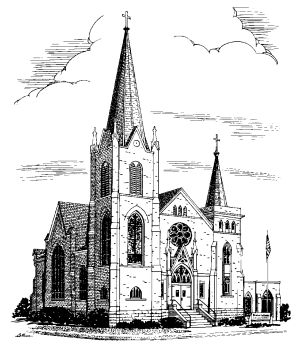


The St. John's Messenger

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 2010

VOLUME 11

NUMBER 5



Christian Education Our Life and Our Privilege *Deuteronomy 32:45-47*

www.stjohnsse.com/125

A celebration of
St. John's Lutheran School's
125th Anniversary
May 23, 2010

All current and past church members and school families are encouraged to attend!

Agenda of Events

- 8:00 a.m. Worship – Guest Pastor Joel Leyrer
- 9:15 a.m. A look at Christian Education
- 10:30 a.m. Worship – Guest Pastor Joel Leyrer
Pre-service, offertory, postlude music selections by students
Combined children and adult choir
- 11:45 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. School Open House
- 11:45 a.m. Meal: Pork Tenderloin, Hot Dogs, Baked Beans, Cheesy Potatoes, Assorted Side Dishes,
Desserts, Drinks
Served in the church basement with overflow seating on the grounds
- 1:00 p.m. Program
8th grade graduation & awards
- 1:30 p.m. Group Photos

Sign Up

Church members and school families are asked to sign up to bring items to help with the meal including pickles, vegetables, chips, BBQ sauce, desserts, drinks, coffee, and paper products. Monetary donations are also accepted. Sign up sheets are in the back of church and in school.

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 12, 2010

Present: Paul Maasz, Barry Hillmann, Van Tallman, Leo Derkowski, Jim Mielke, Jerry Dittbenner, Dave Zimmerman, Jeff Schultz and Pastor Draper.

Pastor Draper opened the meeting with devotion and a prayer.

Minutes

Van Tallman/Jim Mielke made a motion to accept both the February and March 2010 minutes. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

No formal report was made

Treasurer's Report

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

President's Report

No report

Board of Elders

No report

Principal & Board of Education

Principal Schultz submitted a written report. Highlights include:

- \$652.00 was collected from the Easter Breakfast. After bills were paid \$367.26 was allocated to the class trip fund.
- The school calendar for 2010-2011 is finalized.
- Outings planned for the future:
 - May 21 – school/church outing to the Twins/Brewers game
 - May 24 – field trip to the Science Museum

Worship Committee

No formal report

Maintenance Committee

No formal report.

Outreach

No formal report

Stewardship

No formal report.

Endowment and Trust Fund Committee

No formal report

MVL/WELS

No report

Old Business

None

New Business

Leo Derkowski/Barry Hillmann made a motion to release Jessica Kranz and her two daughters from membership. Motion carried.

Leo Derkowski/Jim Mielke made a motion to accept Joshua Zarling by transfer of membership. Motion carried.

Most of the council meeting was devoted to a discussion of the school situation. The following is a recap of the topics discussed:

- Enrollment continues to decline. Principal Schultz recently polled families to determine whether or not they will enroll their children next year. He received 16 “yes” confirmations (including one for pre-school), five “no” confirmations and six “undecided” responses. Worse case is an enrollment of 16 and best case is an enrollment of 22 next year.
- Due to the status of the student population, staffing is an issue. With only 16-22 students enrolled, it is unlikely we can continue with three full-time and one half-time teachers. For example, with only one student enrolled in pre-school/K program, does it make sense to have one full-time teacher dedicated to the program? Since we are already running in a deficit budget mode, paying the increased salaries called for by Synod guidelines is burdensome.
- We need to bring the school building up to code to meet guidelines established by the fire marshal. As of the date of this meeting, we don’t know how much this will cost. In addition, extensive work may be required to certify the pre-school program.

