

# The St. John's Messenger

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## A Family Meal is More Than Just Food for the Body

Life seems so busy sometimes, doesn't it? Certainly families with school-age children have their own set of challenges. Perhaps you or a family you know has so many outside commitments that family members are often going in opposite directions to meet those commitments. Sometimes, sitting down to a family meal is not easy. I do not intend to discount the value of being involved in activities outside the home, but perhaps we underestimate the value of a meal shared as a family and the things that happen during that meal.

Secular studies by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, the University of Minnesota, and others have shown that teens who regularly eat meals with their family are less involved with substance abuse, suffer less stress and depression, are less likely to commit suicide, and get better grades in school.

Surprising? Not really. Our good and gracious God designed the family to provide for our social and emotional needs as well as for our physical needs. Much of this happens around the family meal as we share our food and our thoughts with those who care about us. The feelings of love, security, and acceptance that the family meal produces help build up the defenses against the problems that children and adults often face.

Even with these wonderful benefits, the family meal is not what it could be if Jesus isn't there. After all, he is a part of our family! When you tie a family devotion with a family meal you connect yourself with your spiritual family as well as those people who live in your house. You meet not just physical and emotional needs, but also what really is your only need – your spiritual need to hear about your Savior. The feelings of love, security, and acceptance that come from knowing we are a part of God's family help us with our struggles in this life and the benefits last into eternity.

A devotion is not a difficult thing to add to the family meal. There are many good devotional books available that could be placed by the kitchen table and used at a family meal. Just ask if you need some suggestions.

In the name of Christ, our brother,  
Pastor Draper

Some of the facts for this article came from an article on the web at:  
[http://www.mercatornet.com/articles/view/the\\_incredible\\_reappearing\\_family\\_dinner/](http://www.mercatornet.com/articles/view/the_incredible_reappearing_family_dinner/)  
It is an interesting article. Please read it if you have the chance.

### **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, 2009**

Present: Leo Derkowski, Paul Maasz, Jeff Schultz, Van Tallman, Dave Zimmerman, Jim Mielke, Jerry Dittbenner and Pastor Draper.

Pastor Draper opened the meeting with devotion and a prayer.

### **Minutes**

Dave Zimmerman/Leo Derkowski made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 2009 meeting. Motion carried.

### **Pastor's Report**

No formal report was submitted.

### **Treasurer's Report**

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

### **President's Report**

No report

### **Board of Elders**

Jim Mielke/Gerry Dittbenner made a motion to accept the transfer in of Jeff Schultz and family. Motion carried.

Dave Zimmerman/Leo Derkowski made a motion to release Tom Jensen and family from membership. Motion carried.

### **Principal & Board of Education**

There is \$1,390 in the family assistance fund to help defray fees. Nine families have applied for assistance and Principal Schultz is working through the process of disbursing the funds.

Terranova testing was completed last week.

The PTO is up and running. The first meeting was held on September 22. The PTO needs more parents to participate.

The hot lunch program is going well.

On November 9, 2009 the faculty is scheduled for first aid and CPR training. Four more participants are needed in order to make the training free of charge. Contact Principal Schultz if you are interested.

Principal Schultz needs two white boards and a bulletin board for his classroom, as well as a Smart Board. Jerry Dittbenner/Jim Mielke made a motion to authorize Principal Schultz to borrow up to \$800 from the school technology fund to purchase the two white boards and the bulletin board. The money will be repaid when maintenance funds become available. Motion carried.

The process for applying for a pre-school license, now required by the state, has begun.

A Brown County Health Department inspection of the kitchen was completed. Two improvements must be made:

- A sneeze guard must be installed in the food distribution area.
- A new nozzle must be installed in the sink. The current one hangs too low.

### **Worship Committee**

The Mission festival on October 11 was well attended.

A discussion of moving to one service on Sunday was held. No determination was made. The Board of Elders will consider a survey of members to get their thoughts and opinions on the matter.

## **Maintenance Committee**

The Brown County Health Department improvements for the kitchen have been referred to this committee for action.

Leo Derkowski will create a supply order list that will hang in the maintenance room in the basement. It was suggested that the church secretary check the list periodically and be responsible for ordering supplies as needed.

No plans are currently in place for snow removal this winter.

## **Outreach**

An outreach meeting is scheduled for October 25, 2009 after the 10:30 service. Food will be provided.

## **Stewardship**

No formal report.

## **Endowment and Trust Fund Committee**

No report.

## **MVL/WELS**

No reports.

## **Old Business**

Thrivent announced the new matching funds program for 2010:

- The matching funds for church/school sponsored events, such as the pie sale, etc., have been eliminated.
- Thrivent members will get a letter from Thrivent notifying them of the funds available to them, based on the volume of business they do with Thrivent, for distribution to the school. Members must notify Thrivent on how and where to distribute the funds.

