in each movement we make.

Farewell to Teachers

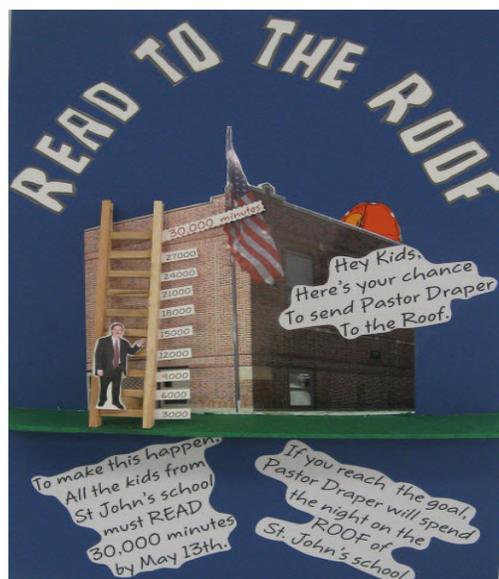
On Sunday, May 15 following the 2nd service we will recognize Miss Stephanie Zastrow and Mrs. Amber Brown as they finish up the school year and their calls to serve at St. John's. Card boxes for both teachers are in the church narthex if you wish to thank them personally. Everyone is invited to join in the end-of-year potluck meal after the 2nd service.



Teacher Appreciation



May 2nd – 6th we will celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week at St. John's School. We are blessed to have three gifted teachers this year, and it is good to show our gratitude for the work that they do. Everyone is encouraged to share their thanks with our teaching staff.



St. John's students have taken up the challenge to read Pastor Draper to the roof of St. John's School! If the students read a combined 30,000 minutes by May 13th (minutes read as of April 18th – 19,130), Pastor Draper will spend the night on the the roof of the school. Follow their progress on the special "Read to the Roof" charts in school and the church basement.

Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid met for their regular scheduled meeting on Wednesday, April 6th at 2 p.m. President Marlys Lochner presided. Our devotion led by Pastor Draper was the continuing story of Jacob as he fled his home and found himself in the land of his uncle. Jacob realized that it was the hand of God that guided him.

The profits from our Bake/Craft sale amounted to \$329.00. A hearty Thank You to all who participated in any way! The proceeds will go to our numerous projects.

A Thank you goes to Leona Lendt for her generous donation of \$25.00 to the Ladies Aid.

A check for \$50.00 designated for a basement chair was given at our Bake/Craft sale. After a brief discussion, it was decided the Ladies Aid would use it to start a "Basement Chair Fund".



Circle 1 will clip, count and package Campbell Products Labels for the 2010-2011 school year in May. Please bring any labels in as soon as possible. Block 3 served for the SW Lutheran Chorale Concert held at St. John's on April 10th. Block 4 will serve for the Brunch on May 30th for Miss Zastrow's family following her wedding day on May 29th. Block 1 served for Milda Dey's funeral. Block 2 is up for the next food event.

Our next meeting will be a joint meeting with the Hosanna Circle on Thursday, May 5th at 7:00 p.m. Come join us!

Marilyn Deibele
Secretary



Hosanna Circle

We held our April meeting on the 7th at 6:00 p.m. Pastor shared God's word with us and we all felt more refreshed and much closer to his grace and mercy. Our wish for all mankind is to feel that same refreshment and grace. Spending time in his word is a blessing to us all. Thank you, Pastor!

We finalized the last minute needs for the LWMS Rally that was hosted here at St John's and then used the remaining time to do the last minute cleaning and organizing for the Rally. On Saturday, April 9th the Rally started with a 9:00 a.m. registration followed by breakfast in the basement. At 10:00 a.m. the Rally moved upstairs for the program to begin. Working on this event was a wonderful blessing for all who volunteered their time and talents. Fellowship abounded and the joy we all shared with one another is still such a blessing. A very large Thank you goes out to all who participated in making this event a huge success!

We are now looking forward to all the 2011 events that will be coming up as the months pass. Check the Church Bulletin weekly and as these events come up, if you are interested in volunteering your time and talents please do, the time you spend will truly enrich you.

Hosanna Circle will also be busy with the planning for our Advent by Candlelight dinner this year and once again if you are interested in helping in any way contact a Hosanna Circle member.



ADVENT

Please come join us. Our next meeting is a joint meeting with the Ladies Aid on May 5th at 7:00 p.m. in the church basement. Hope to see you there.

Your sisters in Christ.

Pam Dittbenner and Connie Trebresh



Thanks!



Many thanks to everyone who contributed money for paint, cleaning supplies, carpet cleaning and other supplies that allowed us to do the recent spruce up projects without touching the church budget! Thank you to all those generous donors!

LWMS News, Notes & Thanks!