The council made no recommendations. These issues will be discussed at the Quarterly Voter’s meeting April 18, 2010. Until we know what it will cost to bring the school building up to code, it’s difficult to make any recommendations based on what we know today.

In a related issue, Jim Mielke/Van Tallman made a motion to approve spending up to \$4,700 for an engineering study to determine the cost to bring the school building up to code and address issues identified by the fire marshal. Motion carried.

Thrivent has issued a challenge grant. If we raise \$9,300.00 by June 30, 2010 they will match it with \$4,650.00. No recommendation or motions were made regarding the grant, although the consensus is that we should accept the challenge. The issue was tabled for further discussion.

Next council meeting: 7:30 Monday, May 10, 2010.

Jim Mielke/Dave Zimmerman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting closed with The Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted
Leo Derkowski, Secretary

Principal's Report

Mr. Jeff Schultz

“Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him and He will do this.” (Psalm 37:5)

With the above words, the psalmist is reminding us to put our problems and concerns into the hands of our God. All too often, we get caught up in the moment and forget that it is God that wants us to bring all of our worries and problems to Him in prayer. He promises to hear and answer those requests. Why wouldn't we want to take advantage of this opportunity every chance that we get?

Here at St. John's, we have to make some very important decisions in the next couple of weeks concerning our school and staff. What are we going to do with our building? Are we going to need all of our current staff for next year and beyond? How are we going to get our enrollment back up to respectable numbers? To answer all of these questions, we need to use good Christian common sense and bring these concerns to our Lord in prayer. The school board, church council and elders have been wrestling with these issues for the past several meetings. Today, we are going to share with you all of the information that was talked about in those meetings. A final decision on what to do will be made at a special voter's meeting in a couple of weeks, probably right after confirmation. There will be a period of time in today's meeting devoted to listening to your concerns about our current situation to make the best possible decision.

Here is a brief summary as to what was discussed at the meetings:

1. We have had to borrow \$15,000 from the bank on our line of credit to keep up with our bills. Weekly contributions have not been at the level needed to meet our bills.
2. A letter of intent was sent out to all current school families. They were to mark whether their child was coming back to St. John's next school year, was not coming back or was undecided. Results showed 16 yes, 5 no and 6 were undecided. The preschool was not included in this because most of the parents do not make a decision about preschool until after August 1. (Currently, there is 1 preschooler registered and 2 undecided). According to the responses, we would have approximately 20 students enrolled for next year with 3 and ½ teachers. We are over-staffed considering the numbers. We need to decide in what direction our school needs to go regarding keeping or not keeping our current teachers. This will have a bearing on class divisions and various subjects that will be taught as in the past (music in particular), as well as our congregational budget.
3. The state fire inspector has given us 13 various items that need to be fixed, updated or changed throughout the school building. One of his suggestions was to inquire a state licensed architect that would draw up a plan telling us the various costs of the items. Council approved spending up to \$4700 for this man's services. We should know by the end of this week what the exact costs to us for updating the building will be. This is a very strong variable in the whole decision making process. These items have to be fixed to ensure licensing for our preschool and school.

There will be a special voters meeting on Tuesday, May 11 at 7:00p.m. in the church basement to discuss staffing and what needs to be done/costs to the school building to ensure our state license. All members are urged to attend this meeting!

In Our Savior,

Jeffrey Schultz
Principal



Preschool and Kindergarten News

Miss Zastrow

“Surely I am with you always.” Matthew 28:20 As this school year comes to a close and I think back on how quickly it has flown past me, I especially think about the children that have come into this classroom for a limited amount of time, whether it was one year or two years, or even a few short months. The feeling is bittersweet. Those that are no longer here or will be leaving, I miss. Yet at the same time, I smile when I think of them, because even the time I had with them was so precious, its unexplainable. It is a comfort to know that while students are here, they are hearing God's Word, day in and day out. Beyond that, God is always with them. What greater comfort is there? What a blessing to be able to take a child who has never heard God's Word before, and teach him/her about their Lord and Savior! Each and every day that happens, is indeed a gift from God.