## **New Business**

Jim Mielke/Dave Zimmerman made the following motion: "As of October 11, 2009, be it resolved under provisions of section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, the Called Worker 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 2010: Principal Jeff Schultz in the amount of \$15,000." Motion carried.

Leo Derkowski/Jim Mielke made a motion to appoint Bob Maas to the Board of Education to fill the remainder of the term of Tom Jensen. Motion carried.

Next council meeting: 7:30 Monday November 9, 2009.

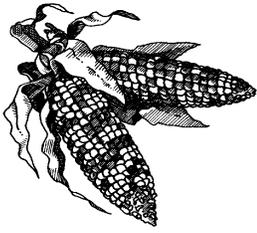
Van Tallman/Dave Zimmerman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted  
Leo Derkowski, Secretary

# Principal's Report

Mr. Jeff Schultz



There's an old adage that goes like this: "When it rains, it pours." Lately, the weather has surely lived up to its billing. It has made it difficult for farmers to get their crops in, and its played havoc with sports teams with their after school activities.

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. November is the month in which take special time to reflect on all of the many blessings that God showers on his people each day on Thanksgiving. May each of us be moved to thank him – first for our baptism, and then secondly for all the wonderful things that are given to us through his grace and love.

Children at St. John's will complete the first quarter of study on November 6. Parent/ Teacher conferences will take place on Tuesday, November 10 and Wednesday, November 11 from 3:00-7:00p.m. each day.

## This Month at St. John's Lutheran School - From a Student's Perspective

In Bible history, grades 5-8 have been learning about Jesus preaching and teaching from his Sermon on the Mountain found in Matthew 5-7. Grades 5-6 have been learning about the atmosphere in science. The book being read in Literature class is Esperanza Rising. Math has been reviewing multiplying and reducing fractions. For phy-ed we have been playing football and capture the flag- it has been really fun.

Grades 7-8 have been doing prime factorization and finding areas of certain shapes in math. They are completing a book entitled Weedflower and starting to work on a book project . Science has started the complex world of the atom along with a beginning look at the table of periodic elements. History class has been looking at the beginning of country and the various colonies that were established before the start of the American Revolutionary War.

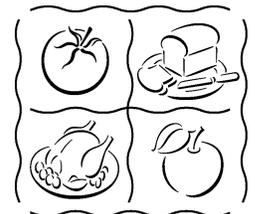
## Preschool and Kindergarten News

Miss Zastrow

This month our bible stories are all about Joseph and his life, being sold as a slave, ruling in Egypt, and forgiving his brothers. One of our memory treasures, "My times are in your hands" - Psalm 31:15a, is good reminder to us that we often don't even know what God has planned for us right around the corner, yet we can be confident that He has everything working for our good. Another memory treasure we have coming up this month, is one I often hear repeated in the preschool/kindergarten classroom, after we learn it. "Be kind... to one another, forgiving each other" - Ephesians 4:32 is a good reminder to be kind to everyone, and forgive, just as Christ forgave us. Everyone, not just young children, frequently need reminders to be kind, and forgive, just as Christ forgave.

This month we are spending time on the letters M, I, S, and F. We are learning all about how to stay healthy. Staying healthy involves more than just covering our coughs. Staying healthy also means we should eat healthy foods like plenty of fruits and vegetables, and be sure to exercise our bodies every single day! Luckily, for young children, exercise isn't something they need much motivation for, yet it is good to get that routine active lifestyle going with the hope that it will continue for the rest of their lives! We will also be learning about transportation this month. From buses to cars, trucks, and tractors, God sure blesses us with many different ways to get around!

Take time to enjoy the few fall colors around you this month, and as it fades away... keeping in mind that our Lord and Savior never fades away. He is always there, always with us, protecting us. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart." The least we can do out of love for our Savior, is to point others in the right direction, and encourage them to truly live their faith. Thanksgiving is one day out of every year. If you ever need some extra Thanksgiving time, please come and spend time in the preschool/kindergarten classroom! *Everything* is exciting in the eyes of these young children. We also have much to be excited and thankful for!



## Healthy Living Tips

## Grades 1-4 News

Mrs. Halvorson

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 are enjoying our new Spelling series and the activities that go with it. It is different than the Friday Spelling test approach. Through writing and other activities its goal is to make "life-long spellers" rather than Friday test spellers.

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!

In Reading class grade 4 will be working on a poetry unit this month. Grade 2 has begun their *Literature Pockets* which feature folk tales. They enjoy the fun projects that go with these stories. First graders are writing class stories for some of their Reading class activities.

