

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
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Stewardship and the End Times

This year in the month of November we will take a look at the very important topic of stewardship. Stewardship involves the faithful use of God's gifts. We will take some time to look at how God extravagantly blesses us and how we can use those gifts to bring glory to God. This is a very fitting topic to talk about with Thanksgiving just a few weeks away and it is an area where we as Christians just naturally want to grow.

During the month of November we also usually talk about the "end times." With the end of the church year approaching it is a fitting time to think about the end of the world. (The new church year starts after Thanksgiving.) Since we will not dedicate a separate Sunday for each of the end times topics, it would be good to mention them here.

The phrase "end times" brings to mind Christ's second coming and the last judgment, but it really includes much more. It includes all the time since Christ's ascension into heaven. Ever since his ascension, Christ has been preparing the world for his return. The four topics for end times are:

- **Reformation** – Christ preserves the truth of his Gospel throughout the end times so that sinners continue to hear the promise of forgiveness and salvation. The Reformation at Luther's time is the primary example of this fact.
- **Last Judgment** – Christ will return once more at the end of the end times to judge the earth. Those who believe in him as their Savior will enter into eternal glory and those who do not will suffer in hell.
- **Saints Triumphant** – Saints Triumphant does not only refer to the time after the last judgment but all those who have died in the faith are Saints Triumphant.
- **Christ the King** – Certainly Christ is our King, but he also rules the whole world for our good and to prepare the world for the day when he will return. When he returns it will be obvious to all that he is the King of Kings.

After these four Sundays the church year begins again with Advent. In Advent we remember the events that led up to the first time Jesus came into this world. As the church year progresses we focus on the events of Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and ascension – the work of our salvation.

Come quickly Lord Jesus!

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 October 2011

Psalm 118:24

This is the day the Lord has made, rejoice and be glad in it.

The fall weather is beautiful and warm, harvest is upon us and hunting season is in full swing. The Lord has been good and gracious to us all, providing bounty and all that we need. Let us share with God what he has given us.

St Johns is continually blessed with many gifts and events. In the past month, we had a great hog roast, hosted by the Elders, council and their wives. There were two member couples that celebrated milestone wedding anniversaries. Harold & Bev Bartz celebrated 60 years of marriage and Arnie and Arlene Hinderman celebrated 50 years of marriage. Congratulations to those couples! The Mission Fest was great with Rodrigo Concha speaking on evangelism and WELS Kingdom workers. A great potluck was provided afterward with food and fellowship. Our school year marches on and the students continually grow in God's Word and academics. We have a voters meeting coming up on the 16th. There will be important things to cover such as membership changes and funding for the organ and other church & school projects. Soon reformation will be here and we'll move into November! We truly do have a lot to rejoice in and be thankful for! Have a God blessed fall season.

In Christ,

Steve Windschitl

President, St John's Congregation



Church Council Minutes October 10, 2011

Present: Steve Windschitl, Leo Derkowski, Spencer Hammer, Barry Hillmann, Mike Crabtree, Jim Mielke, Andy Lochner, Jerry Dittbenner, Dan Rick and Pastor Draper.

Pastor Draper opened the meeting with devotion and a prayer.

Minutes

Leo Derkowski/Barry Hillmann made a motion to approve the September 2011 minutes. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

No formal report.

Treasurer's Report

Leo Derkowski/Barry Hillmann made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Reports for August and September. Motion carried.

President's Report

Steve Windschitl submitted a written report:

- The Hog Roast was successful.
- We celebrated two milestone wedding anniversaries for Bev and Harold Bartz and Arnie and Arlene Hinderman.
- Rodrigo Concha spoke at Mission Fest.
- The Quarterly Voters Meeting is October 16.

Board of Elders

Jerry Dittbenner /Jim Mielke made a motion to approve the transfer of membership of David and Laurie Silfies and their two sons Ethan and Wyatt from St. John's in New Ulm to St. John's, Sleep Eye. Motion carried.

The Board of Elders continues to work on the delinquent list.

Principal & Board of Education

No formal report. Discussions continue with the architect on options for the school facility.

Worship Committee

No report.

Maintenance Committee

Ongoing repairs continue.

The city has informed us that work will be done on 3rd Ave and Walnut Streets sometime in the 2012-2013 timeframe and that we will be subject to an assessment for the repairs and improvement.

Outreach

No report.

Stewardship

A stewardship program is planned for November.

MVL/WELS

Pastor Draper visited MVL for "Pastors' Day" and visited with our students who attend the school.