This May we will be learning all about bugs! Bugs are not my favorite subject, but nonetheless, it is good to learn about them! About this time of year we find out which students are brave and which are not so brave, when it comes to bugs. Already this spring, a few preschool students were worm-hunting around school and ended up finding as many as they could hold in their hands!



We will also be learning about our country, the United States of America, and a little bit about some other countries of the world as well.

As we round off the school year, it is amazing to see the progress in each of the students. We have new readers, new shoe-tiers, new writers, and new artists! All kinds of skills have developed yet again this year! To God be the glory! With the school's 125th Anniversary celebration coming up, it makes me wonder... 125 years ago, would anyone have guessed that at this point in time, we would be operating a full time preschool? Would they have guessed we would have a room specifically dedicated to learning with computers? Would they have wondered what on earth a “SMARTboard” is? We have come a long way! Again it seems obvious, to God be the glory!

If you are interested in keeping up with the Preschool/Kindergarten classroom weekly, be sure to check out www.stjohnsse.com/prek-k and click on “Classroom Updates” for our classroom newsletter and weekly pictures of what we've been working on! God's Blessings on your month!

Grades 1-4 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 such Old Testament heroes of faith as Elijah, King Hezekiah, Esther, and Daniel.

We will celebrate our Lord's Ascension into heaven on May 13th. 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.
- Early in May we will visit Hacker's Greenhouse in connection with our Plant unit.
- 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.
- The entire school will also visit the Minnesota Science Museum during the last week of school. What fun!

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! As we celebrate our 125th anniversary, we thank God for this blessing of Christian Education. May God bless us with many more years of of learning His Word in the walls of this school.

Grades 3-6 News

Grades 5-6

Christ Light has taken us through the time of the kings of Israel. We've discovered that if people enjoy action-packed books with plots with twists and unexpected endings, then reading the books of Judges, 1 & 2 Samuel, and 1 & 2 Kings would be a great reading experience for them. It was also a reminder of the influence good/bad public and church leaders can have on the people they serve. So we were reminded to pray for good leaders.

Science is electrifying! Do you know how electricity and magnetism are related? No, ask a 5th or 6th grader all about it. We now have a greater appreciation for what electricians, machinists, and other people working with electricity deal with daily.

Grades 3-4

Yee-Haw! The Southwest is full of cowboys stories and we are reading some of them as we study this dry area. It is amazing to see how God has placed plants and animals in desert areas and given them exactly the adaptations they need to survive in that environment. We are also thankful for the "black gold" God placed in the ground throughout the SW and other places in the world.

Can you see that? All that we see is thanks to the visible spectrum. We are discovering the connection between rainbows and vision. Soon we will move from light waves to sound waves in our Science class.

Hosanna Circle

Our Hosanna Circle meeting was on April 8th at 7:00 p.m. in the church basement. Our devotion with Pastor Draper showed us how Jesus fed the 5 thousand with two loaves of bread and five fish. This small amount of food is not much for a crowd that size but Jesus was demonstrating what can be accomplished with very little. We also can accomplish great things with even the smallest of gifts and talents God has given each and every one of us.

May 2nd is Confirmation. Please keep our Confirmands in your prayers.



May 9th is Mothers Day and the Seminary Choir will beautify our 10:30 Worship Service with their music. St. John's is providing a Pot Luck Meal after the service. Please bring one or two dishes to pass, as there will be a large group.

On Tues, May 18th at 6:00 p.m., there will be a Ladies Spring Planting Event at Hackers Greenhouse. We will meet at the church at 5:30 p.m. to car pool. You can purchase the planter, dirt and plants for \$20. Lynn Hacker will give us tips on how to plant, what to plant together and how to take care of those plants. If you have a favorite planter, bring it along and fill it with the plants of your choice, the price will be reduced. This is a wonderful time for fellowship and also come away with a planter full of great plants you can enjoy for many months. If you are interested in joining us, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthax by Friday, May 14th so we can let Lynn know how many will be coming.

