



The St. John's Messenger

Monthly Newsletter

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 2008

VOLUME 11

NUMBER 5

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 eleven 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.

Perhaps one reason we don't call this graduation is because 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 increase 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. Attending Bible Class is a good way to continue life-long learning. 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

God's Blessings to our 2008 Confirmands

Jonathan Gerald Altmann

Jordan Wade Besemer

Brandon Eckstein

Ashley Dale Evers

Tessa Emily Fromm

Torey Jean Fromm

Colin Le Hagert

Rebecca Sue Hinderman

Lauren Emily Kosmatka

Lance Arthur Seidl

Tiffany Wellner

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 14, 2008

Present: Leo Derkowski, Paul Maasz, Dennis Dittbenner, Van Tallman, Kurk Kramer, Todd Marotz, Matt Steffen, Barry Hillmann and Pastor Draper.

Board of Education: Bob Maas, Dave Zimmerman, Jeff Fromm, Dan Stoll

Faculty: Lori Halvorson, Stephanie Zastrow

Pastor Draper opened the meeting with devotion and a prayer.

Minutes

Dennis Dittbenner/Todd Marotz made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 2008 meeting. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Draper provided a written report on statistics. Dennis Dittbenner/Todd Marotz made a motion to accept Shannon Landkammer (Cody, Parker and Molly) by profession of faith. Motion carried. Todd Marotz/ Dennis Dittbenner made a motion to transfer membership of Elizabeth Garcia to St. Paul's, New Ulm. Motion carried. Todd Marotz/ Dennis Dittbenner made a motion to transfer the membership of Carol Walden to St. John's, Redwood Falls. Motion carried.

Dennis Dittbenner/Todd Marotz made the following motion: "As of April 14, 2008, be it resolved under provisions of section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, the Minister of the Gospel listed below may have a portion of his compensation designated as a parsonage allowance. The amount indicated shall be the designated parsonage allowance for the year 2008: Pastor Kevin Draper in the amount of \$12,000." Motion carried.

Pastor Draper reminded us that the quarterly voter's meeting will be held at 11:30 AM, Sunday, April 20, 2008.

Treasurer's Report

Leo Derkowski/ Todd Marotz made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

President's Report

Paul Maasz reminds us that as we prepare the budget for the next fiscal year any concerns or comments should be presented to the respective committees. Please keep the members of the committees in your prayers as they prepare the budget for next year.

Board of Elders

Matt Steffen presented the salary recommendations for 2008 for our called workers. No action is required at this time.

Principal & Board of Education

No formal written report was prepared as the Board addressed concerns with a faculty member. Bob Maas reported that there are plans in process to replace the 20 aging computers and laptop computers in the school. There is some budget money available for this, but not enough to cover the entire cost. He also reported that Stephanie Zastrow expressed an interest in offering an optional full day,

everyday Pre-Kindergarten program. Bob Maas/Todd Marotz made the following motion: "St. John's Lutheran School will offer an optional full day, every day Pre-Kindergarten program in the 2008-2009 school year." Motion carried.

Based upon the recommendation of the Board of Education, Leo Derkowski/Todd Marotz made the following motion: "Due to the established inability to perform the duties of her office, the Council recommends to the voters that the teacher's call of Naomi Evenson be rescinded effective April 20, 2008." Motion carried (unanimous).

Worship Committee

No report

Maintenance Committee

Leo and Marcia Derkowski prepared a detailed list of church cleaning duties. The list will be posted in the janitorial room and also forwarded to the Maintenance Committee along with unresolved issues concerning church cleaning.

Outreach

No report.

Stewardship

The deadline for submitting commitment cards is extended two weeks. Todd Marotz submitted a summary of commitments obtained to date.

Endowment and Trust Fund Committee

No report.

MVL/WELS

MVL – a written report was submitted.

WELS – the quarterly synod financial support report was forwarded to the Treasurer.

Old Business

Todd Marotz/ Dennis Dittbenner made a motion that Thrivent funds be allocated as follows:

Hog Roast	\$600.00
Ladies Aid Pie Stand	200.00
Youth Group Lenten Suppers	200.00
Ladies Aid Bake Sale	100.00
Open	200.00
Total:	\$1,300.00

Motion carried.

New Business

The next Council meeting is scheduled for **Monday, May 12, 2008 at 7:30 PM** in the Church basement.

