

The St. John's Messenger

St. John's Lutheran Church and School

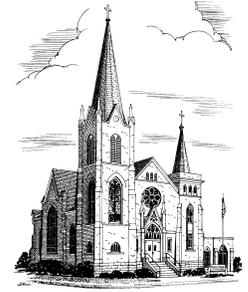
(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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MAY 2014

April Showers Bring...

We seemed short on showers last month, so this newbie Minnesotan is wondering: How many May flowers can we hope for?

May brings more than flowers of course. We're looking forward to Confirmation, Graduations, Outreach Planning, Elections, the Budget Process. Whew! That's a lot, and I'm sure I'm missing some things.

Our confirmands worked hard to keep the teachings of our Lord fresh in their minds. Their public examination on Confirmation Sunday is a good refresher for everyone. These are truths from our God, treasures, as he calls them. So we never want to lose them. They are only the basics of the Christian faith, the foundational essentials on which you build your whole life of faith. It's the knowing and the doing of them that makes the difference when the storms of life blow and beat against your spiritual house. (See Mt 7:21ff.) How firmly on the foundation will you stay?

As graduations come, young people are ending one stage of life and looking at the next. Some are excited, some are anxious, and others are not sure what to think. What would it take to know for certain the next steps are going to be good ones? (Try Prov 16:2-3.)

Outreach planning is a huge part of what we need to do as a congregation. So many opportunities hover around us and are laid in advance by God along our path. What we have as a congregation in the Wisconsin Synod is more than nearly every other denomination. The pure word of God, understood as richly and clearly as he has blessed us, means we should be at the forefront of gospel outreach in the world. We don't have to be "Bible thumpers" or fanatics, but what is it that pulses in our veins and gives us reason to reach toward other people with something as wonderful as the pure gospel about Jesus our Savior? Almost no one else understands it correctly. Aren't we wise to do whatever we can do to share it? (See Prov 11:30.)

Budget planning. This can be like a rocket straining in the launch pad. Far from wearisome and worrisome, the budget process can invite God's people to cut loose and rise up. A budget that starts with aggressive, God-honoring ministry plans, will become an expression of faith: "We don't know how we're going to make ends meet, but we do know our Lord will bless everything we do for him. That's what 1 Cor 15:58 says!" By committing your funds with a generous heart, the Lord somehow always makes ends meet – in the home and in the church! I've never seen it happen otherwise. Never. For another couple promises to inspire that rocket to rise high, see Mt 6:33; Ps 37:25.

Elections conjure dread for many people. "Uh-oh. They're going to ask me to serve as...!" I wonder if we grasp the excitement in heaven over the power of possibility. What if one person steps into a role, makes a single decision for the benefit of an individual project, which then opens the door for blessings on people

he wasn't even thinking about when he took that first step? God has used little details in life to change the whole course of someone else's life. Think of that widow in the Bible, who was told to ask all her neighbors for any spare jars they had, because the Lord was going to help her out with as many empty jars as she could collect. Consider how one neighbor would give her an empty jar he had lying around. That jar then was filled by God's miraculous flow of olive oil. That jar of oil was then sold to help the woman in her financial crisis, which meant one of her sons did not get sold by her mean-spirited creditor. That meant her son could stay with her, grow up under her spiritual guidance, and later support her in her old age. "All I did was give her an old jar!"

When a man is asked to take up a role in our church. It's not a drain on his time or a sentence he has to endure for the next two years. It is one of the highest privileges a man can take up. "If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task" (1 Tm 3:1). Peter refers to our talents in service for the Lord as "grace"s. (1 Peter 4). And whatever anyone does in the Lord's service is an expression of love toward our Savior-God.

If you know of a man in our congregation who could serve in an elected (or appointed or volunteer) role, give him some encouragement to put his name forward. It will be a high honor in the eyes of God. And who knows what blessings the Lord will bring about just through single decisions and actions a servant of the Lord will make! "Only one life; 'twill soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last."