Endowment and Trust Fund Committee

No activity.

Old Business

Pastor Draper is in the process of obtaining an updated estimate for completing the organ repair. A preliminary report puts the costs at about \$37,500, which includes all of the options. The final estimate in writing will be ready for discussion at the voters meeting. Jim Mielke was asked to provide as close as possible an estimate of the amount of money in the organ fund.

New Business

The next scheduled council meeting: 7:30 Monday, November 14, 2011.

Andy Lochner/Jim Mielke made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted
Leo Derkowski, Secretary



Memorials

In Memory of Armin Grundmeyer

St. John's General Fund

Family & Friends - \$100

St. John's Choir

Family & Friends - \$5

Organ Fund

Family & Friends - \$200

St. John's Trust Fund

Family & Friends - \$30

St. John's New School Building Fund

Family & Friends - \$345

Ladies' Aid Chair Fund

Family & Friends - \$120

Ladies' Aid

Family & Friends - \$59



Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid met on Wednesday, October 5th at 2:00 p.m. For their regular scheduled meeting. Vice President Mary Ann Trebesch presided. Our devotion led by Pastor Draper was from Genesis 32:6-8, 33 1-4. These verses are the continuing story of Jacob as he prepares to meet his brother Esau after many years apart. Both of these brothers had wronged each other.

Harold and Bev Bartz gave \$100.00 to the Ladies Aid Chair Fund in honor of their 60th Wedding Anniversary.

There will be a Ladies Retreat at St. Paul's in New Ulm on Saturday, November 19th at 9:00 a.m. Please register by November 4th. Registration fees are \$20.00 which includes lunch.

The LWMS Fally Rally was held at Trinity in Nicollet, MN on October 8th. Mrs. Stephen Geiger was the Speaker of the Day.

The MLC Ladies Auxiliary's annual meeting was held on Saturday, October 15th @ the Wittenberg Collegiate Center Auditorium in New Ulm.

Block 4 served for the Mission Festival potluck on October 9th. Block 1 is up to serve.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, November 2nd at 2:00 p.m. Come join us!

Marilyn Deibele, Secretary



Hosanna Circle

Hosanna Circle held a meeting on Oct 6th with Pastor doing the Bible Study about Jacob and Esau and forgiveness. Forgiveness is something that should be given to one another no matter how we have been injured or treated by someone. We need to remember to forgive one another as Christ forgives us. Thank you Pastor.

We are working on updating the Block List for serving. A new list will be available when it is completed.

The Advent by Candlelight Dinner is coming along nicely. If you are interested in helping with this event contact Pam Dittbenner or Marcia Derkowski.

Also if you are planning to attend, please sign up on the sheets provided in the Narthax so we can get an idea how many to plan for. For those of you who have not attended one of the Advent Programs in the past, we can say without a doubt you will come away with a renewed sense of joy. Join us if you are able.



Hosanna Circle is planning to host a Bake Sale between services on November 6th as a Fund Raiser for the Advent by Candlelight Dinner. All donations are welcomed and appreciated. Please bring the donations to the church kitchen/basement and the Hosanna Circle will price them accordingly.

Our next Hosanna Circle meeting will be Thursday, November 3rd at 6:00 p.m. We invite any of you ladies interested in learning and understanding more of God's Word to join us for the fellowship.

Your Sisters in Christ,

Pam Dittbenner and Connie Trebesch

Bake Sale

Hosanna Circle will be hosting a Bake Sale on Sunday, November 6th. The proceeds will be used to help fund our Advent by Candlelight Dinner being held on Sunday, December 4th. All donations are welcomed and should be brought to the Church Basement by 9:00 a.m. that morning and Hosanna Circle will price them at that time. If you need /want some pretty terrific Baked Goods, be sure to be there for this event.



MLC Food Bank

Please put items needed on the kitchen counter marked MLC Food Shelf by November 4th.

(see newsletter insert)

Thank you!

Food Shelf



Thank You!

Thank you to all who helped us celebrate our 60th Wedding Anniversary.

We are truly grateful for all your well wishes, cards and gifts. Your kindness, concern and prayers are deeply appreciated.



Sincerely,
Harold & Bev Bartz

Poinsettias



Watch for an opportunity to purchase poinsettias for beautifying the sanctuary during Advent and Christmas. A sign up sheet will be available in the church narthex during November.