Todd Marotz/ Dennis Dittbenner made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted
Leo Derkowski, Secretary

St. John's LES Principal's Newsletter

Another Year Has Come and Gone



The final month of the school year is here. Where did the time go? We are putting the finishing touches on a school year that seems to have started not so long ago. Could it be true? How time flies when you are having fun! I've asked a number of 7th and 8th grade students here at St. John's how they felt the year has gone, their overwhelming reply was FAST!

As we progress through May we will see many of the most enjoyable activities of the year for students and faculty alike. Class trips to greenhouses, orchestra presentations, athletic events, Fort Ridgely, a Minnesota Twins Game, and others will take place. So much to do yet, with only so many days left to do them.

Even as teachers and students finish up the final days of studying, learning, and spending time outside of the classroom in these final days of the 2007-2008 school year; the faculty has already begun planning for the new school year to come. Plans are being finalized for new computers in the computer lab as well as for all faculty members. Over the summer, at least one new Smartboard or Activision board will be installed and teachers will be trained for using them. There will be updates on the curriculum and textbooks as needed. Classroom grade divisions will be restructured, with a new faculty member to be in place for the middle grades by the new school year. A very exciting part of the next school year will be the fact that St. John's will be starting an all day every day 3 & 4-year-old pre kindergarten program, which will complement the all day every day kindergarten program that was started this past school year.



The faculty has already made plans for continuing education courses which they will be a part of during the summer months. The faculty studies and preparation for the next school year begins almost as soon as it ends. So, even though we look at May as the month where things begin to wind down for the school year, we are really just reloading and preparing for the next school year to come.

All that being said, summer is near, less structure for a few weeks is enjoyed by both students and faculty alike. It is a time to reflect, prepare, and say thanks. Thank you to the Lord for another year of blessings! Thank you to all of the parents of students here at St. John's LES, thank you for sending your children to this school. Thank you for your support and help over the past school year, thank you for preparing to send them back next year to continue their education here at St. John's!

Have a great summer!

Pre-School and Kindergarten News
By Miss Zastrow

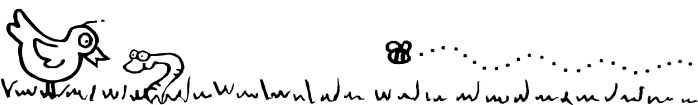
1st – 4th Grade News
By Mrs. Halvorson

“Surely I am with you always.”—Matthew 28:20
Where has the time gone? I was shocked when April snuck up on me, and here we have already entered the month of May! Matthew 28:20, one of our memory treasures for this month, is a good reminder that although time has flown past, God has been with us! God will continue to bless us and be with us throughout all of our summer adventures. Lets do our best to remember that we need Him, not only during the school year, but all summer long as well!

Our Christ Light lessons this month include King Hezekiah, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, as well as Daniel, Queen Esther, and Job! What a way to end the school year! It seems like such a clear reminder that God will be with us throughout everything in our lives.

This month, the preschoolers will continue to review the letters that we learned throughout the year. We are also working steadily with the Kindergartners during the time that we are at school. Many of us are, after all, *almost* Kindergartners!

Kindergarten has been truly enjoying getting out into the wonderful Spring air! For the remainder of the year we will be doing a lot of getting outside to enjoy everything that Spring brings with it! Something that Miss Zastrow maybe isn't looking forward to as much as the students are... we will be learning all about “creepy crawly creatures” this month!



The Kindergartners just recently enjoyed a trip to see the Children's Theatre performance at MLC of “The Trial of Goldilocks” and a walking field trip to the Dyckman Free Library in Sleepy Eye! We are really excited about how much we have learned to read this year in school and we're really hoping we get to visit many libraries quite frequently all summer long to keep up on our reading skills! Another highlight of this very quick month of May include our final trip of the school year to the Care Center. God's blessings on your month!

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!

May is month of fun “extras”. Early in May we will visit Hacker's Greenhouse as a final activity for our Plant unit. We will entertain the residents of the Sleepy Eye Care Center on the 9th. 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.



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!

Grade 1-2 will study Dinosaurs this month. Yes! God did make them! Grade 3-4 will be studying the environment and how animals and people live in it.

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!