In our Language class we are working on when to use commas, quotation marks and apostrophes. We work very hard at applying these new skills in our writing activities.

We will learn about Light, Heat and Sound in November during our Science unit. How does light and sound travel? Soon we will be able to tell you!

November is a time to give thanks for our countless blessings. We will join with all the congregation children to sing our praises in church this Thanksgiving. Every day brings much to be thankful for - especially our growing faith and our gift of a Savior from sin! May God give you a thankful heart for your blessings too!



### Thanksgiving

## Grades 3-6 News

Mrs. Brown's

Routine. Do you strictly follow one yourself or do you consider yourself too laid back to have an actual daily routine planned out in your mind? Research has proven that a good classroom routine promotes learning and that is one of the reasons teachers work so hard the first couple of months to establish a smooth, safe, and efficient routine in the classroom. My students are getting there. Since we only see each other two times a week it has a bit more difficult to establish a routine, but the kids come to the classroom with a good attitude and a willingness to work that makes it a joy to be here each week. Other than setting up our routine, we've also been working hard on our subject matter too!

### Grades 5-6

**Christ Light:** The highlight this past month was presenting a play to PK-4 called "A Tale of Two Brothers," which depicted Jacob's deception of his brother Esau and his father Isaac. We have begun a 2 week unit on Martin Luther using nicely illustrated booklets printed by Northwestern Publishing House.

**Science:** The students ended their unit title Interactions Among Living Things, which included studying food chains and how energy is passed between organisms, changes in ecosystems, and affects of pollution. Their new chapter is titled Weather and Water Cycle.

### Grades 3-4

**Science:** The students observed different plants and each part of the plant. They have begun studying animals by looking at how animals are grouped and how they survive based on learned skills and instinct. Studying God's creation is an amazing reminder of his wisdom and love. One of the highlights was observing different insects, especially a large dragonfly, with the hand lenses.

**Social Studies:** These middle graders just finished their first chapter and are now experts of the Mississippi River and the Southeastern states. We memorized states, important economic features, and environmental features commonly found in these states. We worked on the skill of identifying cause and effect. Now we continue with the SE, but we look at the people and history of the SE.

## Ladies Aid

Our regular meeting of the Ladies Aid was held on Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 2PM. For our devotion led by Pastor Draper, we continued to study the Miracles of Jesus. The Ladies Aid paid \$599.99 for a new kitchen range that has already been installed in the parsonage.

The LWMS Fall Rally was held in St. John's of New Ulm, September 12<sup>th</sup> in which five from St. Johns attended. The Spring Rally will be held at St. John's Redwood Falls. The 2010 convention will be held in St. Louis, MI. St. Johns of Sleepy Eye has been asked to host the Spring Rally in 2010. A decision to do this will be made at a later date.

Remember to save your Campbell's products labels, box tops for education, and milk caps for school. Containers can be found in the church basement.

In our election results all members present unanimously agreed to continue with the same officers as the past year.

Block 3 is up to serve.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 2PM. All ladies of the congregation are invited to join us.

Marilyn Deibele,  
Secretary

## Hosanna Circle

We held our meeting on Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm and Pastor led us with a Bible Study.

The preparations for the Women's Advent Celebration on December 6<sup>th</sup> are our focus for the next few meetings. If you are planning to hostess a table, please pick up a Hostess Information Guide located on the table in the back of the Narthax. Contact any Hosanna Circle member with any questions you may have. We still have **one table available for a hostess** if anyone is interested. Please contact Pam Dittbenner ASAP so we can get you any information you may need.

Please sign up if you are planning to attend the Advent Celebration. The sheet is located in the back of the Narthax. Tickets are \$10.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. in the computer lab at the school. We invite all confirmed women of our congregation who would like to share God's Word and Christian fellowship with other Christian sisters to come.

Have a Blessed November in God's loving grace.

Your Sisters in Christ,

Pam Dittbenner and Connie Trebesch



## MLC Auxiliary Ladies Day

The MLC Ladies Auxiliary Day was held on Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at MLC. 110 ladies and several men were in attendance. The theme was "Live for the Day of Jesus Christ – Live with Love". President Mark Zarling addressed our group and encouraged us to guard the truth of God's Word as it is taught and help to pass that truth along to future generations through the training received at MLC.