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

Preschool

The Preschoolers have been learning all kinds of new things in school! The students have learned about letters Hh, Mm, and Aa, and the sounds they make, by meeting letter people! David tells Mrs. Shrum, "I love you" often and Christo said his favorite part of the day is "outside time".

Kindergarten

The Kinders continue to work on sight words and creating word families, they have been reading new words every day! They had an AWESOME time at the Minnesota Zoo, and were very thankful for the parents who came along to spend the day with them. Ava said her favorite thing about the Zoo was "the penguins".

The students in Preschool and Kindergarten are enjoying fall! We have been reading books about apples and pumpkins, and learned many new poems and songs about autumn!



-During the month of October we took a walk and collected as many different kinds and colors of leaves we could find.

We later used those leaves for leaf rubbings.

We'd like to say a BIG thank you to the Parent Teacher Organization for buying our classroom journals. The students write in them daily!

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

November's brisk days are here!

We are learning of Joseph in our *Bible* lessons this month. We see how God was with Joseph and turned his troubles into blessings. We know He still does the same in our lives today.

We also learned about Martin Luther in our afternoon devotions. He discovered that we are saved by faith alone.

In *Math* class the first grade will be busy sorting, counting backwards from 20, and subtracting. Grade 2 will weigh objects, study bar graphs, and measure to the nearest inch. Grade 3 will be entering the world of multiplication this month while grade 4 will learn to read an inch scale to the nearest fourth, work with squares and square roots, and write numbers through 999,999!

Reading class has us busy in Guided Reading groups all reading and sharing several different chapter books. The children enjoy being detectives and finding new, unfamiliar, words to add to their growing vocabulary.

In our *Language* classes we are working on different kinds of sentences and when to use commas, quotation marks and apostrophes. We are working very hard at applying these skills in our writing activities.

Grade 1-2 just finished a *Science* unit on dinosaurs. We learned that they are referred to in the Bible although we don't know for sure why they disappeared from the earth. Grade 3 is learning about food chains. They are also learning about how we all affect our environment as well as our Christian responsibility to care for the world God has given us.

Grades K-8 and many parents enjoyed a beautiful fall field trip to the Minnesota Zoo last month. From Toucans to Dolphins to Lynx, we loved it all!

Every day brings much to be thankful for - especially our growing faith in our Savior. May God give you a thankful heart for your blessings too!



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

Spelling

We have had some big challenges in Spelling! First, the 4th grade students have been learning words such as 'push', 'pull', and 'soup'. These unit words focus on different vowel sound pronunciation. The 6th grade students have been learning /er/ sounds like 'similar' and 'regular.' Last but not least, the 8th grade students have learned and perfected Greek word parts such as 'archeology' and 'etymology.'

- Tim



Bible History

Currently in Bible History class, we are learning about Jacob and his stay with his Uncle Laban. Jacob worked for Laban for twenty years while also marrying Leah and Rachel. In recent lessons, we learned how Jacob tricked his father, Isaac, and left home in fear of Esau. We then learned how God still guided and protected Jacob in a dream about heaven.

- Luke

Computer Class

In Computer Class we have been using American Math Challenge (AMC) to challenge other students around the world. AMC is a great way to learn more math skills.

- Ben

Music

Grades 4-8 have music with Mrs. Shrum. The students worked hard on the piece, "Father Welcomes," which was sung for Mission Festival Sunday. They have also been practicing "Thy Word" which will be sung on October 30th. Music students Chantel, Abby, Tim, and Luke will sing harmony while the remainder of students sing the melody. Soon the students will start working on a Thanksgiving song.



- Abby

Science

In 4-6th grade Science, we have recently conducted many experiments. We have learned that

paper towel in a glass can stay dry underwater. We have also been learning that material such as newspaper sinks faster in less dense water. The 8th grade has been learning how different rocks form and the rock cycle is a continual cycle.

- Kendra

Math

The 4th grade students have been learning fractions and negatives. 5th grade has been learning more about division facts, reading story problems, and working through associative property. The 6th grade has been learning ratios, fractions, and reducing fractions. Ben has been solving one step-equations, Luke has been doing math testing, and Tim has been learning how to calculate the Pythagorean Theorem.

- Chantel



The first quarter of school has been successfully completed! The school year is off to a great start and many exciting things have recently happened. First of all, grades K-8 traveled to the Minnesota Zoo on October 7th and saw many amazing animals such as pumas, monkeys, and tigers. Grades 4-8 won the first "Spirit Day" challenge of the year with 100% participation. Congratulations 4-8! Grades K-8 sang for Mission Festival on Sunday, October 9th and everyone did a good job.

