



# The St. John's Messenger

Monthly Newsletter

St. John's Lutheran Church & School

221 Walnut St. S.E.

Sleepy Eye, MN 56085

Church 794-6202 School 794-6200 Pastor 794-4500

www.stjohnsse.com



NOVEMBER 2008

VOLUME 5

NUMBER 11

## Thank You. Thank You. Thank You.

*“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).*

November is here and Thanksgiving is rushing toward us. The time is right to say “Thank You”. (Actually, anytime is a good time to say “Thank You” but the national holiday coming up reminds us to show the gratitude we may have neglected in the past.) This is my chance to say “Thanks”.

First, I want to thank our Lord. All of our thanksgiving starts with him. Every good thing comes from him and without the salvation he gives there would be absolutely no reason to be thankful. We often pray “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.” Let us remember to say that more than just at meal times, because God's love is why we will live forever with him to say thanks.

I also want to say thanks to you. Your gifts to me and my family this past month (and the past year) are certainly appreciated. Your kindness to us is a display of your thanks to God for what he does through me.

As we look around at all the gifts God has given us we see many things for which we can give thanks this Thanksgiving – so many, in fact, that we could spend the whole month of November listing them. Pick out some of those things that God has given you and say “Thanks”.

In the name of the one who gives every good gift,  
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, 2008

Present: Paul Maasz, Jim Mielke, Tom Jensen, Kurk Kramer, Van Tallmann, Barry Hillmann and Pastor Draper.

Pastor Draper opened the meeting with devotion and a prayer.

### Minutes

Jim Mielke/Barry Hillmann made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 2008 meeting. Motion carried.

### Pastor's Report

No written report.

### Treasurer's Report

Van Tallmann read the Treasurer's Report. Jim Mielke/Tom Jensen made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

### President's Report

No report

### Board of Elders

Jim Mielke gave a verbal report. Tom Jensen/Jim Mielke made a motion to accept Kristopher Mathiowetz into membership through profession of faith. Motion carried. Tom Jensen/Jim Mielke made a motion to accept Heather Hacker Hammer and Rachel Foelske into membership by transfer. Motion carried.

### Principal & Board of Education

Jim Mielke and Tom Jensen made a motion to increase the parsonage allowance to \$18,500. Motion carried.

### Worship Committee

Page 15 order of service music will change. Music will be introduced each Sunday until the change begins the end of November.

### Maintenance Committee

The need of a cleaning schedule was discussed.

### Outreach

Pastor Flunker held a Hispanic outreach planning session in September and will again in November.

### Stewardship

No report.

### Endowment and Trust Fund Committee

No report.

### MVL/WELS

MVL – no report

WELS – no report

### Old Business

None.

### New Business

Youth group put together care packages for overseas armed forces and college students. Van Tallmann made a motion to use dedicated funds of \$100.00. Motion carried.

Pastor will choose a date for the 3-5 year Long Range Planning Committee Meeting in November.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 10, 2008 at 7:30 PM.

Jim Mielke/Van Tallmann made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

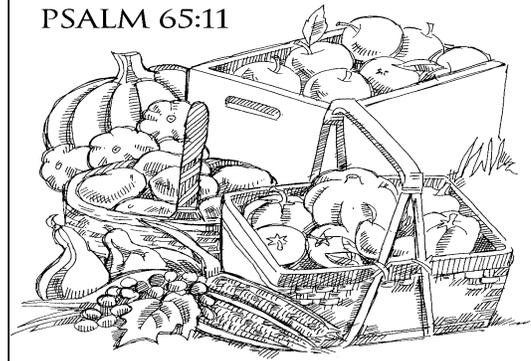
Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Barry Hillmann, Acting Secretary

YOU CROWN  
THE YEAR  
WITH YOUR  
BOUNTY...

PSALM 65:11



## Thrivent Elections

Thrivent will be holding elections for their local board members on **Nov. 2nd** in between services. A notice will be mailed to Thrivent members. Coffee and treats will be provided that day by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Please remember to vote!