May 23rd is our School 125th Anniversary. A meal is being planned for a very large group so we are asking if you could please sign up to help bring some of the items needed to make this Event a very special one. There will be sign up sheets located in the Narthax, please help where you can. Thank you so much for any help you can be.

Our next Hosanna Circle meeting will be May 6th and it will be a joint meeting with the Ladies Aid. Please come and join in. All are welcome.

As you can see, May is a very busy month here at St. John's. We all have gifts and talents. Let us put them all together and see what amazing things will happen.

Have a Blessed and God-filled month of May.

Your Sisters in Christ,
Pam Dittbenner and Connie Trebesch

Ladies' Aid

The Ladies' Aid Society met on Wednesday, April 7th at 2:00 p.m. Pastor Draper led our devotion. We continued our study of the "Miracles of Jesus." Today we looked at the Feeding of the Five Thousand, as recorded in the book of Matthew 14:13-21.

The income from the March 28th Bake and Craft sale amounted to \$270.00. A big Thank You to all who participated. There was a large variety of items for sale.

Block 2 is up to serve. Block 1 will be serving a potluck dinner on May 9th. The Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Choir will also be singing in our services that day.

Confirmation at St. John's will be May 2nd.

St. John's School will be celebrating their 125th Anniversary on May 23rd. Pastor Joel Leyrer will be our guest preacher. The PTO and Hosanna Circle will be in charge of the potluck dinner.

Please bring your Campbell product labels in soon, as the ladies will be counting in mid May.

Our next meeting will be a joint meeting with the Hosanna Circle on Thursday, May 6th at 7 p.m.

Marilyn Deibele
Secretary

MLC Ladies Auxiliary

The spring meeting of the New Ulm area conference of the MLC Ladies Auxiliary was held on Monday, April 19th at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in St. James. 48 women and 3 guests were present.

Pastor Lopahs led us in a devotion based on Paul's message in the book of Romans expressing the gift of encouragement to one another. We can use this gift of encouragement as we support the students, faculty and mission of Martin Luther College.

The meeting was led by Edie Ash, second year area representative. A new first year representative for our conference, Laurie Millner, was elected.



Professor Bill Pekrul from MLC updated us on our current list of projects. So far the three standing projects of Scholarships - \$3,000; Daylight USA - \$2,500 and the Library Assistance Fund have all been paid for. One of the annual projects, paraments and banners for the new chapel, has been funded as well (\$2,500). Remaining projects we are seeking funds for include: Spanish Immersion program - \$3,000; Refurbish Handbells - \$2,000; Treadmill - \$4,700; Multimedia headsets - \$815; Furniture for children's literature area - \$2,500; Computers for Daylight International use - \$1,800; and a digital library sign - \$415. The Auxiliary will continue to accept donations for these projects until the fall when our new list of projects begins. Prof. Pekrul also explained the proposed new projects which we had a chance to vote on. All votes from all area spring meetings will be combined to compile a master list, in order of selection, at our annual meeting in October. Attendees at the annual meeting will then be offered a final opportunity to prioritize this list by a final vote.

The total offering received for the evening was \$626. We enjoyed refreshments of assorted desserts and beverages.

Tutor Steve Lehman gave a presentation on his time of service in Torreon, Mexico, where he had served as a vicar for one year.

Announcements: The annual meeting of the auxiliary will be held on Wednesday, October 13th, 2010, at MLC. This year marks the beginning of the 50th year of the Auxiliary's existence, so watch for extra events to commemorate this wonderful blessing. Pencil in the date and bring a guest or two! Next year's spring rally will be held at St. John's in Fairfax.

Please remember MLC students, faculty and mission in your prayers.

