

# *The St. John's Messenger*

St. John's Lutheran Church & School 221 Walnut St. S.E.  
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**NOVEMBER 2012**

## Our Need for Others

Loneliness! Loneliness can be very boring. Just think of a child on summer vacation without his friends around to play with him. Loneliness can bring sadness. When you have some news to tell, good or bad, it is a sad thing not to be able to share it with someone. Loneliness can be terrifying. Imagine facing the problems of life – tragedy, illness, cancer, death – without anyone to give you comfort or support.

While some may handle being alone better than others, it is clear that human beings were not designed to be alone. Loneliness is something people want to avoid. Besides, we need other people. Is there anyone in the entire world who is completely self-sufficient? Wouldn't we all be worse off if we had to grow all our own food, make our own clothes, and build our own houses, and do many other things on our own? We need others more than we realize.

That is the way God created this world. Everything works together. Every part is dependent on many other parts. Plants need carbon dioxide and produce oxygen. Animals and humans need oxygen and breathe out carbon dioxide. In many other ways plants, animals, and humans depend on one another. In fact, biologists recognize that the more different kinds of plants and animals there are living in a particular area, the healthier that area is. An abundant variety is better at handling the adversity that comes into their environment. Plants and animals were not meant to live separate from other living things. Neither were we. We need each other.

We also need God. God never intended for us to live apart from him. In fact, to live without God and his blessings would be a good definition of hell. God doesn't want that. The problem is that we like to do our own thing. We don't want him looking over our shoulder or telling us how to live our lives. We aren't willing to consider that God's commands are loving commands intended to ultimately bring us the greatest happiness. In this way we separate ourselves from God.

This is the reason God sent his Son, Jesus. His life, death, and resurrection bring us back to God. Jesus restores the relationship God always intended for us to have with him. We need Jesus so that we can have the relationship we were created to have with God. Through faith in Jesus we will never again be alone, and we never again need to feel loneliness.

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 2012

### Mark 1:35

<sup>35</sup>Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

Prayer works. And why would we not talk to our heavenly Father about what we need? We do live in a sinful world and we all personally have our challenges. St. John's is no exception. Here we are faced with many issues regarding our congregation, church & school. We do need to pray and believe that he is there for us. When we are in the presence of God our best will surface. Let us not forget, God is in control and knows what is right for us.

October is Pastor Appreciation month. Keep in mind that the council has endorsed the trip that Pastor is taking to Israel and if you want to make a contribution to his trip in appreciation that would be great!

The quarterly voters meeting will be Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8 pm. We will discuss our service times, the progress of our projects, i.e. organ, parking lot and school sprinkler systems. Other topics will be the budget and our finances.

We are still in need of a council secretary, two elders and another counter for the finance committee. If you are interested, or know of someone who might be interested let myself, Pastor or Dave Silfies know.

Congratulations to Stanley Draper as MVL Homecoming King and National Merit Scholarship semifinalist!

God bless your work; give thanks for all He has done for you, your church, your community and your country.

Yours in Christ,

Steve Windschitl  
President, St John's Congregation



### **Many hands make light work!**

Volunteers at our church set out altar flowers and also put them away. Our entire congregation enjoys the blessing of beauty the flowers add to our worship services!

Generally, two volunteers per month take care of the flowers. They coordinate between themselves who will set out, and who will put away the flowers. Would you consider trying this out for one month a year? We would love to update our list of helpers. We will gladly answer any questions you may have about this duty.

Another area we could use a few more helpers is to gather the communion napkins and launder them after use. Would you be able to take one month out of the year and help out?

Neither of the above duties are very time consuming or difficult. If you are led to help our congregation in either of the above ways, please contact Paula Windschitl, who is coordinating helpers for these duties. 794-2310 or [pwindschitl@napastargroup.com](mailto:pwindschitl@napastargroup.com)

**Ps. 122:1 I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."**

## Lutheran Women's Missionary Society

The Minnesota Valley Circuit of the LWMS held its annual meeting at Zion Lutheran in Winthrop on September 27<sup>th</sup>. The theme of the day was "Spreading God's Light". 120 were in attendance.

