

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



MAY 2013

My Savior

Let me tell you about my Savior! His name is Jesus. He is God himself who became one of his mortal creations so that I, his creation, could be immortal. Yes, he even died for me. Not only did he die physically, but he suffered the spiritual death I deserved – being separated from all of God's blessings. He suffered the death that separated him from all comfort, joy, peace, love, and anything else that could be called good. He suffered willingly for me so that I wouldn't experience that spiritual death, even though I truly deserve it for my offenses against God.

Yet, that is not all. He didn't stay dead. In a miracle only God could perform, my Savior came back to life, spiritually and physically. Right now, today, my Savior, Jesus, is alive. His human heart pumps blood. His lungs breathe air. Even the synapses of his brain are firing to produce thoughts. Amazingly, all this he still does for me.

How do I know he is alive? In the end this is a matter of faith, trust in the words and promises of God, but there is evidence. The apostle Paul talks about eyewitnesses, people who saw Jesus alive after his death. There was Paul himself, the other disciples, and at one point 500 people saw him at one time (1 Corinthians 15). Some of these people even wrote down what they saw. Many of these people were willing to die rather than give up the truth that Jesus was alive.

After all, if Jesus were still dead, if he was only alive in the imaginations of those first century disciples, then how can I have any hope that he will one day raise my body? I can't. If Jesus were dead, he isn't much of a Savior. If God couldn't cause the flesh and blood body of Jesus to live again, he isn't much of a God.

The good news is "I know that my redeemer lives. What comfort this sweet sentence gives." Because he lives, I too will live even after my body dies. Because he lives, I know that he has the power to control my enemies and protect me from harm. His life makes all the difference. If he is dead, he is worthless. Since he is alive, he is everything!

This is amazing, Jesus is alive. He is my Savior, and, just as amazing, he is your Savior too. Whether you believe he is alive or not, whether you wanted him to die for you or not, it is all true. He lived, died, and now lives again, so that you could be perfectly happy forever with him. He did it to be your Savior too.

In Christ,
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 2013

At our voters meeting March 3rd we called Lori Soloviyov for our K/Pre K teacher. She has accepted the call and will be with us July 1st. Keep Mrs. Soloviyov in your prayers as she plans the move with her family and looks for housing. We are excited to have her join us at St John's!

Our voters meeting will be held April 28th after the 9 am service. We have topics of discussion for all to be involved in.

We have one student that will be confirmed at our 9 am service May 5th. Holly Helget will become a confirmed member of St. John's. Welcome and congratulate her!

In June we will have our budget and electoral meeting. Along with approving the budget for 2013-14 fiscal year we have seven board and committee positions to vote on and fill.

Maintenance committee chair Mike Crabtree's term is up. He will stay on as committee member but we need a chair for that position. Mike has been very helpful maintaining our church and school and he will continue in that capacity. Thank you.

Gary Kuelbs second term is up on Elders and we are currently short one elder so there will be two positions open on the board of Elders. Thank You Gary for your support to the Elders.

Board of Ed chairman Dave Zimmerman has completed his two terms and will be going off the board. Thank you Dave for you dedication to the school.

Barry Hillmann's term as financial secretary is up. He also helped out as my council secretary this year. This will be two positions' that need to be filled. Thank you Barry for your help in both of these capacities.

My terms as Elder and now president are up also and a new president will need to be elected.

If you would be interested in helping out with any of these positions, contact myself, Pastor or Dave Silfies. Prayerfully consider helping your congregation. With all of us taking a part in what needs to be done here at St Johns, the load is much lighter. A continued thanks to all those still working on the boards and commissions, your help is appreciated!

The school fire safety project is on track to start after the May 15th dismissal of school with the installation of the sprinkler system. This along with a few other improvements will bring our school building up to fire code.

In Christ,

Steve Windschitl
President, St John's Congregation

Church Council Minutes March 12, 2013

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

Pastor Draper opened the meeting with devotion and a prayer.

Minutes

Andy Lochner/Shorty Haus made a motion to approve the March 2013 minutes. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

No report.

Treasurer's Report

No report. Shorty Haus gave his report.

President's Report

Written report was presented.