## Altar Flowers

Flowers may be given

- \* in memory of someone special,
- \* in honor of a special day, or
- \* simply to beautify worship



Flowers This Week

A flower calendar is provided in the back of church or sign up online at [www.stjohnsse.com/flowers](http://www.stjohnsse.com/flowers)

On your chosen date, you are responsible for supplying the flowers, from whatever source you choose.

## Hosanna Circle

We held our meeting on Thursday, October 2nd at 7:00 p.m. Paula Windschitl led us in Bible study.

We discussed the condition of our church banners, we will access the condition of each of the banners and will decide which ones we need to replace or maybe repair in our November meeting. If you are interested in helping with this project, please get in touch with Connie Trebesch or Paula Windschitl.

Our Fall Service Project has been planned and on November 9th, we invite the women of all ages in our congregation who have been confirmed, to join us in fellowship at the W.W. Smith Inn. We will explore some of the ways that the Lord can use women from all walks of life. Join us from 2:00-4:30 p.m. for the "Bad Girls of the Bible". Please sign-up on the sheet in the Narthex of the church. There is no cost for this most enjoyable afternoon, we are asking you to bring some snack or finger food to pass. Juice and coffee will be provided.

Our next meeting is November 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the church basement. Feel free to join us if you can.

In Christ,

Pam Dittbenner and Connie Trebesch

## "Bad Girls of the Bible"

All women of the church from confirmation age on up are invited to an afternoon of fun and fellowship on Sunday, Nov. 9 from 2-4:30PM. Come join in "Bad Girls of the Bible (Revealed at the B&B)," to be held at the W.W. Smith Inn. If you are interested in participating, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex, and there also pick up an envelope containing an explanation of the planned activity.

If you have any questions, ask one of the Hosanna Circle planning members: Pam, Connie, Paula, or Marcia.

## PTO Fundraiser

St. Johns PTO is excited to announce that Schwan's Fundraising® will have a truck at the parking lot between the City of Sleepy Eye Building and Uniquely Yours on **November 4, 2008 from noon to 7 p.m.**

Based on the dollars sold on this day, Schwan's will donate a percentage of the dollars to our organization. Come by and show your support for St. Johns PTO.

The truck will have over 300 of Schwan's quality products to choose from. Simply come by, place your order from the Schwan's Representative and take your products home to enjoy! I'm confident you will find something for every eating occasion, flavor profile and for any nutritional need.

Thank you in advance to everyone who is out supporting our organization.



**PRINCIPAL'S ARTICLE**  
**ST. JOHN'S LES**

The first quarter has been completed for the 2008-2009 school year. Report cards have been sent home, and parent teacher conferences have been completed. The upcoming weeks will continue to be filled with many activities for the students, faculty, and parents of St. John's LES.

The students in grades 3-5 will attend the play at MVL, and also visit the residents at the Sleepy Eye Care Center this month. The The Southwest Lutheran Conference Forensics Meet will be held at MLC in New Ulm for students in grades 5-8, on November 13, and also the conference coaches and referee's meeting will be held that evening at the college. The Southwest Lutheran Principal's Conference will be held at the Orchid Inn on Friday, November 14. The second quarter PTO meeting will also take place later this month. The Thanksgiving break will take place on Thursday and Friday, November 27 & 28.

With November being the month that we stop our busy lives and give thanks, I would like to share this poem I recently came across. It was written by Scott Wesemann.