On April 9th, 124 guests participated in person along with 14 online attendees at the LWMS Spring rally here at St. John's. Speakers for the day included Pastor Tim Wahl from Spirit Lake, IA who spoke about Tent Ministry, and Lanita Nolte who spoke about her time visiting missions in Mexico.

Information about the upcoming International Convention and the opportunity to join a bus group heading there was shared. Various other mission reports were given, including a report on the Central Africa Medical mission and an update on our WELS missionary & family in Japan.

The theme of the day was "A Gospel Oasis South of the Border". In keeping with the theme, volunteers from our church served a breakfast of authentic Mexican pastries with Mexican coffee & juice. The noon luncheon consisted of a Margarita Chicken Salad, fresh corn bread with honey butter, traditional Tres Leches cake, and lemonade. Other helpers greeted guests, manned the registration tables, collected ballots and the offering, decorated, created paper and fabric decorations, arranged flowers, cleaned up and helped out all over the place! We had a great day and it turned out fantastic! All praise to God!

Mission projects selected by our circuit included: Home Missions- "Vans for Missions" - this is a project that provides vans at Native American mission sites so transportation for church, bible study, VBS, etc is available to those who don't have transportation. The World Missions project chosen was "Mission to the Children" which is a successful program in Mexico that provides support for humanitarian aid and worship needs.

The offering for the day totaled \$1,346.74.

Newly elected officers include: Lanita Nolte - President; Jeneane Thiesfeldt - Treasurer; Kristen Smith - Spiritual Growth Woman; and Pastor Kevin Draper - Pastoral Advisor (2nd term).

The date for the Fall Rally is October 8th. It will be held at Trinity in Nicollet.

Many, many thanks to the dedicated workers from our church that helped make this event a success in many ways. The Lord has truly blessed our family of believers with varied talents, and we have much to be grateful for as we enjoy the benefits of these gifts.

International Ballot – May is the Time to Vote!!

All women are encouraged to pick up a ballot in the narthex and cast your vote for the Home and World mission projects of the year. Our combined vote will help select the winners at the International Convention! Ballots will be available until May 22.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Windschitl, Reporter



Memorials

Easter Flowers given:

Harold & Bev Bartz
Brad & LeAnn Berkner
Mike & Janet Crabtree
Leo & Marcia Derkowski
Dennis & Pam Dittbenner
Jerry & Jan Dittbenner
Pastor & Sallie Draper -
In memory of Pete Wilson
Don & Ruby Guhlke
Randy & Dawn Hagert
Spencer & Heather Hammer
Mark & Cheri Hammerschmidt
Arlene Jensen
Dale & Karla Kosmatka
Marlys Lochner -
In memory of Eugene Lochner
and George & Ester Lochner
Mike & Barb Lux -
In memory of Ralph Boomgaarden and Jerome Lux
Ken & Penny Mathiowetz
Loren Meinert -
In memory of Delbert & Violet Meinert
Steve & Mickey Meyer -
In memory of Lynn Wandersee and Rene Jo Risen
Steve & Paula Windschilt -
Given in honor of St. John's called workers,
staff and volunteers

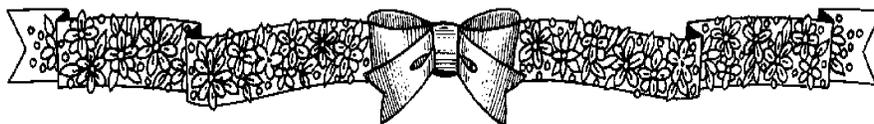
Zastrow & Arndt Wedding

You are cordially invited to attend the marriage ceremony of Stephanie Zastrow and David Arndt on Sunday, May 29th, 2011 at 3 o'clock in the afternoon at the Martin Luther College Chapel of the Christ, 1995 Luther Court, New Ulm, MN.



You are also invited to join us in the celebration of our marriage in the evening at 7pm at the New Ulm Community Center, 600 North German Street, New Ulm, MN.

Whether or not you are able to attend, we ask for and greatly appreciate your prayers as we enter into our new life together as Mr. & Mrs. David Arndt.



Dear Members of St. John's Lutheran Church and School,

Its a very certain thing that I will be drying my wet eyes by the time I'm done writing this letter, if not this sentence! How can a person possibly say "thank you" in a large enough way, as I am going to now attempt?! Backtracking four years, I graduated from Martin Luther College and on call day, I sat in those bleachers, and heard them say "Stephanie Zastrow – St. John's Lutheran School in Sleepy Eye, MN, Grades Preschool and Kindergarten". I smirked at the humor God had in sending me to Sleepy Eye, just 15 minutes down the road, when up until that point, had anyone ever asked me where I'd like a call to, I had been heard many times saying something along the lines of "I honestly know that I'll be happy with wherever He sends me, because I know that has been His plan all along, and therefore I'll be qualified to fulfill their needs, but if it was entirely up to me, and we were just talking about location, I'd LOVE someplace on either the east or west coast. That'd be my preference." Yes, God does have a sense of humor!