### Meeting Highlights:

- Marley Kuckhahn gave a presentation of the 2012 National Convention highlights.
- Next year's convention will be held in LaCrosse, WI, June 27-30.
- The 2014 convention is scheduled to be held in Dallas, TX, June 26-29, 2014.
- The concept of changing the spring and fall rally formats to a half-day was discussed.
- A committee has been established to prepare for our circuit's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013. They are requesting photos from any previous rallies or conventions to compile into a booklet.
- A plan has been launched by the national LWMS to "Send One Sister" or SOS for short. This plan would encourage each circuit to raise funds to send one (or more) women to a national convention. It is intended especially for someone who could use the financial help, but any woman in our circuit can apply to be the recipient. The fund was launched at this meeting by collecting coins in a jar. Each congregation is encouraged to help fund this plan as well.
- Charissa Scharf and Elizabeth Henke from MLC were the speakers of the day. They gave a high-octane presentation of their work in the Daylight program through MLC, and had everyone in stitches as they relayed the realities and excitement of canvassing and working various outreach programs.
- A Bible study, "God has called us to serve in His mission to the world" was presented by Prof. Darwin Raddatz.
- A noon luncheon was enjoyed. Any excess collection from the meal cost will support the SOS plan.
- The offering for the day came to \$1,472.00. Pastor Draper gave the closing devotion.

**Special Notes:** It is not too early to book a hotel for the June convention in LaCrosse. It is anticipated to book up rapidly. There are a number of hotels to select from. To see more details, please go to [www.lwms.org](http://www.lwms.org).

Next spring's rally will be held on April 13<sup>th</sup> in St. Clair.

**Befriend a Mission** notes for November: There are no birthdays or anniversaries this month.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paula Windschitl, Reporter



### Hosanna Circle

Our last meeting was Thursday, October 4, 2012. Pastor led the Bible study where we learned just how Jesus is the same in Biblical times, now and forever. He doesn't change with the times. Jesus died for all our sins. He is always there to save us, love us, and forgive us. He took our place on that cross so we can be assured of our place in heaven. May we always give him the praise and honor he so richly deserves.

As the Street Project nears completion, Hosanna Circle wanted to help lighten the financial burden for our church, so with that in mind, we are donating \$150 toward that fund.

Hosanna Circle wants to show appreciation to Pastor by giving \$100 toward his trip to Israel.

Mickey Meyer has graciously agreed to become our next Hosanna Circle leader. Thank you, Mickey.

Our next Hosanna Circle meeting will be Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the church basement and we invite anyone who would like to share in our fellowship to come join us.

Yours Sisters in Christ,  
Pam Dittbenner and Connie Trebesch

**Church Council Minutes  
October 9, 2012**

Present: Jerry Dittbenner, Steve Windschitl, Andy Lochner, Shorty Haus, Jim Mielke, Dave Zimmerman, Pastor Draper and guest Pastor Paul Tessmer.

Pastor Draper opened the meeting with devotion and a prayer.

**Minutes**

Andy Lochner/Shorty Haus made a motion to approve the September 2012 minutes. Motion carried.

**Pastor's Report**

Pastor gave a summary of the activities for the past month and stated the work is going well.

**Treasurer's Report**

Andy Lochner/Dave Zimmerman made a motion to approve the treasurer's report.

**President's Report**

Steve Windschitl reminded the council that October is Pastor appreciation month. He also spoke about the upcoming quarterly voter's meeting on Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8:00 p.m.

**Board of Elders**

There was discussion about church service times and attendance was talked about in length. Church Council will not propose a specific recommendation.

**Principal & Board of Education**

School routines and activities are going smoothly. Both Pastor and Mr. Rick are pleased.

**Worship Committee**

Mission Festival will be held Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup> with MLC President Mark Zarling preaching.

**Maintenance Committee**

There was discussion about the paving of the parking lot, alley and street concerning the finishing and completion date.

**Outreach**

No report.

**Stewardship**

No report.

**MVL/WELS**

No report.

**Endowment and Trust Fund Committee**

No report.

**Old Business**

No old business.

**New Business**

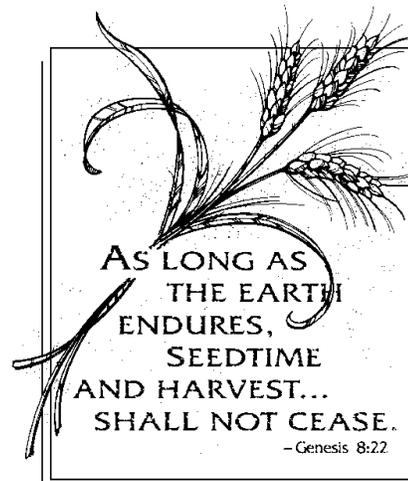
President Steve Windschitl gave a short presentation on a christian stewardship program available to us. Dave Zimmerman/Shorty Haus made a motion to pursue and offer this stewardship program (Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University) to the congregation. Motion carried. More information will follow.