**Highlights of the business meeting:** All 2008-09 Projects were completed and financed. New 2009-2010 projects were described and a vote was taken to prioritize them in the following order:

Banner, paraments and stole for The Chapel of the Christ	\$2,500
Financial Aid for 2010 Spanish Immersion Program	3,000
Refurbish Handbells	2,000
Treadmill for Fitness Center	4,700
Multimedia headsets for computer lab	815
Furniture for Children's Lit area of library	2,500
Computers for DayLight International office	1,800
Library Digital Sign	415

Standing project amounts of \$2,500 for Scholarships was increased to \$3,000. A new standing project was also added for outreach efforts in the amount of \$2,500 in addition to the 3<sup>rd</sup> regular standing project of \$1,250 to the Library. Total funds needed for all standing projects as well as the annual projects amount to \$24,480.00. Contributions from congregations, memorials and other donations are the sources for funding these projects. Thank you to all who have enabled these projects to be completed!

Newly elected officers for 2009-2010 include: Ila Possail, Treasurer; Elaine Otterstater, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP; Pastor Richard Kuckhahn, Pastoral Advisor; and Paula Windschitl, President.

Presentations were given by students, thanking everyone for MLC Food Shelf contributions; by the MLC student body President, for support from the Auxiliary; Jon Scharlemann for changes in the Thrivent Giving Plus Program; Steve Balza for Alumni updates; and Prof. Bill Pekrul, Faculty Advisor to the Auxiliary gave a detailed report on projects and a college update. Several faculty members spoke briefly and thanked the Auxiliary for funding projects that affected their areas.

We enjoyed chapel services led by Prof. John Boeder, based on Hebrews 11:17-19, and heard the men's choir led by Prof. Wayne Wagner sing *Kyrie*.

Lunch was enjoyed in the cafeteria. Later in the afternoon we were treated to some great previews of the upcoming Fall Musical – *Pirates of Penzance*. This will be presented November 6 & 7 at 7:30 pm and on November 8 at 2:00 pm. Tickets may be reserved by calling 507-233-9114.

We came away from the meeting with fresh enthusiasm for the mission and ministry of the college, as evidenced by the continued means the Holy Spirit is leading the graduates into new and exciting fields to share the message of Truth. Despite significant budget cuts, the college continues to fulfill the Great Commission in new and innovative ways. Please remember MLC in your prayers and if possible, with your financial commitments.

Paula Windschitl, MLC Auxiliary President

## WELS Kingdom Workers

The Minnesota Valley Chapter of the WKW will host a free supper open to all at the MLC Chapel following the Reformation Service on November 1st. There will be brief presentations of WKW activities. You are welcome to join us! Come and hear about the mission work going on right in your own back yard! No RSVP necessary.

# † Memorials †

## *In Memory of Helen Hacker*

St. John's Church  
Brad & LeAnn Berkner - \$15.00  
Greg & Mary Bartz - \$20.00

St. John's Organ Fund  
Wally & Mary Ann Trebesch - \$5.00  
Mike & Barb Lux - \$10.00

St. John's Ladies Aid  
Harold & Bev Bartz - \$10.00

St. John's Choir  
Dave & Char Zimmerman - \$10.00

St. John's New School Fund  
Steve & Paula Windschitl - \$25.00

St. John's School  
Mielke Accounting - \$25.00

## *In Memory of Marvel Boesch*

St. John's Church  
Norma Schmidt - \$20.00

St. John's School  
Joleen Huiras - \$20.00



## Thrivent Elections

Two positions need to be filled on our local Thrivent board; a Financial Director (keeps the checkbook for the Chapter) and a Records Director (takes meeting minutes). Meetings are currently held on the 4th Monday of the month, but possibly will only meet quarterly in 2010. If you can help with either one of these positions, contact Heather Hacker @651-214-8534. This year, **Annual Elections will be held between services on November 15.** Stop by to vote, and join us for coffee and rolls. Thank you.

# Thank You

Thank you to everyone for the many prayers, visits at home, cards, food, and gifts that I have received. Also, special thanks to Pastor Draper for his concern. God will always be with me as I will be taking chemo now.

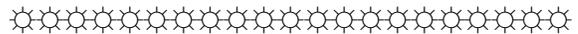


Marlys Lochner



## MLC Food Shelf Collection

St. John's annual Food Shelf drive for the MLC Food Shelf is open for the last half of November. Please bring contributions to the basement. Watch bulletins in November for suggested ideas. Thanks for your contributions!



## Benefit for Konner Mathiowetz

Konnor is the son of Kris & Sarah.  
A benefit will be held Sunday,  
**November 1st** from 11AM – 2PM  
@ St. Mary's Church basement in New Ulm.



There will be a hog roast, silent and live auction, kid's games and a pie sale. All proceeds from this benefit will help with medical expenses. If you cannot attend the benefit and would like to make a donation, an account has been set up @ Southpoint Federal Credit Union under "Konner's Benefit." Checks should be made out to Thrivent Financial. Thank you!