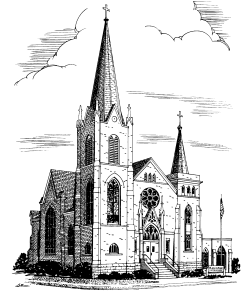


The St. John's Messenger

St. John's Lutheran Church & School 221 Walnut St. S.E.
Sleepy Eye, MN 56085
Church 794-6202 School 794-6200 Pastor Robert Hellmann 763-232-1168
www.stjohnsse.com



NOVEMBER 2013

What's So Important about October 31?

Is it a holiday of some sort? Well, it's actually more of a holy-day. Oct. 31 marks the day the Lutheran Reformation started. On that day in 1517 Martin Luther nailed the "95 Theses" to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany.

Luther was born in 1483, nine years before Columbus discovered America. He was an intensely religious young man. He lived in constant fear of death because he felt that his sins condemned him before God.

He tried to ease his spiritual struggles by joining a monastery. This only made matters worse. After this he became a priest and later was sent to be a professor at the new university in Wittenberg.

It was there while studying and teaching the Bible that he found the peace of mind and soul that he had been looking for. God led him to see that salvation is not by any good works we can do for God. Instead forgiveness and salvation are given us as a free gift through faith in Jesus. People eagerly flocked to Luther to hear this "new" message that he preached.

In 1517 a monk came around selling indulgences to the people. An indulgence was a remitting of the temporal punishment for sin and was not actually the buying of forgiveness of sins. Many people missed this fine point, however, and simply thought of it as buying forgiveness for themselves and their dead relatives.

Luther wrote the "95 Theses" as a challenge to other scholars to debate the subject of indulgences. The Theses were printed and spread far and wide quickly.

Both the pope and the emperor tried to suppress the teachings of Luther, but they failed. The gospel of full and free salvation by faith spread rapidly.

It spread across 500 years and across continents until it came to us also. Let us thank the Lord that he has blessed us with the pure gospel in Word and Sacraments.

Never take this blessing for granted. Appreciate it, believe it, and live it. By grace alone, by faith alone, by God's Word alone!

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 10, 2013

“All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever” 1 Peter 1:24-25

Our call to Pastor Devries has been returned. On September 30th, the voters extended a call to Pastor Bret Naumann of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. I have spoken to him and he is praying and evaluating our call as well as his current call. Please keep him in your prayers so that God may guide him in his decision.

Pastor Hellmann continues to serve us well, filling in as we need through this time of our vacancy. Give him a call if you have a special need, he is more than willing to help out.

We celebrated the life of Ray Mielke Tuesday, October 8th. Ray was truly a man of God, passing on the baton of God’s word from generation to generation.

Mission Fest will be held on Sunday, October 13th. Special offerings will be given to WELS Special Ministry; specifically Military Services. Pastor Carl Ziemer is the recently retired Director of Special Ministries, which covers 8 specific areas of special needs. We are excited to welcome him as our guest pastor that day. He will also speak after the 9 am service during Bible study time. A potluck will follow.

Plans are underway to repair the SW brick wall and window by the sacristy. We will need to take care of it before the winter sets in.

We are beginning the preparations of repair and cleaning of the parsonage for a new pastor. Kevin Leopold and Mickey Meyer are putting together the “to do” lists so that we can all look it over and select a job or two to tackle. Many hands make light work! Our thanks go to Mickey and Kevin for their extra effort. Let’s help them check off the items on those lists.

Financially, we are nearing the top of our line of credit. Please consider giving in accordance to your ability to help reduce the debt.

Financial Peace University (Thursdays at 6 pm) has 7 members. It is a small class, but that also makes it very easy to have discussions and share experiences. It is going well! St. John’s members are invited to attend a class and see what FPU is all about.

Harvest is in full swing and God’s blessing continues to flow, not only for farmers but each and every one of us in some way. Take time to give him thanks for all that he has blessed you with.