Looking back on that just proves to me, time and time again, that our God knows exactly what He is doing with each and every pastor and teacher He sends out. I have never been more sure of it. I can see in many different ways that St. John's has been exactly the place the for me. Its ironic, because I am here to serve you, and yet you have done so much for me! I have enjoyed my time here, immensely. I have grown in my teaching skills and learned so much both about myself and about my students and their families. I cannot imagine having been placed anywhere else. It saddens me to be leaving, yet I keep reminding myself that just like on call day, God is sending me exactly where He wants me! So I can be confident and eager, and look forward to this new chapter in my life. I will greatly miss all of you, and I have to admit, I will especially miss the students that have been in my class. The joy of teaching young children God's precious Word, on a daily basis, has been quite the privilege, and I have been truly blessed through it. Thankfully, Sleepy Eye is a great stopping point for long trip from Wyoming to Wisconsin! I'll be back!

Thank you for all you have done for me these past four years, and I ask for your continued prayers as I begin this new life as a wife (that rhymes!)! I am eagerly looking forward to whatever else God has in store for me this next year! If you ever need a place to stay in Sheridan, Wyoming, let me know! God has greatly blessed the people here at St. John's, and I pray that He continues to do so, in order that more and more children are able to hear His precious Word on a daily basis.

In Him,
Stephanie Zastrow

DISCOVER THE RICHNESS OF GOD'S WORD THROUGH BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study at St. John's Lutheran Church on Sunday morning becomes an inspirational habit. On recent Sundays we have been studying The Ten Commandments. This is a wonderful “brushing up” of our confirmation classes. We have studied the first four Commandments—we actually study each Commandment and “what is meant by this.” What surprises me are the questions we dwell on as adults – we discussed the Fourth Commandment for two Sundays.

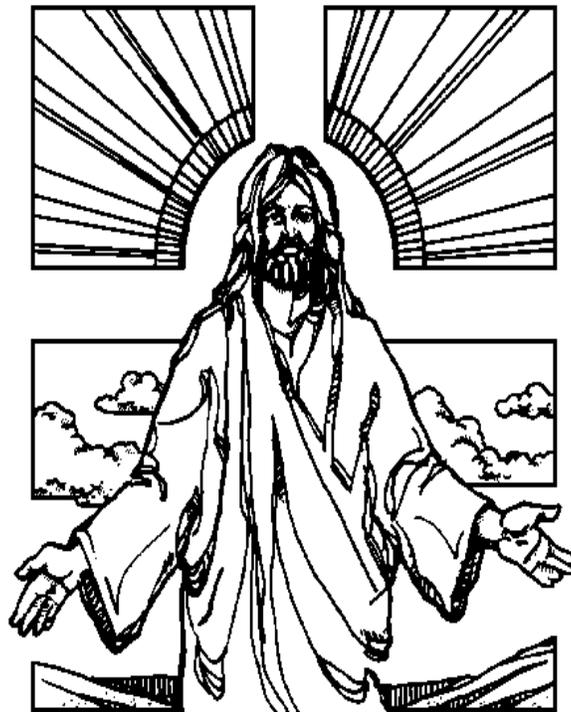
After studying the Ten Commandments we will be dwelling into other chapters of the Bible. What makes these sessions so special is that Pastor Draper uses present day cartoon and articles pertaining to our current studies of the Bible. Sometimes they make us laugh. You don't have to read out loud or answer questions, unless you want to. If you like to just listen – fine.

Why should I attend Bible Class when I read my Bible at home? Everyone should read and study your Bible at home; however in addition to this, studying with fellow Christians puts a lot of thought and questions into the subject. You learn a lot.

I have to get up one hour earlier or stay one hour longer after services if I attend Bible Class! That is true; but once you get into the habit of attending, it will become automatic, - you will feel like you are losing something if you don't go. Pastor Draper is a great teacher, listener and the discussion is never dull.

In Philippians (Epistle of Joy) Paul and Timothy pray with peace and joy to all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi. Philippians Chapter 4:9 “Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put into practice. And the God of Peace will be with you.”

Mary Ann Trebesch
Bible class participant



**“Why do you look for the living
among the dead?
He is not here but has risen.”**
Luke 24:5

Come join us for:

MOVIE NIGHT
-THE CHRONICLES OF-
NARNIA
THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

May 21st in the exclusive
"*St. John's Outdoor Theatre*"
(or the church basement if weather is bad)

Schedule:

- **6:00 PM** – The gathering begins and the cooking starts!
- **6:30 PM** – We eat. Games and activities will start after the meal.
- The movie begins when the sun goes down.

We will provide:

- The movie
- Hot dogs
- Juice / Lemonade
- Games
- Activities
- S'mores

Please bring:

- A side dish to pass
- Lawn chairs and/or blankets to sit on