God Bless your summer!
Mrs. Halvorson

† Memorials †

In Memory of Gerhard Schmidt

St. John's Choir

Dave & Char Zimmerman – \$15.00

In Memory of Lucille Orth

St. John's School Library/Classroom Books

Diane & Nick Roman – \$250.00

St. John's Ladies Aid

Harold & Bev Bartz – \$10.00

Richard & Lynda Weilage – \$20.00

Brad & LeAnn Berkner – \$15.00

St. John's Organ Fund

Wally & Mary Ann Trebesch – \$10.00

Armin & June Grundmeyer – \$5.00

Chad & Amber Brown – \$10.00

St. John's Church

Family & Friends – \$250.00

New School Fund

Steve & Paula Windschitl – \$25.00

Easter Service Donations

Azaleas

Ken & Penny Mathiowetz
in memory of David & Lois Shewe

Pastor & Sallie Draper
Wally & MaryAnn Trebesch

Gary Schroeder
Colleen Haag
Jerry & Jan Dittbenner

Easter Lilies

(2)Steve & Mickey Meyer

In memory of Rene Jo Risen and Lynn Wandersee
Dennis & Pam Dittbenner

Tom & Sue Jensen

In memory of GG Rothmeier

(2)Lorna Havemeier & family

In memory of Clarence, Karlene, Leon,
& Burton Havemeier

Gary Schroeder

Emilie Netzke & family

In memory of Julius Netzke

Ralph/LaRae Grundmeyer

In memory of Raymond, LaMyra, & Ronald
Grundmeyer

Mum Plant

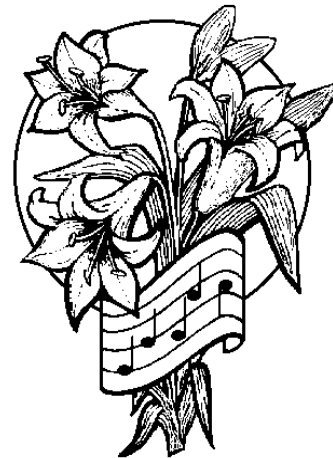
Given by their family

In memory of Ray & GG Rothmeier

George & Elsie Weilage

Adeline Ubl

George Ubl



Sign up for altar flowers - A flower calendar for 2008 is now posted in the church narthex. Members are invited to sign up and donate flowers for the altar in honor of a special occasion (birthdays, anniversary, etc.), in memory of someone special, or simply to beautify worship. If you donate flowers, you may take them home after the second service or you may leave them to beautify the altar for more than one week. You can also sign up for flowers on the St. John's church web site - www.stjohnsse.com/church.

Hosanna Circle

Hosanna Circle met on April 10th. Sallie led us in devotion from Matthew 7:18, "Every good tree bears good fruit...A good tree cannot bear bad fruit". No tree produces fruit that is contrary to its nature. Apple trees must produce apples. This truth applies to goodness—whatever is good by nature will produce good results. We pray that we can all produce the goodness the Holy Spirit places in our hearts. "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do"(Ephesians2:10).

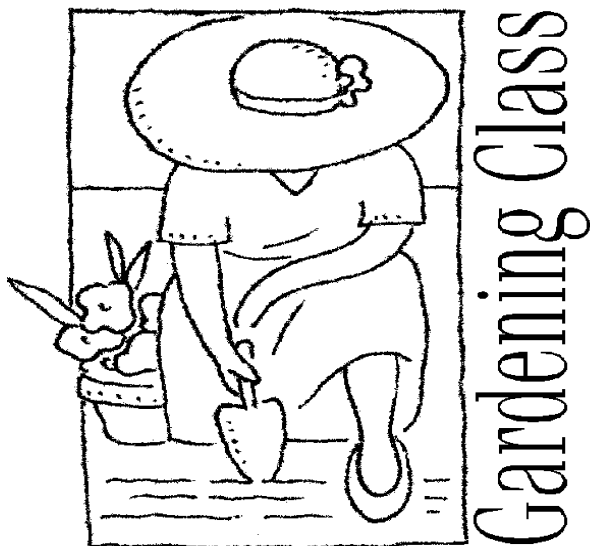
Some of us attended the LWMS Spring Rally in Jordan on April 19th. We were privileged to share some of the experiences of two MLC students when they traveled to Brazil to do Outreach and teach. Professor Zarling and his wife shared some of their experiences when they visited India to help teach the Seminary students. Let us keep these people in our prayers.