In Christ,

Steve Windschitl
President, St John’s Congregation



**Church Council Minutes
October 10 , 2013**

Present: Jerry Dittbenner, Shorty Haus, Kevin Leopold, Andy Lochner, Dave Silfies and Steve Windschitl

Steve Windschitl opened the meeting with devotion and a prayer.

Minutes

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

Pastor's Report

No report.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was discussed by Shorty Haus.

President's Report

Written report was presented.

Board of Elders

Shorty Haus/Andy Lochner made a motion to transfer out Chelsea Hammerschmidt to Pilgrim Lutheran, Minneapolis, Mn. Motion carried.

Andy Lochner/Kevin Leopold made a motion to release Jeff, Andrea, Colin and Kaleb Butenhoff. Motion carried.

Andy Lochner/Shorty Haus made a motion to recommend to the voters to stop Kevin Drapers last month of severance pay as per his request. Motion carried.

Principal & Board of Education

No report. Dan Rick was ill.

Worship Committee

No report.

Maintenance Committee

Various jobs were reported on to repair the parsonage.

Discussed water seepage problems in the basement of the parsonage and possible

solutions.

Examined and discussed two bids concerning repairing west exterior wall of the sacristy.

Andy Lochner/Shorty Haus made a motion to recommend to the voters to pull \$8,385.00 from the Trust Fund for expected parsonage and church repairs totaling about \$20,000. Motion passed.

A letter will be sent out informing the congregation of the important decisions that will need to be made.

Outreach

No report.

Stewardship

There was discussion on the stewardship principles as it applies to our church and parsonage repairs.

MVL/WELS

No report.

Endowment and Trust Fund Committee

No report.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Shorty Haus/Kevin Leopold made a motion to purchase a DVD duplicator for use in copying 3 DVD's at a time for local media broadcast. Approximate cost is \$395.00 from Techware.

The next Church Council meeting will be held Wednesday, November 13th at 7:30 p.m.

Shorty Haus/Dave Silfies made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Dittbenner, Acting Secretary

Principal's Report

There's an old adage that goes like this: "When it rains, it pours." Lately, the weather has surely lived up to its billing.

Raining on the earth is a good thing. It gives the green plants and the animals of the world fluid to drink. In some parts of the world, it allows people freshwater to accumulate in their cisterns for use in their homes.

From a Christian perspective, water is a key element for life. Water keeps us alive. Water also brought us to faith through the sacrament of holy baptism. It is through that water and the Word of God that made us a member of God's family of believers. It is through that water of life that reminds us of the blessings that we receive from our baptism-forgiveness of sins, life and salvation in heaven.

Water is an essential part of a person's life. Without it, we would die. Thank God for the rain. Rainwater shows how our God blesses and maintains his people and his creation.

Past Events:

- St. John's students were able to participate in two major events in September! First, grades 1-8 traveled to a Minnesota Twins game on Thursday, September 12. Even though the Twins lost, it was a great experience for all the students especially those going to their first baseball game.
- St. John's raised awareness for children's cancer with a day of kickball at St. John, Redwood Falls on Friday, September 20th! Altogether, area Lutheran schools raised over \$8,000 for children's cancer and concluded the event with a full day of kickball that included competition and fellowship with many area Lutheran students.
- Cross Country Meet was at Fort Ridgely on October 11th.
- Teacher's Conference was October 17th and 18th.
- Parent-Teacher Consultations were on Tuesday, October 29 and Wednesday, October 30.
- Spirit Day was "Costume" day on Thursday, October 31

St. John's will also be looking into expanding their technology program with a new phone system and computer updates!

September and October were busy months with new beginnings and new students as is every beginning of a school year. It is always exciting for everyone to start a new school year! Students and teachers are now in a good groove and the family atmosphere has continued to be a blessing for everyone at St. John's!