Paula Windschitl,
MLC Ladies Auxiliary President



St. John's celebrated a LWMS Sunday on March 21st. We were blessed to have Pastor Dan Balge speak to us during bible study hour about his mission work in Russia. Pastor Balge was also our guest preacher that day. After services a brief video presentation about the LWMS was viewed. An annual door offering for the LWMS totaled \$250, which will be sent to our MN Valley LWMS organization for mission work both near and far. Thank you to all who contributed!

A Thai Handicraft display was made available to our congregation on March 21 and 28. Beautiful handmade items totaling over \$450 were sold. This money goes back to Thailand to help national students in the bible institute and seminary as they train to be leaders in their nation. This project is connected to our Befriend a Mission program in Thailand as well. Thank you to all who came to look at and purchase these items. Please remember to pray for the people and the mission work in Thailand.

A spring rally was held on Saturday, April 10th at Redwood Falls. This year's theme was "The Crosses of Mission Work" with guest speaker Pastor Tim Flunker. The joys and challenges of mission work were expressed to us as he helped us understand the opportunities in multi-cultural outreach, specifically to a Hispanic population. Pastor David Bendix also shared news from Shepherd of the Lakes in Milford Iowa. He serves both that congregation and the WELS congregation in Fairmont. The Fairmont congregation has faithfully supported this outreach effort and in return has seen significant growth within their own congregation. An upcoming canvassing event scheduled for July 11th will provide all of us the opportunity to also be involved in the effort to reach out to the community of the Iowa Lakes region. Watch for details!

Fast facts from the meeting:

Attendance: 103 women and several men (4 women from St. John's + Pastor Draper)

Offering: \$1,311.00

Newly elected officers: Doris Rosener, Vice President (incumbent); Marti Klindworth, Spiritual Growth Woman; Carrie Werner, Secretary; Pastor Brian Prell, Pastoral Advisor; and Pastor Michael Kuschel, Spiritual Growth Pastor.

New Mission Projects for our Circuit:

Home Mission project – Summer student assistance – seminary students are able to gain valuable experience as they assist congregations.

World Mission project – WELS Humanitarian Aid Committee – provides examples of the love of Christ by meeting human needs such as health care training, mosquito nets, digging wells, assisting in orphanages, etc.

Next Fall Rally Date: Saturday, October 2 at St. Mark's in Mankato

Next Spring Rally Date: Saturday, April 9, 2011 in Sleepy Eye!! **Join us throughout this next year as we plan and prepare for this great event next spring!**

Please remember to pray for missions and missionaries near and far.

Paula Windschitl
LWMS Reporter

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, located in Mequon, Wisconsin, is a post-graduate school owned and supported by the members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Since its founding in 1863, the school has had as its specific purpose to offer theological training for men who desire to enter the pastoral ministry. The seminary carries out this purpose by training all its students to preach and teach the pure gospel of Jesus Christ and to carry out the work of the ministry in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and in conscious agreement with the historical confessions of the Lutheran Church. The seminary's stated goal is to produce pastors who are

- Confessional in stance
- Evangelical in approach
- Mission-minded in spirit
- Culturally sensitive
- Appropriately flexible, and
- Zealous both to nurture and equip the saints.

Most of the students who attend Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary have been trained at Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minnesota, and many have attended our synod's preparatory high schools in Watertown, Wisconsin, and Saginaw, Michigan. At the seminary, students enroll in a three-year program of classroom instruction. A fourth year, spent in a congregation under the supervision of its pastor, precedes the senior year. The on-campus curriculum includes both academic courses (scriptural, historical, and doctrinal studies) and professional courses (preaching, worship, teaching, evangelism, administration, counseling, etc.). The seminary's Pastoral Studies Institute provides training for students from diverse ethnic backgrounds and second career candidates who require a specialized curriculum. Students who successfully complete the seminary's course of instruction and are presented by the faculty as candidates for the ministry are assigned to their first field of service by the presidents of the synod's twelve districts.

