

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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“Los 33” (“The 33”)

If you have watched or read much of world news lately, it was difficult to miss hearing about the 33 miners who were trapped underground for 68 days in Chile. In the news we heard about the fantastic human efforts from all around the world to rescue those 33 men. As amazing as that rescue effort was, what was even more amazing, in my opinion, was the ability of those men to handle the difficult situation that came upon them.

For the first 17 days they had no certainty that anyone knew they were alive or were looking for them. Until contact was made, each one ate less than a spoonful of salmon a day for food and drank water that was less than clean. Then, for 33 men to be together in that small space for more than two months takes patience. Yes, I'm sure there were disagreements and arguments, but overall there was an amazing amount of self-control and self-sacrifice for the good of the group.

How would you handle it? If you took 33 average citizens of the United States would you get the same results? I wonder if, in this country, we have a subconscious expectation that a good life is a life without problems – that problems are an abnormality instead of the expected result of living in a sinful world. Perhaps these Chileans had already overcome many difficulties in this life and were, in that way, prepared for this most recent event in their lives. God does that, doesn't he – use problems to prepare us for more problems?

Many give credit to human ingenuity for the rescue. CNN had an article entitled “How best of man, machine saved Chile's miners” - a very typical American way of looking at things. But the 33 men trapped underground knew that God was in control. As they were brought to the surface, many of them were wearing t-shirts provided for them with the words of Psalm 95:4, “In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him.” They knew that God was in control even as they were in the depths of the earth and they knew God would be the one to give success to the rescue.

Aren't these men a wonderful example for us? When problems come, do what they did: think of the needs of others, keep busy, wait patiently for your deliverance, and know that God has conquered this world of sorrows for you in Jesus Christ.

In Christ our Savior,
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.*

Church Council Minutes October 11, 2010

Present: Andy Lochner, Jim Mielke, Van Tallman, Leo Derkowski, Jerry Dittbenner, Mike Crabtree and Pastor Draper.

Pastor Draper opened the meeting with devotion and a prayer.

Minutes

Mike Crabtree/Jerry Dittbenner made a motion to approve the August and September minutes as amended. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

No formal report. Pastor intends to do more with the Youth Group. He is making an effort to invite high school students to become more involved. Five out of a possible 18 showed up at the last meeting. Pastor has also started a Bible information class with a single mother and her sister. The mother has a child in our school.

Treasurer's Report

Andy Lochner/Van Tallman made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

President's Report

No report. Position is vacant.

Board of Elders

Leo Derkowski/Jim Mielke made a motion to transfer the membership of Beth Shiels to a WELS church in Iowa. Motion carried.

The Elders are sending letters to those members who have not communed or been in church for the past three years. The letter will inquire as to whether the member intends to continue membership at St. John's.

Principal & Board of Education

Pastor Draper reported that:

- The school has a new Smart Board.
- Terra Nova testing is completed.
- Photographs of students have been taken.
- Background checks on all adults who have regular contact with students are underway.
- PTO fund raisers will be mentioned in the church bulletin.

Worship Committee

"Walking Together Sunday" is scheduled for October 25.

Maintenance Committee

Mike Crabtree reported that there is a leak in the rubber roof over the men's room in the church building. The situation will be monitored. A new sloped roof is under consideration as the best solution to the problem.

Outreach

No report.

Stewardship

No report.

MVL/WELS

The MVL Worker Care Committee (WCC) is asking if the congregation will sponsor two called workers at MVL. The matter was referred to Leo Derkowski who will make a recommendation at the next council meeting.

Endowment and Trust Fund Committee

The Committee will make membership more visible to the congregation so that it knows who is providing oversight to the endowment and trust funds.

MVL/WELS

No report

Old Business

None

New Business

Leo Derkowski/Van Tallman made a motion to donate the proceeds of the special Mission Sunday offerings of \$186.00 to Pastor Russow's church in Rogers, MN. Motion carried.

Leo Derkowski/Jim Mielke made a motion to approve spending up to \$3,000 to acquire a new wireless microphone system. Motion carried.

Leo Derkowski/Jim Mielke made a motion to recommend to the voter's that the Endowment and Trust fund invest money in the church operating fund with a note at 4% annual interest to pay off the Americana Bank loan (approximately \$13,000) taken to reimburse Principal Schultz for the sale of his house in Milwaukee. Motion carried.

Andy Lochner recommended the following:

- That at the next voters meeting going to only one service on Sunday morning be discussed. This topic will be added to the agenda.
- That a committee be established to review the by-laws with the objective of revising the structure of the church council. This topic will also be introduced at the voters meeting.

The next scheduled council meeting: 7:30 Monday, November 8, 2010.