Mr. Rick's 5-8 Classroom News

The first quarter of school has been successfully completed! The school year is off to a great start and many exciting things have happened. Recently, students have received new winter sleds, Cross Country T-shirts, traveling athletic bags, Track & Field equipment, etc. All these purchases were made possible by donations from the Hog Roast. We would like to thank everyone who supported these purchases by their donations for school supplies! Next, grades 5-8 won the first "Spirit Day" challenge of the year with 100% participation. Congratulations 5-8! The theme was "Hat Day" and many students had unique hats from baseball hats to viking helmets. Grades K-8 also sang for Mission Festival on Sunday, October 13th and everyone did a good job.

All the upper grade students are involved in extracurricular events. Events include Meet Math, forensics, soccer, cross country, band, football, or piano lessons. Thank you students for your participation and using the talents God has given you!

Finally, check out our school website or ask to visit our classroom any day!

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



Dear Laurie, Emily & Christopher,

**May our Lord
Jesus Christ
Comfort your
hearts and
strengthen
them...**

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17



**God's blessings,
Your St. John's family**

Mrs. Soloviyov's Preschool and Kindergarten News

It has been another amazing month in the PreK-Kindergarten classroom. The children have been studying how God has a plan for each and every one of us and that He will always be by our side helping through the trials in our lives. What a blessing to have such a dear friend by our side!

For our theme work, the class has been studying the season of fall. We measured and graphed pumpkins, made leaf patterns, studied nocturnal animals and created sentences about scarecrows. This past week we even measured people in our school using cobs of corn. We found out that Mr. Rick was the tallest, 11 corn cobs high!



The kindergarten class is hard at work learning letters and sounds. We have gone through 5 Superkids and are moving onto our 6th, Sal. It is fun watching all the students realize that letters make words. They are sounding out everything in the

classroom! What a blessing to have eager students willing and eager to learn.

The whole class has been doing a lot of counting. They have learned how to count by ones, twos and tens. They have also been learning how to tell time to the hour and to identify coins.

The children continue to be a joy to work with. I am impressed by their love for each other and their love for the Lord. What a blessing to hear students pray for one another and constantly encourage one another. The Lord is good!



Women's Advent Event

The Women's Advent event will be held on Sunday, December 8th, starting at 4:00 pm.

We have changed our format somewhat and will be having a salad luncheon this year. Our theme is "Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel." Our speaker is Dr. Ann Vogel of New Ulm. Please join us to view beautifully decorated tables, to see our church-basement transformed, and to hear some special Christmas music as we open our hearts and minds to the Advent season.



We are not selling tickets this year but will be charging for the meal. Please watch the bulletin for more details as the date gets closer. We are still looking for table hostesses.



Hosanna circle

The Hosanna circle met October 3rd in the school computer room. Some members were able to meet early and spent time cleaning cupboards and drawers in the kitchen area which we will continue to do in the next few months.

Plans for the Women's Advent event were discussed. Committees are already at work to make this an evening to remember.

We closed our meeting with the Lord's Prayer. Our next meeting will be November 7th, in the computer room at school.

Mickey Meyer

Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid met on Wednesday, October 2nd at 2:00 p.m. for their regular scheduled meeting. President Marlys Lochner presided. Pastor Hellmann read from an inspirational booklet for our devotions.

The Ladies Aid will cover the cost of \$92.50 for 5 large print Meditation booklets.

The St. John's Youth Group received a check of \$404.00 which was one half the amount of the proceeds from the pie sale.

The MLC Ladies Auxiliary meeting was on October 5th at MLC. Our donation from the congregation collection earlier this year was for the amount of \$109.75.

The Hosanna Circle is planning a bake sale on November 24th.

Block 1 served the Potluck for our Mission Festival on October 13th. Block 2 served lunch for the Ray Mielke funeral on October 7th. Block 3 is up to serve.

A list of projects needed to update the parsonage was read by Mickey Meyer. She also had some prices on carpet for the parsonage office.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 6th at 2:00 p.m. Come join us!

Marilyn Deibele
Secretary



MLC Ladies Auxiliary

The Ladies Auxiliary of Martin Luther College met for their annual National meeting on Saturday, October 5, 2013 at Martin Luther College. 100 were in attendance.