Board of Elders

Shorty Haus/Andy Lochner made a motion to release Howard Schoof, Susan Altmann and family, Tom Hale and Terry Kirchner. Motion carried.

Principal & Board of Education

Written report was presented.

Worship Committee

No report.

Maintenance Committee

There was discussion regarding cleaning the church.

Outreach

No report.

Stewardship

No report.

MVL/WELS

No report.

Endowment and Trust Fund Committee

No report.

Old Business

None.

New Business

The next Church Council meeting will be held Tuesday, May 14th at 7:30 p.m.

Andy Lochner/Shorty Haus made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted
Barry Hillmann, Acting Secretary



Mrs. Shrum's Classroom News

April is almost over and we move on to the last few weeks of school! This past month was full of excitement as we celebrated Lutheran Schools Week with movies, bowling and performances of our play "Camp Wallaballa" for friends and family. We've learned the sounds for the letter's X, Y, and Z this month, so now we have completed the entire alphabet! In Bible Story we read the New Testament Stories Jesus Appearing to the Women and Mary, Jesus on the Road to Emmaus, Jesus Appearing to the Disciples and Doubting Thomas! We all took a short trip to M.L.C. to see their children's theater production of "Who Can Fix the Dragon's Wagon", what fun!



The Kinders are continuing to learn about base 10 math, counting coins and telling time to the hour, as well as adding and subtracting! They have finished all the stories in their reading curriculum, and are moving on to more challenging stories to prepare them for 1st Grade! Take a look at their Pop Corn Word Wall in the ASC room, they've learned to read so many words!

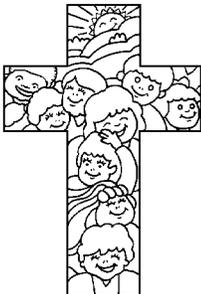
With the end of the school year also comes the end of my time here at St. John's. Justin and I will be moving to Milwaukee sometime after the 1st of July. We thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for your kindness and support over the last two years, and wish you God's Blessings as you continue to spread the Gospel of our Lord and Savior to the people of Sleepy Eye! We'll miss you all!



Mrs. Halvorson's Classroom News

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.



We will review our church year in song as we celebrate the Ascension of our Lord on May 9th. We have learned many songs which have been firmly planted in our minds and strengthened our faith this year.

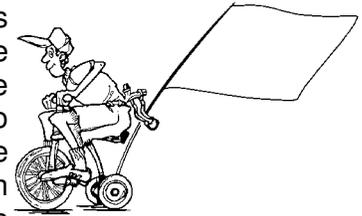
Our mathematicians are practicing their multiplication skills, subtracting two-digit numbers, counting money, rounding to the nearest ten, locating points on a coordinate graph, and sharpening their long division skills. Wow!

May is month of fun "extras".

Grade 3-4 will participate in the track and field day for grades 3-8 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.

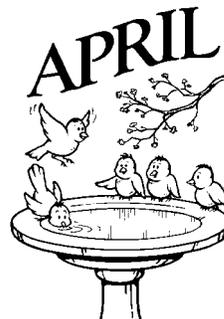
- Then there is the "Bike Rodeo" where we get to practice safe biking skills on our bikes through an obstacle course (with our helmets on of course!)
- We are also looking forward to visiting the Public Library the last week of school and learning about the Summer Reading Program.



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 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.



Mr. Rick's Classroom News



Happy Spring! Well...maybe we should say continued-late Winter. Grades 5-8 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 22th. 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 participated in LSW with a big finish of the play "Camp Wallaballa." All the students put in hard work with acting and memorizing. Furthermore, all grades were able to enjoy the MLC Children's Play to finish LSW. The play was fun and very enjoyable for the students. Everyone had a great time! Track & Field season has begun and we are practicing many events during recess. The Sleepy Eye Track & Field meet will be held on May 3rd. Everyone is welcome to watch and support our students. Go Warriors! More upcoming events for grades 5-8 and St. John's School include: Adopt-a-Highway, Field Trip to Fort Snelling, and the last day

of school! For more news on grades 5-8, please read our Warrior Weekly online and our classroom web page.