May is a month of hope, isn't it? We live in hope of what spring will bring. Even if we didn't see enough April showers, we Christians always can live in hope. We live in hope of what our risen Savior will bring. And he will bring blessings! It cannot happen any other way since he has made promises like the one in Romans 8:28. Always the question is, "Will your eyes and life be open to them?"

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 8, 2014**

He is Risen. He is Risen Indeed!

Easter is near and spring is approaching. It is a time for new life. We have new life in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Take the time to come to the upcoming Holy week services, Easter Sunday services and of course the great Easter Breakfast! The Elders have sent Easter Cards & service invites to all our members, prospective members and offered the cards to members to send to friends and family too. A huge "thank you" goes out to Jack Draper for compiling and printing the cards that were mailed to all members, and also to the students of St. John's School for doing the artwork.

Mrs. Crabtree and the students of St. John's put on a wonderful play several times this past week. It takes dedication to pull together a

performance such as that and we thank her, the faculty and the students for doing that. It is another way to use the talents God has given us and to be able to share them with others.

Confirmation is May 4th. At that service five young adults will affirm their faith to the congregation through a verbal examination, be confirmed and take the Lord's Supper. Please attend as it will help affirm your faith also!

I must say that attendance has improved and the church is full of song and music. We have seen new faces and guests regularly join us for worship, even our online attendance is growing! Thank you for worshiping regularly and giving of your time, talents and treasures. I do call out people and thank certain ones from time to time but every member deserves thanks for whatever part of the church body you are!



If you are unable to attend any 9 a.m. Sunday service, try the 7 p.m. Monday evening service. It is a smaller group and Pastor changes the service up a bit to accommodate the people attending.

Our Voter's meeting will be held April 28th at 8pm after the Monday evening service. Please attend so you can not only be informed, but also give your input on what happens or needs to happen at St. John's.

Have a Happy Easter!

In Christ,

Steve Windschitl
President, St John's Congregation



Church Council Minutes March 11, 2014

Present: Shorty Haus, Andy Lochner, Paul Maasz, Jim Mielke, Dan Rick, Dave Silfies, Gary Schroeder, Steve Windschitl and Pastor Cordes.

Pastor Cordes had a devotion followed by prayer.

Minutes

Andy Lochner/Shorty Haus made a motion to approve the March 2014 minutes. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

Written report. LIMA (WELS organization) is looking after shut-ins for us in the cities and Rochester. 4 – hospital calls, 6 shut-in visits, 6 prospect calls, 5 – community events, attended St. Mary's funeral for one of the four young people.

Treasurer's Report

Shorty Haus presented a written report. Discussion on organ fund and transfer of funds to Building Fund. All undesignated funds are going to church parsonage repairs.

President's Report

Written report was presented.

Board of Elders

Shorty Haus/Andy Lochner made a motion to release Brady and Landon Lux. Motion carried.

Easter cards are being sent out.

The elders are working with special needs of members.

Principal & Board of Education

Dan Rick and Paul Maasz spoke of school events.

- school spirit week
- school playground
- standardized testing
- going to MVL to visit and get suggestions from former students
- working w/companies on playground equipment - \$30,000 budget – also making sure equipment is covered by insurance
- would like to update computers to lap tops

Worship Committee

Pastor – The group has met twice. Looking for substitutes when Pastor is gone. He is looking for someone to attend the the worship conference. Also looking for a committee chairman to be on the council.

Maintenance Committee

Kevin Leopold sent a report about parsonage window repair – ideas for funding. He will be talking to a contractor about brick repair around the west altar window.

Outreach

Jim Mielke was present.

On March 30th an Outreach meeting was held after church with good attendance.

Ads for Easter schedule were put in papers. Cost: SE - \$168.75, Springfield - \$90.00. Shorty Haus/Dave Silfies made a motion to approve charges. Motion carried.

There was discussion about the new church brochure.

It was also mentioned that maybe we should advertise "Church in the Park" on June 29th.

Stewardship

Dave spoke on ideas for the new pictorial church book.

MVL/WELS

No report.

Endowment and Trust Fund Committee

Andy Lochner talked about distribution of funds and about a meeting on Estate planning.

Old Business

September 14th is our organ dedication.