Keep May 17th open for a fun afternoon of fellowship, being in the Lord's word, and learning more about planting on a small scale. Bring your daughter, Mother, Grandmother and make it a day to Grow in the Lord. See the sign up sheet available in the narthex.

Our next meeting is May 8th at 7:00 p.m.

Yours in Christ,

Pam Dittbenner and Connie Trebesch



Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid met on Wednesday, April 2nd at 2:00 p.m. for their monthly meeting. Pastor Draper read two verses of the Easter hymn "Awake My Heart with Gladness" for our devotion. He also gave a brief summary of the life of the hymn writer, Paul Gerhardt.

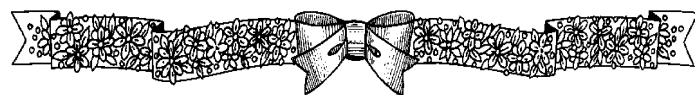
A big thank you to all who helped make the Bake & Craft sale a success. The profits will be used to purchase 12 stacking chairs for the church basement.

A thank you was sent to the Ladies Aid from the Pal Program for our recent donation of \$100.00. Circle 1 will be counting and packaging Campbell product labels for the school year in May. Please bring your labels to the church basement.

The new schedule for putting up and taking down altar flowers, and laundering the communion napkins has started with the month of April. A big thank you to Sallie Draper for coordinating this project.

Our next meeting will be a joint meeting with the Hosanna Circle. Due to Ascension Day on May 1st, our next meeting will be held on the second Thursday, May 8th at 7:00 p.m. Come and join us!

Marilyn Deibele, Secretary



SCRIP

SCRIP order forms may be found on line @ www.stjohnsse.com or on a table in back of the church.



Lutheran Women's Missionary Society News

The LWMS Spring Rally for our Minnesota Valley Circuit was held on April 19 in Jordan. A report will follow in next month's newsletter.

It's still not too late to register for the Convention to be held at Starr Pass Ranch in Tucson, Arizona. If you have interest, please check out the web site at www.lwms.org or see the printouts on the basement bulletin board.

All women are encouraged to pick up a ballot bundle on May 4th or 11th in the back of the church. Each bundle will contain a ballot for positions on the National Board for Officers, Pastoral Advisor and also the World & Home Mission Projects. The pages following each ballot give further information to help you make your voting selection. Ballots will be collected after May 11th, and a single ballot representing the winning selections from our congregation will be submitted to the LWMS Central Office. Please vote! Help us decide where our mission dollars should go.

Did you know that this year's Sunday School Mission collection will also go to the LWMS where it will be gathered with many other students' collection to help the children in northern Mexico? Take a moment to thank the kids for their support of this effort.

Paula Windschitl
LWMS Reporter

MLC Auxiliary Rally

The Spring Rally of the New Ulm South & North conferences was held on Monday, April 14 at St. John's in New Ulm. 58 attended, with 4 from our own congregation in attendance. Barb Bauer, second year representative, led the meeting.

Pastor Bovee opened with a devotion, and a ladies choral group from St. John's of New Ulm sang.

The 2007 project lists were recapped by Prof. Bill Pekrul. Most of the projects are already completely funded, and two remained partially funded. These projects include: Scholarship fund, Library fund, ECLC computers, Tent for registration day, Ellison die cuts, television for Luther Student Center, treadmill for the fitness center, and a student interaction pilot program that would allow sophomores and juniors to enjoy an annual activity with faculty.

Potential new projects for 2008 were presented. After a vote, it was decided to adopt the following projects:

- Paraments for new chapel
- Weather alert radios for the dorm floors
- Library kiosk furniture
- Student financial assistance for MLC outreach projects

In other business, Edie Ash was elected a first year area representative. Kate Tohal explained the Thrivent Giving Plus program for added benefit to the college when we use it for contributions. Discussion occurred regarding the consideration of combining the north and south New Ulm conferences. A recommendation was given for this and will be voted on at the annual meeting in October. The new chapel project was updated by Prof. Bill Pekrul.

An MLC student named Emily gave a very good presentation on an outreach trip she participated in last summer in the Anchorage area. This type of trip is one of the projects MLC Auxiliary helps fund.

The meeting ended with dessert and beverages.