The next Church Council meeting will be held Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

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

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted  
Jerry Dittbenner, Acting Secretary



## Mrs. Shrum's Classroom News

We have been working our way through the alphabet studying a letter and its sound each week. We have looked at A, B, C, D, and E this first quarter and have enjoyed many songs and activities to go with each letter!

Last week we traveled to Nelson's Farm in Litchfield for our first field trip of the year. We met all kinds of animals, learned about Farm Safety, went on a hay ride and picked pumpkins!

The Kindergarteners are learning new words every week, come check out our "Popcorn Words" board in the ASC room, these are just some of the words they can read already!

Blessings during this autumn season!



## Mrs. Halvorson's Classroom News

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 Fourth 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!

Molly "I am thankful for my eyes and ears that God gave me and medicines that help us get better."

Elizabeth "I am thankful going to church and my cat Gimpy."

Ryan "I am thankful for Jesus dying on the cross and God giving us this earth."

Erin "I am thankful for when pastor tells us about God."

Ella "I am thankful for when Jesus came down to preach and die for us and that God put us on the earth."

Colton "I am thankful for my family and doctors."

Emma "I am thankful for having teachers that teach about God's Word and for my parents"

Kaiden "I am thankful for when pastor teaches us from the Bible and when my dad and I go hiking and when my mom takes me out to eat."

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



## Mr. Rick's Classroom News

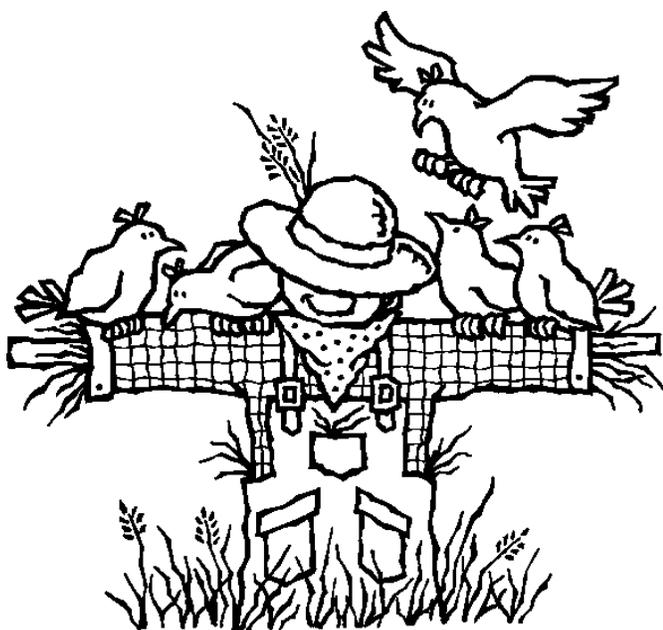
The first quarter of school has been successfully completed! The school year is off to a great start and many exciting things have happened recently. First of all, grades 5-7 went on a 3 day field trip to the Northwest Fur Post, Camp Croix, and the Hinckley Fire Museum October 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>. This was a great field trip with many hands-on activities that the students enjoyed tremendously. We would like to thank everyone who supported this trip by their donations to the Hog Roast. Next, grades 5-7 won the first "Spirit Day" challenge of the year with 100% participation. Congratulations 5-7! Grades K-8 also sang for Mission Festival on Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup> 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 a big quilt. Thank you Pastor Draper for your service!

All the upper grade students are involved in extracurricular events. Events include MathCounts, Meet Math, forensics, volleyball, football, violin lessons, 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.



### **Ladies Aid**

The Ladies Aid met on Wednesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 p.m. For their regular scheduled meeting. President Marlys Lochner presided and led us in our devotion.

We received 24 dinner forks in the Oneida silver countess pattern for the cost of \$107.75. Twenty-four forks will be shipped at a later date.

A report was given on the LWMS Fall Rally held September 29<sup>th</sup> at Zions in Winthrop.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to give \$50.00 to the WELS Kingdom Workers.

St. John's Church will be serving for the bloodmobile on January 14<sup>th</sup>. Blocks will be assigned at a later date.

