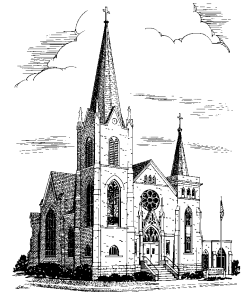


The St. John's Messenger

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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Isn't It a Lot Like Graduation?

It seems a lot like graduation. We have a ceremony; they wear robes; we hand out certificates; we celebrate with food; we give gifts. We do many things at this time that we also do at graduation, but we call this special event confirmation.

The three students that will be confirmed this year are certainly to be commended. They have completed a course of instruction in the basics of our Christian faith. They now have a foundation on which to grow in their faith and knowledge of God's precious Gospel.

They are prepared to join us at the Lord's Table. They know that the Lord's Supper is a visible display and reminder of the unity we have as a group of Christians who believe and teach the truth of Scripture. Even greater is the unity they will have with their Savior in the Lord's Supper. As they join us in this sacrament they too will receive the Lord's body and blood along with the bread and the wine. They too will receive the forgiveness of sins in the Lord's Supper that Christ won for them on the cross.

Yes, confirmation is a special event. We who are confirmed have reached a certain level of biblical instruction, but it is not the end of our education as Christians. This is part of an ongoing growth in our faith and knowledge of God's Word that began at our baptism and will continue until we die.

Please take time to congratulate our confirmands this year. They have worked hard to grow in their knowledge of God's Word and God has blessed them through it – not only for this life but for eternity. This is a good time for all of us to remember that time spent in God's Word has eternal consequences. It is also a good time to look at their example and take time to learn more about the faith we confess. One way to continue your life-long learning is in Bible Class. You are always welcome to join us on Sundays at 9:15 a.m. and/or Wednesdays at 10 a.m. or 8 p.m.

In Christ our Resurrection,
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 April 2012

The Lenten season has past and Eastertide is upon us. Alleluia He is risen is called out. It is truly a glorious time for Christians. Hopefully you were able to attend the Holy Week services. They were very inspirational while Jan Dittbenner and the choir did a great job beautifying the services with their voices.

Our Long Range planning meeting was held March 18th. The group was small but the ideas were many. In the span of less than 2 hours we covered the accomplishments of the previous year, we looked at ways to evangelize with outreach services and a WELS Parish Nursing program. We discussed opportunities to promote the school and upgrade the school building.

Of the many improvements the past year it was noted that Bible study has grown. Between Pastor, Dave Silfies and Justin Shrum, they all have brought out a clearer understanding of the Bible, presenting in such a way that even I can get it! If you haven't been to Bible study for a while I encourage you to come and hear what they have to say!

Our voters meeting will be held on April 22nd after the 2nd service. A light lunch will be served for those attending. Some of the topics to discuss are:

Members that have not been attending and how we might draw them back in or have them transfer to a WELS congregation closer to them if that is the case.

The school building options will be discussed, what must be done and what could be done.

The summer schedule will be considered, should we continue Saturday night service or try Monday night?

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



At the June meeting will need to get a few more men involved with the leadership of our congregation. We need at least one Elder, a stewardship chairman and a school board member. Leo Derkowski's term is up then also, so we will need a secretary for the church council at that time. Please 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
April 10, 2012

Present: Steve Windschitl, Barry Hillmann, Andy Lochner, Jerry Dittbenner, Shorty Haus, Dan Rick, Mike Crabtree and Pastor Draper.

Pastor Draper opened the meeting with devotion and a prayer.

Minutes

Shorty Haus/Andy Lochner made a motion to approve the March 2012 minutes with correction of a 5 day school week is planned for 2012-2013. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

Written report.

Treasurer's Report

No formal report.

President's Report

Written Report.

Board of Elders

Shorty Haus/Mike Crabtree made a motion to transfer out Van & Lori Tallman to Abiding Savior, Elk River, MN from membership. Motion carried. Andy Lochner/Shorty Haus made a motion to transfer out Sam Mielke to Resurrection, Rochester, MN. Motion carried. Andy Lochner/Mike Crabtree made a motion to transfer out Jessica Mattes to St. Paul's, Rapid City, SD. Motion carried. Shorty Haus/Andy Lochner made a motion to release Lisa Lux from membership. Motion carried. Shorty Haus/Andy Lochner made a motion to release William Wischstadt from membership. Motion carried.

It was recommend by the Elders to put the "trial service times" (possibly changing Saturday Summer service to Monday evening at 7:30 p.m.) times in the bulletin for discussion and present it to the voters to be voted upon.

Principal & Board of Education

The Easter breakfast collection totaled \$554.00. The upper grade class trip is scheduled for May 7th – 11th. They will also be going to Sleepy Eye Lake to see an algae and lake presentation.

Worship Committee

No report.

Maintenance Committee

No report.

Outreach

No report.

Stewardship

No report.

MVL/WELS

No report.

Endowment and Trust Fund Committee

We currently have \$56,000 in our fund.