New Business

Discussion on filling positions on Worship Committee, Financial Secretary and one Elder. The election meeting will be held in June.

Talked about the church cleaning position.

The next Church Council meeting will be held Thursday, May 8th 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,
Gary Schroeder Acting Secretary



Principal's Report

From Monday, March 31st to Sunday, April 6th, St. John's Lutheran School celebrated its Lutheran Schools Week. The purpose of LSW is to highlight our Christian education at St. John's while also enjoying fun dress-up days, games, and performances. Faculty, staff, parents, grandparents, and church members also participated in our LSW and enjoyed the many activities and events throughout the week.

On Monday the students came to school dressed for School Spirit Day. Blue and yellow colors filled our hallways and classrooms! In the morning, all the students practiced for a dress rehearsal for their school play performances on Thursday and Sunday. Students also wrote letters to our elderly church members.

On Tuesday the students dressed in their pajamas for another School Spirit Day. The students practiced again for the school play and were able to have a full run through without stopping. In the afternoon, they enjoyed the movie, "Monsters University" with popcorn and drinks.

On Wednesday our students brought in food items to support the Sleepy Eye Area Food Shelf. As a school, we collected over 152 pound of food! The morning was spent with the students practicing one last time before their performances on Thursday and Sunday. Our piano students also had a dress rehearsal for the student body. Congratulations to our piano students on their continued improvements in piano! For a special treat for lunch, our faculty, staff, and students enjoyed a pizza lunch from Casey's General Store!

Thursday was Parent's Day! The students performed the musical, "I Need a Vacation" for their parents and did a great job. After the performance, all parents with their children played bingo and many prizes were given out to our winners. As a gift from one of our parents, every student received a large water bottle! Two presentations were given with the first



announcement of the "Coin Wars" fundraiser. This fundraiser was to raise money for a new playground and money was collected into two barrels. One barrel collected \$432 of coins and the other collected \$794. The winning barrel was for the principal to receive a pink mohawk haircut! The fundraiser made a total of \$1,226.06. The pink mohawk haircut will be Tuesday, May 20th at 2pm in the church basement. The second presentation was given by Southpoint Federal Credit Union. Our school was awarded \$120 for families opening accounts at the credit union. After the presentations and a big lunch with parents, we headed off to Vogel Arena in New Ulm. Our children and parents were able to swim and play basketball.

On Sunday our St. John's students started the Sunday service with vocal selection and after

performed their musical for the last time for our congregation.

Overall, Lutheran Schools Week was another success! Thank you to everyone who either helped or was involved in some way! What great students we have here at St. John's!

WOW!



**Mrs. Soloviyov's
Pre-K/K News**

The PreK/K have been studying about King David. We have learned to be kind to our enemies and to pray for them. What a great reminder for this Easter!

The children have also learned about the weather, insects, flowers and birds! What a wonderful world the Lord has created for us. Our next topic is birds. We will make nests, learn about the life cycle of a bird, and create a toucan to hang in the hallway.

The Kindergarten class has almost completed their study of letters. Only 4 more to go! Right now, we are reading a play called *The Glum Princess*. It is always fun watching them read, but it is especially fun listening to them read and act out a play. What a great way to learn to read!

In math, the children are working on writing their numbers to 30, copying shapes, completing patterns, and learning basic addition and subtraction. It has been a busy month!



The children and I would like to wish all of you a blessed Easter! As the children have been practicing: He is risen! He is risen indeed!



**Mrs. Halvorson's
1-3 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!

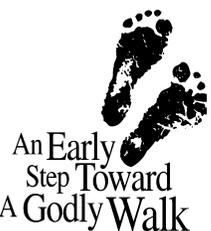
In our Christ-Light Bible lessons we are studying such Old Testament heroes of faith as Elijah, King Hezekiah, Esther, and Daniel.

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".

- Spirit Day theme is "Injury Day". We will dress up accordingly.
- Bike Safety is taught by the Sleepy Eye Police and Ambulance complete with a "Bike Rodeo" where we get to practice safe biking skills on our bikes. Free helmets are provided for First Graders every year by the Sleepy Eye Hospital.
- We are also looking forward to visiting the Public Library to learn about the Summer Reading Program.
- Grade 3 will participate in three area track meets with grades 3-8 of our school and other area Lutheran schools.
- Picnic in the park!