As noted in the October church newsletter the Kemps Nickels for Schools program will end. Thank you for your past support. Please continue to save Land O'Lakes milk caps, as well as the UPS's from Campbell products for our school.

Block 1 is up to serve.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Come join us!

## **NOVEMBER**

Marilyn Deibele, Secretary

### **Memorials**

#### *In Memory of Richard Siegler*

**St. John's School**  
Family & Friends - \$50

#### *In Memory of Robert Suker*

**St. John's Building Fund**  
Family & Friends - \$550  
Robert Suker Family - \$500

#### *In Memory of Mary Ann Trebesch*

#### **St. John's School (smart board)**

Gayle Trebesch - \$200  
Linus & Marilyn Deibele - \$10  
Steve & Mickey Meyer - \$10  
June Grundmeyer - \$10  
Lenora Houldson - \$10  
Alvin & Hazel Maasz - \$10  
Matt & Chris Steffen - \$10  
Jim & Gail Lendt - \$10  
Darryl & Nanette Schwartz - \$25  
Bob & Missy Maas - \$30  
Andy & Rita Lochner - \$10  
Tom & Charlene Weilage - \$10  
Marcus & Sue Radel - \$50  
Orpha & Arno Lendt - \$5  
Bradley & Elen Stark - \$10

Paul & Judy Maasz - \$10  
Guy & Cathleen Trebesch/Clarice Trebesch/  
Glenda Lanaha & family - \$50  
Arlene Harrison - \$10  
Shane & Sue Hinderman - \$20  
Wes & Laurie Helget - \$5  
Don & Laurie Halvorson - \$20  
Mike & Janet Crabtree - \$20  
April & Andrew Boltjes & family - \$20

### **St. John's Church**

Harill & Eileen Schroeder - \$5  
Lorna Havemeier - \$5  
Anonymous - \$5  
Ken & Laurie Dittbenner - \$10  
Leo & Theresa Moldan - \$20  
Pastor & Sallie Draper - \$25  
Dean & Judy Isakson - \$50  
Vern & Betty Hinrichs - \$20  
Steve & Sue Commonford - \$25  
Arla Lehnert \$20  
Mike & Barb Lux \$20  
Don & Ruby Guhlke - \$20  
Nick & Irene Lux - \$5  
Dorothy Shellum - \$5  
Marlys Lochner - \$15  
Lamonte & Elaine Helget \$10  
Prof. Ron & Karen Shilling - \$5  
Eloise Finstad - \$10  
Jon & Doreen Ziesemer - \$15  
Roland Ruhnke - \$50  
Germaine & Bob Gibbons - \$50  
Greg & Mary Bartz - \$25  
Jim & Sarah Mielke - \$20  
Doug & Terry Schottle - \$10  
Barry, Lisa & Andrew Hillmann - \$10  
Earl & Bev Altmann - \$10  
Mike & Darlene Sittlow - \$40

### **Street Project**

Armin & Leona Lendt - \$5  
Melvin & Lois Lendt - \$10  
Dave & Char Zimmerman - \$5  
Bev Wischstadt - \$10  
Arnie & Arlene Hinderman - \$10  
Shorty & Mary Jayne Haus - \$5  
Jim & Joyce Bloemke - \$5  
Kevin & Marilyn Leopold - \$10  
Dennis & Pam Dittbenner - \$15

### **New School Building Fund**

Steve & Paula Windschitl - \$25

### **Organ Fund**

Neoma Schmid - \$5  
Leo & Marcia Derkowski - \$25

### **Trust Fund**

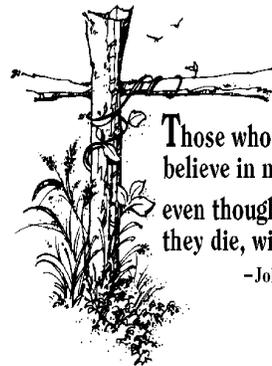
Ralph Grundmeyer - \$5

### **Choir Fund**

Ken & Penny Mathiowetz - \$10

### **Ladies Aid**

Richard & Linda Weilage - \$20  
Delbert & Eunice Sandhoefner - \$10  
Chuck & Deloris Menk - \$20  
Bev Bartz - \$25  
Roger & Marsha Marti - \$20



Those who  
believe in me,  
even though  
they die, will live.

-John 11:25