Old Business

The amount needed for the alley project is \$11,250 by July 12th. We have reached our Organ Fund goal.

New Business

Confirmation will be held May 6th.

The next scheduled council meeting: 7:30 Monday, May 14, 2012.

Shorty Haus/Mike Crabtree made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Barry Hillmann, Acting Secretary



Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid held their regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 4th at 2:00 p.m. President Marlys Lochner presided. Our devotion was from the Book of Ephesians 2:1-10. In these verses, Paul makes it very clear that we are saved by grace alone.

The Ladies Aid paid a bill of \$20.40 for place mats.

One half of the recent LWMS door collection or \$192.00 will be given to LWMS at their Spring Rally. The other half will be given in the Fall.

Many Thanks to Mary Ann Trebesch for typing up the "Old Notes" recently found of the Ladies Aid meetings. They have been put into a booklet. You did a great job Mary Ann!



The Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) will hold its 49th Annual Convention June 21-24 in Winston-Salem, NC. The theme is "Our God Reigns".

The collection of the Campbell products will be ending soon for this school year. Please bring your labels to the school or the church basement.

Block One is up to serve.

Our next meeting will be held Thursday, May 3rd at 7:00 p.m. The Hosanna Circle will be joining us for a joint meeting. All ladies of the congregation are invited to join us!

Marilyn Deibele
Secretary

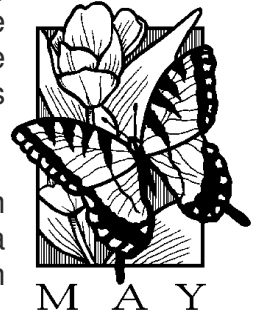


News from Mrs. Shrum's & Mrs. Schoenherr's Classroom Pre-K/K

During the week of Easter, the students decorated eggs, heard the Bible story of Jesus' Death and Resurrection, and learned the song, "I Am the Resurrection and the Life."

We have been doing a lot of sorting with shapes and colors. We have been singing counting songs, reading counting stories, and doing counting activities.

The students are learning the letters X and J this month. The Kindergarten class has been learning long vowel sounds and daily writing in their journals. Froggy the Traveling Tree Frog: has been going home with each student, so that the students can write in Froggy's journal.



The caterpillars in our classroom are getting ready to build a cocoon, so that they can become butterflies!

We miss Mrs. Shrum very much and continue to pray for her!



News from Mrs. Halvorson's Classroom Grades 1-3

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 such Old Testament heroes of faith as Elijah, King Hezekiah, Esther, and Daniel.

We will celebrate our Lord's Ascension into heaven on May 17th. We will review the year in song in our special evening church service. We are looking forward to singing some of the favorite songs from the church year that we learned again.



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 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.
- We will visit Walnut Grove to wrap up a unit on Pioneer life.
- 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.

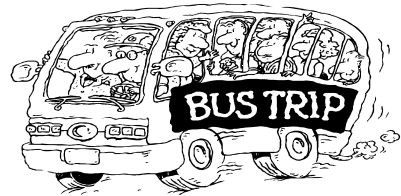
It has been exciting to journey with the children through another year of learning. But even more, it has been a joy and privilege to and see their faith grow daily!



News from Mr. Rick's Classroom Grades 4-8

Happy Early Spring! The weather has been great and the school year is ending strong! Grades 4-8 have been quite busy with their school work and extracurricular activities. The students sang well at the Good Friday service and Easter morning service! Our students might be small in numbers but their voices sound numerous. Grades 5-8 attended Fine Arts Day on March 30th. The event was hosted at Martin Luther College and it was a successful and wonderful day! The students experienced teaching in Music, Drama, and Art from MVL and MLC teachers. Recently at St. John's School, all grades have experienced two awesome days: Family Reading Night and the MLC Children's Play. Both events were fun and very enjoyable for the students. Everyone had a great time! Furthermore, the Track season has begun and we are practicing many events during recess. The Sleepy Eye track meet will be held on May 3rd. Go Warriors!

More upcoming events for grades 4-8 and St. John's school include: Class Field Trip to Milwaukee, algae and lake presentation at Sleepy Eye Lake, Dunk Tank on May 15th, and the last day of school! For more news on grades 4-8, please read our Warrior Weekly online and our classroom web page.



Read to "Let's Soak 'Em" Minutes

Please continue to help your children reach our reading goal of 30,000 minutes by **May 11th!**



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- For every 300 minutes read for Pre K - 2nd they will receive one ball to "Soak 'Em!"
- For every 500 minutes read for 3rd - 8th they will receive one ball to "Soak 'Em!"

Minutes as of April 20th

PK/K- Minutes Read - 825
1st - 3rd- Minutes Read 9,268
4th - 8th Minutes Read - 10,701
Total - 20,794
Minutes to " Let's Soak 'Em!"
30,000 - 20,794= 9,206 Wow!

Organ Fund

We've met our goal of \$37,572! A special "Thank You" to all of our generous donors! We are now able to start the second phase of our project.