MLC President Mark Zarling led the opening devotion, welcome and college report. A business meeting was held, at which time candidates for open offices were introduced and voted on. Newly elected officers include: Maribeth Wong, 2nd Vice President; Karen Kohls, Treasurer; and Pastor Daniel Reich, Pastoral Advisor.

Prof. Bill Pekrul recapped last year's projects (total funded: \$14,899.43) and presented information on new projects for the upcoming year. The following new project list was adopted by the voters:

- Upgrading the Curriculum Library - \$1,250
- Infant/Toddler Playground Equipment for ECLC (slide) - \$840
- Furniture for Music Center Lobby - \$2,500
- Equipping a digital commons - \$1,550
- Infant/Toddler Playground Equipment for the ECLC (Bridge) - \$3,200
- Library Archives Film Preservation - \$180
- Infant Toddler Playground Equipment for ECLC (Pull up bar) - \$670
- Campus Seating - \$475

Standing projects including: Scholarship Fund - \$3,000; Library Support - \$1,250; and Daylight Outreach - \$2,500; are always funded before the annual project list.

A sneak peak of the Fall Musical "Into the Woods" was given by the student cast and enjoyed by all.

Reports on Mission Advancement, the Food Bank, and Auxiliary activities were presented. Two workshops were available for everyone to attend. A reminder was made that contributions may be sent directly to the college. Please write "Ladies Auxiliary" on the memo line. A lunch was enjoyed in the cafeteria.



Befriend a Mission

We have one birthday to celebrate in November among our Befriend a Mission families! Jennifer Spiegelberg, the wife of Thomas Spiegelberg, Missionary to St. Lucia, West Indies, will be celebrating her birthday on November 13th. Cards may be sent to her at the following address:

Jennifer Spiegelberg
Gablewoods Mall GM Box 858
Castries, St. Lucia, West Indies

She does not have any special requests outside of asking us to pray for their family as they face challenges raising their teenagers in a foreign country, and especially one child who deals with dyslexia.

It may seem early, but you might want to pick up a Befriend a Mission address card in the narthex if you enjoy sending Christmas greetings to our missionary families. These concise little cards can be tucked into your address book or Christmas card list for easy reference. Cards sent overseas always take a little longer to arrive, so sending them early is a great idea. Thanks for supporting these missionary families with prayers and cards. Both are great blessings to them!



Paula Windschitl, BAM representative



Lutheran Women's Missionary Society

The Minnesota Valley Circuit of the LWMS celebrated its 40th anniversary on Saturday, September 28th at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in St. James, which was also the site of the first LWMS Rally. 101 were in attendance.

The opening devotion was conducted by Pastor Lopahs, with scripture basis taken from Genesis 32:10, where Abraham praises God for the blessings bestowed on him over the years.

A business meeting was led by President Lanita Nolte. Election of officers will be held in the spring. Open board positions include: Vice President, Secretary, Spiritual Growth Laywoman, and Pastoral Advisor. Nominations are sought for these positions. The spring rally will be held on April 5, 2014 at St.

John's in Fairfax. This rally will be a little different because we are trying a half-day format instead of a full-day format. We will try this new approach for the spring and fall rallies in 2014, then re-evaluate the concept of it.

Evodia Cassius of St. Lucia sent a thank-you to everyone for the contributions made on her behalf to assist her as she studies at MLC. Ruthie Stoll spoke briefly and thanked us for sending her to the National Convention in LaCrosse through the Send One Sister program. This program will run again in 2014, so if you would like to apply for this grant to attend a National Convention, please speak to me for an application. A letter was shared from Pastor Michael Hartmann of Mexico on behalf of National Pastor Jorge Briones, who lost household possessions recently during heavy flooding. Contributions to help him may be sent to: Christ Lutheran Church, 201 No. 3rd St. Eagle River WI 54521.