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

Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted
Leo Derkowski, Secretary



Preschool and Kindergarten News Miss Zastrow

Matthew 7:7 "Ask, and it will be given to you" is one of our memory treasures this month. The memory treasure is presented in the lesson during which Jesus tells his disciples that they have nothing to worry about, for God even cares for the birds and the flowers, and He will surely always take care of us, as well! This lesson is gradually coming across in our classroom as the year goes on. We started the year with one student ending every Bible Story time by praying for his mom to feel better, so that she wouldn't have to be sick anymore.

Other students followed his example and began praying that their mothers would not get sick. This is a great example of praying for others! Now, after several weeks of the same prayers, I am reinforcing the lesson that God does provide for us, and we have nothing to worry about! So maybe prayers could go in another direction, rather than praying that our mothers do not get sick each and every day. Still, ultimately, is there anything wrong with praying that our mothers do not get sick? No! God can



hear these children, and He knows what they are asking and He knows the trust in their hearts.

October was a month of learning for students as well as teachers! Teachers conferences were held towards the end of the month. As always, it was so good to be studying and learning more about how best to teach the children that have been placed in our care, while also experiencing the blessing of fellowship with those around us who are doing the exact same thing! Towards the beginning of the month, we took a field trip to Nelson's Farm, where we even got to pick pumpkins and bring them home!

This month, the Preschool and Kindergarten students will be learning quite a bit about different modes of transportation, and how they fit into the community we live in! We'll also touch on different jobs that people have and how each one serves the community as a whole! If you are willing to come and share with us what your job is all about, please talk to me! We would LOVE to have you visit with us about your work! The letters we are learning include I, S, F, and R.

As we move into November, we are remembering to trust God with His promises, and learning that we have nothing to worry about! Whether that be the health of family members, the birds in the sky, or the future of this school so incredible, where little children are learning the truths of God's Word - day in and day out. If these walls could talk, the incredible things they've seen... I think especially of my classroom, where so many young children have been filled with the Holy Spirit, and their faith is so visible as it grows and grows! I pray that everyone experiences "faith like a child" in the months to come!



Grades 1-5 News Mrs. Halvorson

November's cool, fall days remind us that winter is around the corner.

Christ-Light We are hearing how Jesus showed his almighty power as we continue the Bible lessons about his public ministry. As we see his many miracles and almighty power, we are encouraged to place our trust in him for all our needs also.

Reading Grade 1 is expanding vocabulary and sight words quickly these days. In second grade chapter books and longer stories have taken center stage as our reading skills improve. Third and Fifth Graders are enjoying the

challenge of deeper comprehension activities with their novels.

Unit Study In Social Studies Grade 1-2 are learning about the land "down under" as we explore Australia's peoples, animals, landforms, history, and climate.

November is a time to give thanks for our countless blessings - especially our growing faith and our awesome Savior. The whole school will join to sing our praises on Thanksgiving eve this year.

May God give you a thankful heart for your blessings too!

In Christ,
Mrs. Halvorson



Ben "I am thankful for the gift of salvation God has given me and the Bible."

Abby "I am thankful for food, water, pets, parents, grandparents, teachers, pastors, houses, churches."

Parker "I am thankful for my Bible, house, bed and family."

Colten "I am thankful for food, clothes, Zania, parents, and Jesus dying on the cross."

Chantel "I am thankful for my family, my friends, and God's love. I am also thankful for food, water, houses, and everything."

Mary "I am thankful for my two cats, my mom and dad, Chantel, and Abby, my home, food, God, fun with friends, TV, the Holy Spirit, love, and everything."

Spencer "I am thankful for the things God gives me like parents, food, pets, pastors, and teachers."

Matthew "I am thankful for trees, bees, God's Word, heaven, colors, seeds, grace, school, lunch, the United States, Math, friends, family, pastors, spelling, and everything."

Jace "I am thankful pastor preaches to us on Sunday."

Noah "I am thankful for our church, Pastor, God's Word, and our hymns at church. I am thankful for my family and God."

Molly "I am thankful for books to help us get smarter and better and mom and dad to take care of us."

Jenny "I am thankful for my family and God."

Ella "I am thankful for the animals, trees, plants, fruits, clothes, God's Word, teachers, pastors, and everything."

Erin "I am thankful for my mom."

Toby "I am thankful for Pastor telling us about Jesus and God."

Colton "I am thankful for animals, my family, trees,

fruit, food, and God.

Emma "I am thankful for my parents and teacher and grass."

Kaiden "I am thankful for the grass"

Mrs. H "I am thankful to see God working in these children's hearts everyday...it is an awesome privilege!"