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! We thank God for the blessing of Christian Education at St. John's for these precious children. May God bless us with many more years of learning His Word at our school.



In Christ,
Mrs. Halvorson



**Mr. Rick's
5-8 News**

Happy spring! Well...maybe I 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 Friday, March 28th. 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, all grades participated in Lutheran Schools Week. Our students enjoyed days such as: Blue & Yellow Day, Pajama Day, and Movie Day. They



also collected 153 lbs. of food for the Sleepy Eye Area Food Shelf! Furthermore, we had a great Parent's Day with swimming at Vogel Arena

in New Ulm. On Sunday, the students performed their big finish of the play "I Need a Vacation." All the students put in such hard work with acting and memorizing. Thank you also Mrs. Crabtree for all your time and hard work!

All grades will be going to the MLC Children's Play on Friday, May 2nd. Track & Field season has begun and we are practicing many events during recess and after school. The Sleepy Eye Track & Field meet will be held on Monday, May 5th. 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 Ridgely, and the last day of school! For more news on grades 5-8, please read our Warrior Weekly online and our classroom web page.



Bits & Pieces!

Here are some highlights for upcoming ladies' activities:

LWMS: It's not too late to attend the National Convention in Dallas! See the basement bulletin board for details, or go to www.lwms.org. A bus from our area is also going, with lots of great stops as well.

Thanks to all who used the church envelope to contribute to the LWMS for the spring offering. \$245 was collected and sent in! Praise God for

this wonderful support of missions far and near.

MLC Ladies Auxiliary: Tuesday, April 22nd is the date for the spring MLC Auxiliary meeting. It starts at 7 pm at Courtland Lutheran Church (6:30 registration). Please come, bring a friend! Lots of great stuff is happening at the college and this is a fun way to find out about it. Becoming a member of the Auxiliary is a great way to meet other Christian women who find joy in supporting the students at our college of ministry.

Spring Luncheon in Fairfax: All women are invited to the annual spring luncheon in Fairfax to be held on Tuesday, May 6th at St. John's Lutheran Church. MLC students from the Caribbean will share stories about their home churches and how they found their way to MLC. Watch our bulletin for further details.

Befriend a Mission: No birthdays or anniversaries to report for May. Please remember to keep all missionary families in your prayers. Their work is challenging, rewarding, exciting, sometimes lonely and sometimes dangerous. If you are inclined to read, here are two great biographies about WELS missionaries: "Bloom Where God Plants You" by Rebecca Wendland; and also "God's Protecting Hand" by Phil Strackbein. These are available online.



Respectfully submitted,
Paula Windschitl



Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid monthly meeting was held on Wednesday, April 2nd at 2:00 p.m. President Marlys Lochner presided. Pastor Cordes read Psalm 40 for our devotion.

The total cost for the communion flagon amounted to \$318.50. The Ladies Aid covered the cost.

The St. John's of Fairfax has extended an invitation for a salad luncheon on May 6th.

It was decided to hold our annual Pie Sale during Sleepy Eye's Corn Days in August, as we have in the past. Mickey Meyer has volunteered to be this years coordinator.

The month of May is St. John's turn to deliver Meals-on-Wheels to the shut-ins in our community. Volunteers will be needed. If you can help, call Judy Maasz or coordinator.



Block 1 is up to serve.

Our next meeting will be a joint meeting with the Hosanna Circle, Thursday, May 1st at 6:00 p.m. Come join us!

Marilyn Deibele
Secretary



May 6th-8th 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.



Bridal Shower

A bridal shower will be held for Heather Schwartz on **May 3rd** from 2-4 p.m. in our church basement. (Bride-to-be of Sam Johnson) Bring a favorite recipe! The couple is registered at Target and Kohl's.

Her parents are

Nanette and Darryl Schwartz. His are Debbie Prins, Steve and Colleen Johnson.