October was Pastor Appreciation Month and the students showed their love and support by decorating the school hallway with arts and crafts. Thank you Pastor Draper for your service!

All the upper grade students are involved somehow in extracurricular events. Events include MathCounts, Meet Math, forensics, volleyball, football, violin lessons, piano lessons, and the start of the basketball season. Thank you students for your participation and using the talents God has given you!

Finally, check out our school website and watch our field trip video!

God's blessing to everyone and may you continue to enjoy the fall season.

MLC Ladies Auxiliary Annual Meeting

137 attended the annual National meeting of the MLC Ladies Auxiliary on Saturday, October 15th. The day began with coffee and registration, followed by an opening devotion led by Auxiliary Spiritual Advisor Pastor Richard Kuckhahn. The theme we focused on was *Tend the Spirit's Fire*.

We were welcomed by student President Matt Stuebs and also enjoyed a greeting and report from college President Mark Zarling. Rachel Brokemeier, an auxiliary scholarship recipient, thanked the group for their support and prayers.

Business meeting: The list of completed projects from this year includes:

- 1) [Standing project] – Scholarship Fund, \$3,000
- 2) [Standing project] – Library Fund, \$1,250
- 3) [Standing project] – Outreach Opportunities, \$2,500
- 4) Preschool cots, \$540
- 5) Video Camera for Chapel of the Christ, \$4,000
- 6) Multimedia headsets for computer lab, \$810
- 7) Seasonal banners for outdoor mall area, \$1,500

New projects voted in for next year, in addition to the standing projects:

- 1) Set of 14 class textbooks for Foundations of History, \$1,400
- 2) Landscaping for Chapel of Christ, \$2,000
- 3) Lounge furniture for children's lit area of library, \$992
- 4) Christmas tree for Chapel of the Christ, \$1,000
- 5) Window treatments for MLC campus house, \$1,000
- 6) Step Exercise machine for MLC Fitness Center, \$2,600
- 7) Marriage candle for Chapel of the Christ, \$1,225

We could participate in one of the following workshops as well:

- 1) *Our campus* – learn about the fitness center and food bank
- 2) *With our students* – learn about campus life from a student panel
- 3) *In the Word*- Learn about the 2011 NIV Bible changes
- 4) *Across the Globe* – Learn about Daylight International & Daylight USA
- 5) *For your health* – Learn about changes in our health care system

Jon Scharlemann shared information about two exciting areas of expansion for the college. First, ground will be broken next May or June for a new Early Childhood Center. It will be 15,500 square feet and will include expanded areas for infants and toddlers. Second, there is a good possibility that a senior housing complex will also be built near the Early Childhood Center. It would not be funded by the college, but would be part of The Lutheran Home Association. These two facilities would foster intergenerational opportunities as well as ministry opportunities.

We enjoyed a scene from *She Loves Me*, the upcoming fall play, and also enjoyed special music before & during the day as well as at the closing devotion in the Chapel of the Christ.

The offering of the day was \$3,700. Next year's annual meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 27th. Please remember the college, students and faculty in your prayers!

Checks sent to support the projects or work of the auxiliary are mailed to:
Martin Luther College
1995 Luther Court
New Ulm, MN 56073

****Please remember to write "Auxiliary" on the memo line so it does go to the auxiliary.**

Paula Windschitl
MLC Auxiliary contact person



Lutheran Women's Missionary Society

The Fall Rally of the MN Valley Circuit of the LWMS met at Trinity Lutheran Church in Nicollet on Saturday, October 8th. The theme for the day was "The Son Rises in the East". Four members from our congregation participated. Highlights from the day include:

- Business meeting, 114 in attendance
- Morning devotional bible study let by Pastor Draper "A Part of the Whole"
- Convention recap from this past summer and discussion on 2012 convention to be held in Winston-Salem, NC
- Announcement of opportunity for our circuit to host the 2014 convention in Minneapolis
- We enjoyed meals of authentic Chinese food, complete with chop sticks!
- Speaker of the day: Mrs. Anna Geiger spent time in Hong Kong with her three children and husband, Stephen, while he taught at the Asia Lutheran Seminary for one semester. We heard with great interest about her adventures there.
- Daily offering came to \$1,745.00
- Our next rally will be held April 14, 2012 at Emmanuel in Owatonna.

Please remember to pray for world and home missions.

Paula Windschitl,
LWMS Reporter