Grades 3-5 News Mrs. Brown

I'd like to share an update of the lessons the students in grades 3-5 have had this past month in my classroom. **Christ Light (Grades 4-5)** continued looking at Jesus' public ministry as he actively began calling his disciples to be "Fishers of Men." To celebrate and gain more insight about the Reformation we are now studying Martin Luther, his life and role in the Reformation. Did you know Martin Luther cut himself with a sword he'd been awarded in school and almost died from the infection of the wound? **Minnesota History (Grade 5)** has moved through time in their books from observing the Ojibwe American Indians, to the impact of fur trade on Minnesota, and finally how the land of Minnesota changed hands in the mid-late 1800's. Next we look at a piece of history close to home, the Dakota Conflict. **Science (Grades 3, 4-5)** All classes are looking at how landforms change. The older students are busy creating their volcano models, set to erupt around lunch time next week, everything from Efferdent pills, to mentos in pop, and vinegar with baking soda will be active that day. The younger student are being introduced to ways rocks and landforms weather and the effect of erosion. **Social Studies (Grade 3)** Students completed an overview of our country's people and government. Now we will take time to work with different maps and take a closer look at our country's government.

We give God thanks for the many blessings we've already received this year and ask for his continued guidance as we learn more of him and the gifts he's given us in the world. May what we do give God all glory. (1 Corinthians 10:31)



Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid met on Wednesday, October 6 for their monthly meeting. President Marlys Lochner presided. Our devotion, given by Pastor Draper was a interactive study of Jacob, were Jacob wrestled with God's promises and God's plans for his life.

Pastor Draper gave the report on the LWMS Fall Rally held at St. Mark's in Mankato. The theme of the rally was "Open Doors to Ministry". Speaker of the day was Pastor Andrew Fix.



Marcia Derkowski gave a report on the CAMM ministries.

The Ladies Aid dues are payable at this time.

Block 3 served the luncheon for Marie Vollmer's funeral. Block 4 served the Potluck dinner on Mission Festival Sunday, October 10th. Block 1 is up to serve the next event.

The present officers accepted their duties for another year. Present officers are Marlys Lochner – President, Mary Ann Trebesch – Vice President, Barb Lux – Treasurer and Marily Deibele – Secretary.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 3rd at 2 p.m. Come join us!

Marilyn Deibele
Secretary

Hosanna Circle

Our Group met on October 7th at 6PM in the church basement.

Pastor Draper led us in devotion.

Marsha Derkowski reported on the previous day's Ladies Aid Meeting.

The Advent Dinner is held every other year. We discussed other fellowship activities for this year. One idea was to have another meeting of the "Bad Girls of the Bible". It was well attended when we first held one two years ago.

Lynn Hacker reported that Thrivent has \$100 available for congregations to use toward Quilting projects. Ours is a rare church in this area without a Quilting group. If anyone is interested we could start with making a Quilt for raffle or silent auction as a fundraiser, make fleece tie blankets (no sew) for missions or charity, or make a quilted banner for our church. Quilters could form a group, one person could take on a project or could be an extension of Hosanna Circle/Ladies Aid. Many possibilities, we're looking for interested persons and ideas.

Mickey Meyer has reported that she has no fear of Bats. There were none present at this particular meeting and we are feeling somewhat more secure with Mickey in our group. If you are not a "Bat", we encourage you to attend our next meeting to be held November 4th. Note our new meeting time 6PM, first Thursday of the month.

We extend our deepest sympathy to our Hosanna Circle Leader Pam Dittbenner in the tragic sudden loss of her sister.

Your Sister in Christ,
Connie Trebesch



A heart-felt Thank You!

Dennis and I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for their prayers, concern, words of encouragement, and all the wonderful cards we received regarding the tragic death of my sister. We all are family and feel the sorrow for one another. Thank you for all the support, it is greatly appreciated.



Pam and Dennis Dittbenner



Memorials

In Memory of Marie Alt

Chuck, Lindy & Aaron Riederer - \$10

In Memory of Judy Steffen

Marvelyn, Jim & Sue Pederson - \$50

In Honor of Emilie Netzke's 100th Birthday

New School Building Fund
Steve & Paula Windschitl - \$25

Ladies' Aid
Emilie Netzke - \$50

Organ Fund
Emilie Netzke - \$50

"Blessings in Disguise"

10th Annual Ladies' Symposium

**Saturday, November 20th
8:30AM - 3PM**

Speakers & Musical Entertainment

Susan Ann Lueneburg
Janet Moldstad
Beni Rete

Registration Cost: \$16.00 includes, breakfast,
lunch & dessert

St. Paul's Lutheran Church (AM location)
315 S. 9th St.
St. James, MN

St. James Legion (PM location)
620 1st Ave. S.
St. James, MN

Please call Marlys Lochner at 794-7297 if you plan
to attend. **Registration deadline is Sunday,
November 14th.**



What Do You Think?

**Should we continue to have 2 worship
services on a weekend or change to 1?
Some have suggested moving to one
worship service.**

**I want to know your thoughts. Should
we change to one service? If so, when
would that service be? Please send an
e-mail or write a note.**

Pastor Draper