Lutheran Women's Missionary Society

The Spring Rally of our Minnesota Valley Circuit was held on April 13th at St. John's in St. Clair, MN. Please look for a separate news item with details from the day.

In May, all women of our congregation may vote for candidates on the National LWMS Board and also vote for their choice of mission projects. Ballots and sheets of information will be available in the narthex from April 28 – May 19th. Mission projects this year include: Caribbean Missionary Conference support; Students in Multi-Ethnic Seminary Program; Nigeria Projects, and Indonesia Projects. All congregational votes will be tallied and one vote per winning candidate and project will be sent in to represent our congregation's choice. It is interesting to note that both candidates for the post of Pastoral Advisor are from Minnesota. Please pick up an information and ballot packet and cast your vote!

The National Convention in June is fast approaching. At this time, four from St. John's are planning to attend. We are excited to be looking forward to this amazing conference where we will catch up on a lot of hands-on mission experiences, meet old (and new) friends, worship and pray together, and learn about the work of the LWMS. It's still not too late to register – just go to www.lwms.org for all the convention details.

Befriend A Mission: This month, we have one birthday to celebrate among our mission family assignments. Julie Gunn is the pastor's wife at Crosswalk Lutheran Ministries in Phoenix, and is celebrating her birthday on May 13th. Cards may be sent to her at:

Mrs. Julie Gunn
1809 Moody Trail
Phoenix, AZ 85041

God's blessings on your month.
Paula Windschitl,
LWMS Reporter

Hosanna Circle

At our April circle meeting Pastor Draper led us in discussing Ephesians 6:1-9, obey our parents as directed in the first commandment.

A thank you was expressed to all who helped with the food preparation for the Lenten services.

The Hosanna Circle will be serving a light lunch for the MLC Auxiliary meeting, held here at St. Johns, on April 23rd. Our menu is a Italian pasta salad, bread sticks, carrots and celery and strawberry topped cake. Circle members are to meet at 1:00 that day to help prepare. The food costs will be shared by the Ladies Aid.

We encourage all members to contact Paula Windschitl if they can help with putting flowers on the altar, removing them to the cooler if necessary and laundering the communion napkins.



Our circle donated \$100.00 to Christians Forward - Southeast Asia.

Volunteers for delivering Meals on Wheels in May are to contact Judy Maasz.

We started planning our Advent candle light celebration for December. A tentative date was set for December 8th.

Our May meeting is the joint meeting with the Ladies Aid on Thursday, May 7th.

Your sisters in Christ,
Mickey Meyer and Connie Trebesch



Easter Breakfast Contributions

Thank you to everyone who donated items for our Easter breakfast. Many thanks to the upper grade students and their families for decorating, bringing dishes to pass, serving and cleaning up. The meal was enjoyed by all!



Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid Society met on Wednesday, April 3rd at 2:00 p.m. for their regular monthly meeting. President Marlys Lochner presided. Pastor Draper led our devotion which was from the book of Ephesians 6:1-9. In these verses Paul addresses children, parents, slaves (employees), and masters (employers) and tells them how God wants them to live.

We received a thank you from Jesus Cares Mission for our recent donation of \$50.00. We also received a thank you from Marcia Derkowski for our monetary donation for her Mission Trip to Thailand.



Marcia read the latest newsletter from Central African Medical Mission (CAMM).

Circle One clipped Campbell Products labels and packaged them for this school year. Remember to continue to save them for next year.

Circle Two with the help of other congregation members assembles the church newsletter each month. A big thank you to all who come to help us!

St. John's is responsible to deliver Meals on Wheels in the month of May. Volunteers are needed. Call Judy Maasz at 507-276-7474 if you can help.

Block 2 is up to serve.

Our next meeting will be a joint meeting with the Hosanna Circle. The meeting is at 7:00 p.m. On Thursday, May 2nd. Come join us!

Marilyn Deibele
Secretary



LWMS Spring Rally



LWMS of the Minnesota Valley Circuit Spring Rally was held on Saturday, April 13, 2013 at St. John's Lutheran Church at St. Clair, MN.

Our President Lanita Nolte from St. Paul's, New Ulm presided at our meeting and is also re-elected for another term.