Since 1929 the seminary has been located on a beautiful 80 acre campus in Mequon, a suburb of Milwaukee. The primary campus buildings, chapel, classrooms, library, cafeteria, and dormitories, are under one roof and are situated around a central park-like circle. This complex was designed to resemble the Wartburg Castle where Martin Luther translated the New Testament into German. A 1000 seat auditorium and gymnasium is located within a short walk of the main complex. Members of the faculty live in homes on the campus.

The seminary also serves pastors, teachers, and staff ministers who are active in WELS congregations. Each year about 100 called workers enroll in the seminary's Summer Quarter of Supplemental and Graduate Studies; many are involved in advanced degree programs. The campus hosts a variety of professional seminars, and faculty members are frequent speakers at continuing education events both in the United States and on the synod's world mission fields.

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary is supported by the mission offerings of WELS congregations, the tuition paid by its students, and private gifts directed to the seminary. Should you desire more information about the seminary, please contact the mission advancement office at 1-800-943-0167 or kellerk@wls.wels.net. Those desiring to offer a personal gift may send it directly to:

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary
11831 N. Seminary Drive
Mequon, WI 53092

Find more information about Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary at www.wls.wels.net.

The Seminary Chorus

For almost 80 years the Seminary Chorus has appeared regularly in congregations of the Wisconsin Synod to proclaim the Word of God in song and to represent the ministry of the seminary. Membership in the chorus is open to all students, and the group rehearses three times each week. The choir presents an annual Christmas Concert, performed twice on the second Sunday in December to several thousand guests. A Graduation Concert is held the evening before the seminary's graduation service in May. The choir regularly participates in worship at nearby congregations during the school year and conducts a concert tour every other year during the Easter vacation. The 2010 tour takes the choir to WELS congregations in Illinois, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, and Wisconsin. The chorus has appeared in 40 of the United States as well as in Canada during its long history. For the past 25 years the chorus has been directed by Prof. James P. Tiefel.



In Memory of Norma Siegmann

Organ Fund

Clarence Siegmann \$500.00

Garlin & Mary Siegmann \$500.00
(correction from March newsletter)

In Memory of Wally Trebesch

Organ Fund

Arlene Jensen \$10.00

In Memory of Donald Remus

Chuck, Lindy & Aaron Riederer \$10.00

In Memory of Grace Potratz

Dave & Char Zimmerman \$5.00

The LWMS Annual Convention

St. Louis, Missouri **June 24 – 27**

Check out www.2010lwms.org

for more information on the convention.

All ladies in the congregation are welcome, invited, and encouraged to attend a **TOTALLY AWESOME** experience this summer.

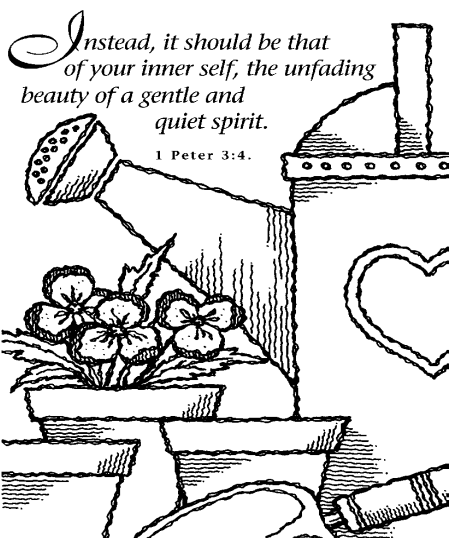
2nd National WELS Women's Leadership Conference

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary – Mequon, Wisconsin.
July 16 - 18th

Register online – www.wels.net/women or pick up a form in back of church.

\$110 Early registration – May 15th

\$130 Registration – May 16 - June 15th



SCRIP

Remember Scrip when you shop for graduation, Mother's Day and birthdays. A gift card is a great idea for those hard-to-shop for people. And every sale benefits St. John's Lutheran School! In the last 6 months over \$560 has gone to the school from the Scrip program. Contact Sallie Draper at 794-4500 to purchase.