Memorials

In Memory of Jerrroll Dittbenner Sr

Organ Fund

Jerry & Jan Dittbenner - \$500

In Memory of Mark Jensen

Organ Fund

Arlene Jensen - \$100

In Memory of Robert Sucker

Organ Fund

Arla Lehnert - \$10
Delbert & Eunice Sandfoefner - \$20
Beverly Bartz - \$10
Marlys Lochner - \$10

School Fund

Lois Beike - \$10

In Memory of Edna Putz

(Judy Maasz's mom)

St. John's School

Chad & Amber Brown - \$10



Easter Flower Donations

Jerry & Jan Dittbenner
Dennis & Pam Dittbenner
Ken & Penny Mathiowetz
Todd & Laurie Hammerschmidt

Marlys Lochner
Steve & Mickey Meyer
Leo & Marcia Derkowski
Steve & Paula Windschitl
Don & Ruby Guhlke
Beverly Bartz - In memory of Harold
Brad & LeAnn Berkner
Mike & Janet Crabtree
Arlene Jensen
Brenda Runck
Matt & Chris Steffen
Patsy Eckstein
Gary & Heidi Kuelbs
Pastor & Sallie Draper
Barb Lux
June Grundmeyer
In memory of Ray & G.G. Rothmeier, George & Elise
Weilage, & Adeline Ubl
David & Kelli Jensen & girls - In memory of Mark
Jensen



MLC Auxiliary News

The MLC Ladies Auxiliary sponsored a Bingo Night activity on March 30th. 170 students participated and had a great time! A generous donor gave \$1,000 in fuel gift cards to be passed out as prizes! Also, area supporters provided countless plates of home baked goodies and other prizes all adding up to a very successful event.

The spring meeting of the Auxiliary for our area will be held on Monday, April 23rd at Zion Lutheran Church in Winthrop. Registration begins at 6:30 and the meeting will run from 7 – 9 p.m. All are invited to attend. Come and hear about what is new on campus and how you can be a supporter of the work being done there.

The annual project list still has unfulfilled items remaining on it. For a complete list, go to 222.mlc-wels.edu and type in the word "auxiliary" in the search box. If you wish to donate directly to these projects, send your contribution to: MLC Auxiliary, 1995 Luther Court, New Ulm, MN 56073. Please be sure to specify "Ladies Auxiliary" on the memo line of your check. Thank you!

Paula Windschitl
MLC Auxiliary Reporter

LWMS News



The MN Valley Circuit of the LWMS met for its spring rally on Saturday, April 14th at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Owatonna. 90 people attended.

The day started with registration and coffee from 9-10 a.m. A business meeting was held. A bible study, led by Pastor Kuschel, reminded to protect our world mission workers by not using words like “Pastor” or “Reverend” on mailings, and to also avoid all religious and Christian words and symbols inside the packages as well. A list of training CD’s for the Asia Lutheran Seminary is almost complete; anyone wishing to contribute to the purchase of these CD’s from NPH should contact your reporter for more information. The ALS has also created a “wish list” on Amazon.com for books they could use. To participate in that, go to Amazon.com and click on “Find Someone’s Wish List”. Enter the following email address: carmen@als.org.hk (this is Carmen’s email from Hong Kong; she is an assistant at the seminary there). Be sure to email Carmen and check with her first before purchasing so that she can give you the correct mailing address for the items. **Special Note:** Just for now only, a collection of these Amazon items is being assembled at an address in Lake City, MN which will then be sent in a special shipment in June. You would need to obtain the items and have them shipped to Lake City by the end of May. This address is: Carmen Tomfohrde
31646 Co. Road 5
Lake City, MN 55041

In other news, it is not too late to sign up to attend the National convention in Winston-Salem North Carolina in June. There is also a local bus trip travelling there. For further information, go to www.lwms.org and also www.mnvalleylwms.org or check with your LWMS Reporter.

Sarah Bauer, from **Truth in Love Ministries**, was the keynote speaker. She shared information with us about presenting God’s word to Mormons (also referred to as “LDS” – Latter Day Saints). Her key point was to not speak badly of what they believe, but simply affirm the truths in the bible about free grace through Christ as the cornerstone of salvation. If you’d like to see some video clips about the TILM outreach, search YouTube for “tilmoutreach”. Future outreach for the group includes work in Provo, Utah, this summer, then Salt Lake City next year. Volunteers are being sought to help with canvassing and outreach work for these events.

A delicious and beautiful luncheon was enjoyed by all. The offering for the day totaled \$1043.00.

Newly installed officers include: Marley Kuckhahn, Vice President; Christine Doering, Secretary; Marti Klindworth, Spiritual Growth Woman; and Pastor David Nauman, Pastor Advisor. Special Projects selected by our circuit for the coming year include the following: Home Missions- Outreach to Muslims; World Mission – Nepal.

A closing devotion was led by Pastor Prell.

Our next rally, (date not determined but most likely to be held in September), will be at Zion in Winthrop.

Paula Windschitl, Reporter