The morning session had an interesting speaker, Janice Rauh who had a liver transplant and spoke how there were a lot of ups and downs with her disease and how God lead her through all the troubled times of sickness and the rejection of the liver.

The noon meal was a delicious salad with lots of assortments of deserts.

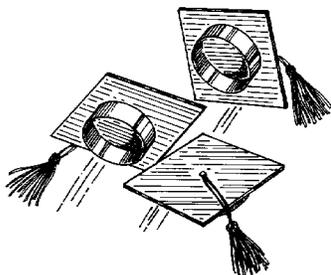
In the afternoon we had another interesting speaker, Matthew Rothe who spent about three weeks in Malawi, Africa. Matthew is a WLS student interim in Malawi, Africa – the first International interim. He spoke how people still believe in witchcraft. He also spoke of the inconveniences from getting to one place to another is not as good as here. He said the foods were different, and that there is a lot of mission work to be done there.

There were only 88 people that attended the rally and the collection was \$1,013.00 which goes to some projects. The projects voted on were WELS – Canada Evangelist Program to train leaders and workers and Christ Evangelical Lutheran Ministries - with the help and support of friendly counselors it runs the orphanages serving 300 children in four different areas of India. The amount of \$18.00 a month provides the complete physical needs of a child, food, shelter, clothing, medical care and loving supervision in a christian environment. Part of the collection will go to the "Send One Sister" who goes the first time to the National Convention which will be next year in Dallas, TX from June 26th - 29th , 2014.

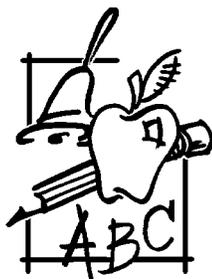
Marlys Lochner

Oh Happy Day!

Our St. John's family is invited to join us as we celebrate Stanley Draper's high school graduation. The party will be Friday, May 24 from 4 to 8 PM in the church basement.



Teacher Appreciation



May 6-10 we will be celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week at St. John's School with special treats for our teaching staff. Everyone is encouraged to share with our teachers your appreciation for the dedicated work they do nurturing Jesus' lambs here at St. John's.



Thank You for Mission Trip Donations

A very sincere "Thank You" for the generous outpouring of supplies and monetary donations in support of Christians Forward Southeast Asia. I filled my allotted suitcase to the limit, and sent the monetary donations to the CFSA organization to be used for additional needed supplies and expenses. I am looking forward to the trip to Thailand and sharing it with you when I return.

Marcia Derkowski



Thank You!

We would like to sincerely thank all those at St. John's for the wonderful gift. It will help with the cost of gas, etc. for chemo treatments. It is greatly appreciated. Thanks so much, Dan & Deb Hemming



Historical Presentation

ST JOHN LADIES OF FAIRFAX
INVITE ST JOHN'S SLEEPY EYE LADIES
TO THEIR ANNUAL SPRING SALAD SUPPER
MAY 7TH AT 6 P.M. IN THE ALL-PURPOSE ROOM.

JAYNE BECKER, PROJECT SUPERVISOR
OF THE MN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF ST. PAUL
WILL BE OUR GUEST SPEAKER. SHE WILL
PRESENT A FUN AND INTERACTIVE PROGRAM
ON VICTORIAN FASHION AND STYLE TRENDS.

PLEASE RSVP TO LOUISE KIECKER
BY MAY 5TH.



Easter Lilies & Azalea Donations

Todd & Laurie Hammerschmidt
Marlys Lochner
Dennis & Pam Dittbenner
Steve & Paula Windschitl
Loren Meinert
Ray Mielke
Andy & Rita Lochner
Penny Mathiowetz
Leo & Marcia Derkowski
Mike & Janet Crabtree
Jerry & Jan Dittbenner
Pastor & Sallie Draper

In Memory of Our Parents,

Our Twin Daughters – Julie & Judy -

Melvin & Lois Lendt

In Memory of Lynn Wandersee,

Rene Jo Risen -

Steve & Mickey Meyer

In Memory of Harold Bartz -

Beverly Bartz

In Memory of G.G. Rothmeier,

George & Elsie Weilage & Adline Uhl -

Family

In Memory of Mark & Arlene Jensen -

David, Kelli, Megan, Allison & Cindy Jensen