The annual meeting will be held at Martin Luther College on October 8, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Windschitl

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

It is easy to forget about those we do not often see in church or in the community. Our Ladies Aid visits as many of our homebound members as possible, but not all can be visited every month. Won't you help? An occasional phone call, card, or visit would be very appreciated.

Below is a list of our homebound members. Refer to it often as you consider how to reach out. An updated list will be included regularly in the church newsletter.

AT SLEEPY EYE CARE CENTER/COUNTRYSIDE 794-7995; res.'s line -3500

Mr. Elmer Lehnert	(Hall 2)	
Mrs. Minnie Stockstead	(Hall 2)	
Mrs. Jean Schulz	(Hall 1)	
Mr. Robert Sucker	(Countryside Apt # 204)	794-3836
Mrs. Neoma Schmid	(Countryside Apt. # 109)	794-7697

SLEEPY EYE: EAST

Mrs. Emilie Netzke	117 Remmele St. SE	794-6514	
Mrs. Verna Painter	421 Summit St. SE	794-6624	
Mrs. Anna Peterman	313 4th Ave SE #311	794-2505	(Ross Park Apts.)
Nita Brown	114 6 th Ave NE	794-3109	

SLEEPY EYE: WEST

Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Eckstein	717 Walnut St. SW	794-6910
Mr. Leonard Lowinske	405 W. Main	794-6818
Esther Pabst	724 Water St. SW	794-6726
Agnes Piotter	416 3rd Ave NW	794-6044
Mrs. Norma Siegmann	200 5th Ave SW	794-3196

OUT OF TOWN

Hanska – Mrs. Elaine Keim	Rt. 1, Box 74	794-6697
New Ulm - Mrs. Melva Christensen	Orchard Hill L.C. 1220 Karl Dr #107	233-9617
Mankato – Don Radel	N. Point Senior L.C. 2135 Lor Ray Dr. #208	



7th & 8th Grade News

Math: The 7th graders have been learning about mass and volume of water in different containers. They are also working on the area of 3-D shapes. The 8th graders have been working with angles. They have learned how to measure them and how to copy and construct them.

Spelling: The 7th graders' review included spelling words like, Washington, appreciate, auditorium, and Algebra. Currently they are working on words from many different cultures, number prefixes, and Latin Roots.

The 8th graders started this month off with a review on different suffixes, Latin Roots, prefixes, vowels in unstressed syllables, and using just enough letters. Included in those words are miscellaneous, intramural, and mischievous.

Catechism: The eight graders are getting ready for Confirmation Class. They are also learning how to take the Lord's Supper properly and how to examine themselves. Also included in class is learning how to tell others of God's Great Exchange.

Geography: Recently the students have gone through two units, East Asia and Southeast Asia. They report, "East Asia is the area around China including Japan, Korea, and Mongolia. These areas are varied with deserts and steppes to the west and farmable land to the east. Southeast Asia is the peninsula and islands to the south. It includes over 13,000 islands and many rivers and ports. We have just started another unit on Australia, Oceania and Antarctica. This is our last unit."

Language: The students just finished a review, they are currently on prepositional phrases and conjunctions. They comment, "We like it when Mr. Kramer sings the conjunction song because it helps us remember the conjunctions."

Bible History: The students state, "We are learning about what people think is Paul's last letter. He wrote this to his friend Timothy. We also read a letter that was said to be written by Apollos who was a Jew educated in both the Hebrew Scriptures and Greek rhetoric and had been in close contact with Paul."

Hymnology: Hymnology class included memorizing hymns like "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing", "O Holy Spirit, Enter In", and now they are working on "Lord Take My Hand and Lead Me".

Science: The students are planting flowers and vegetables in Science Class. So far they have planted pansies, snap dragons, tomatoes, peppers, and cucumbers. They are learning how seeds grow into plants and about seed dispersal.

Phy Ed: The students have begun practicing softball at Burnside Park. They are learning their stances and where they should stand for their position. They are also taking quizzes about softball on Fridays.

American History: The Civil War and how the North and South split up according to having slaves and not having slaves are what the students are now studying in class.

Art: The student explain, "Fish out of air dry clay, a mysterious jungle, vegetation with something that pops out and a 3-D sports hero project are what we have been doing in art class."

Literature: The students have been reading *The Black Pearl* by Scott O'dell. It is a book about a boy who found the pearl of haven. They will now be starting a book called *Canyons* by Gary Paulsen.