The 2014 National Convention will be held in Dallas, TX June 26-29. There is already a bus tour being organized which will leave from New Ulm and take in some scenic or area attractions on the way and back. If you are interested in the convention and /or the bus trip, please feel free to contact me and I will be happy to direct you to further information.

Our day focused on the anniversary of our circuit. We saw several presentations highlighting rallies and LWMS events over the past 40 years. After viewing all of it, we were all very aware of the many blessings God has bestowed on our little group!

A luncheon was served by the St. Paul ladies. We enjoyed a "retro" meal with selections from 40 years ago, including the Pillsbury bake-off winning cake recipe from 1973! Hostesses wore "vintage" clothing and some swell kitchen aprons!

Offering of the day came to \$1,331.45. The closing devotion was led by Pastor Natsis.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Windschitl, LWMS Reporter

The offering of the day totaled \$3,380. Next year's meeting date will be Saturday, October 25th.

The meeting concluded with a devotion led by Pastor Dan Reich.

Paula Windschitl, MLC Auxiliary Contact

Did you know?

**WELS Women's
Ministry/Minnesota District
has a newsletter
you can subscribe to.
To receive it as an email,
please subscribe at:
www.eepurl.com/jn0Gv**

Cornerstone Christian Counseling

Daniel Low
area WELS professional
Christian counselor
has updated his office website
www.cstonechristianco.org

Included on the site
are helpful resources
(printable for personal use)
on topics such as communication,
depression, and misuse of alcohol.
507-354-1147.

Poinsettias

Want donate a poinsettia
or two to beautify our church
during the
Christmas season?
Check the narthex for a
sign-up sheet beginning
Sunday, November 3rd.



Craft and Bake Sale

The Hosanna Circle
will be holding a craft and bake sale
on Sunday, November 24th,
following the church service.

Proceeds will be used
for expenses created by the
Women's Advent event.
Everyone is welcome to donate
items to sell.



CHRISTMAS "SONG-A-THON" with Sunday School

Sunday, December 1st there will be
no regular Sunday School.



During this time we
will be
practicing songs
for the
Children's Christmas
service
in some varied
and unique ways!
Afterwards, there
will be special snacks and drinks. This
really helped out last year for learning
our songs!

Questions? Contact Mrs. Crabtree @
507-417-4244 or 507-351-4276

Memorials

In Memory of Don Boelter

St. John's Choir

Anonymous	\$10
Ken & Penny Mathiowetz	\$40

In Memory of Mark Hammerschmidt

St. John's School

Steve & Mickey Meyer	\$10
Rich & Connie Trebesch	\$20
Bev Bartz	\$10
Shorty & Mary Jane Haus	\$10
Dean & Vicky Torvick	\$20
Jim & Sarah Mielke	\$20
Pete & Shelly Schumacher	\$5
Dale & Patty Trebesch	\$3
Delbert & Eunice Sandhoefner	\$10
Arnie & Arlene Hinderman	\$10
Wes & Laurie Helget	\$5
Myron Seidl	\$10
Clete & Jan Zinnel	\$10
Dave & Carol Honeman	\$10
Mike & Barb Lux	\$10
Gerald & Michelle Lux	\$5

Richard & Lynda Weilage	\$20
Kevin & Marilyn Leopold & family	\$25
Layne & Sarah Evers	\$20
Ralph Grundmeyer	\$10
Beverly Wischstadt	\$5
Don & Laurie Halvorson	\$30
Alois & Del Hammerschmidt	\$20
Roger & Peggy Seidl	\$5
Marc & Sue Radel	\$20
Dan & Deanne Lendt & family	\$40
Corey & Tammy Schewe & family	\$50
Karen & Jerry Rotherham family	\$20
Family & Friends	\$20

St. John's Church

Armin & Leona Lendt	\$5
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St. John's Choir

Dennis & Pam Dittbenner	\$10
Ken & Penny Mathiowetz	\$15
Lois Kiecker	\$5
Dave & Char Zimmerman	\$5

St. John's School Building Fund

Steve & Paula Windschitl	\$25
Al & Hazel Maasz	\$10