*Lord, so often times, as any other day  
When we sit down to our meal and pray  
We hurry along and make fast the blessing  
Thanks, Amen. Now please pass the dressing  
We're slaves to the olfactory overload  
We must rush our prayer before the food gets cold  
But Lord, I'd like to take a few minutes more  
To really give thanks to what I'm thankful for  
For my family, my health, a nice soft bed  
My friends, my freedom, a roof over my head  
I'm thankful right now to be surrounded by those  
Whose lives touch me more than they'll ever possibly know  
Thankful Lord, that You've blessed me beyond measure  
Thankful that in my heart lives life's greatest treasure  
That You, dear Jesus, reside in that place  
And I'm ever so grateful for Your unending grace  
So please, heavenly Father, bless this food You've provided  
And bless each and every person invited!  
Amen!*

Have a God blessed Thanksgiving!



## Preschool and Kindergarten

*Miss Zastrow*

Time flies! We are already at the end of our first quarter. It never ceases to amaze me how each school year seems to fly by faster than the last. During the month of November, we will be studying many Bible stories about



Jesus healing others and answering prayers. One of our memory treasures this month is taken from Psalm 3:5-- "Trust in the Lord with all your heart." This passage fits so appropriately because God does take care of His children through thick and thin, and there are many times that we can look back on our lives and wonder why we

ever worried. Although Jesus may not be here as man on earth to heal our wounds in the same ways we hear about His healing in the Bible, God is always with us, always protecting and guiding us. We certainly can trust in Him with all our hearts.

This past month, Preschool and Kindergarten went on a walking field trip to the Sleepy Eye Fire Station. It was a lot of fun and we learned a lot about fire safety and prevention! We even got to sit on the old fire truck!

Some of the things Preschool and Kindergarten will be learning this month are quite appropriate when it comes to this time of the year. The weather is changing and people are getting sick! We want to stay healthy and not spread many germs throughout our classroom, so we will be learning all about staying healthy. We will be talking about what kinds of foods are healthy to eat, how much exercise we should get every day, and we will even talk about the importance of sleep! Preschool learns all of these things with our "Letter People." This month's letter people are Ms. F, Mr. O, Mr. C, and Ms. E. Kindergarten is working on the letters I, S, F, and R in Phonics and Handwriting. Kindergarten is also learning how to do story problems, counting backwards, finding missing numbers, how to read pictographs, and telling time to the hour this month in Math.

Take time to enjoy the scenery around you this month 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."

## Grades 1-2

*Mrs. Halvorson*

November's wet, fall days have arrived reminding 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 miracles, we are encouraged to place our trust in him for all our needs also.

**Math** First graders will be busy sorting, working on subtraction facts, and counting backward from 20, while second grade studies bar graphs, weighing objects, measuring to the nearest inch, halves, fourths, and eighths.

**Reading /Phonics** In second grade chapter books and longer stories have taken center stage as our reading skills improve.

First graders are learning more and more new sight words every day. It is exciting to see the "I get it!" look on their faces! Both grades will enjoy the book "Stone Soup" and even make some of our own just before Thanksgiving.

**Science** Oceans and Ocean life is our theme in November. We will create our own "ocean" of underwater animals and learn about each one before we are done.

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

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

Mary "I am thankful for God, food, and my mom."

Spencer "I am thankful for the food God gives me. I am thankful for my mom and my dad. I am thankful for grass."

Matthew "I am thankful for Jesus dying on the cross to take away my sins, food, and God making the world."

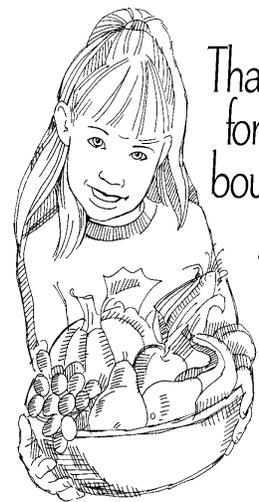
Jace "I am thankful for school, food, and Jesus."

Molly "I am thankful for food, that God gave us money, and for giving me the good news so I believe in God."

Noah "I am thankful for Jesus dying on the cross, my family, and food."

Randy "I am thankful for my dogs, for food and for my parents."

Katrina "I am thankful for food, clothes, and life."



Thank you  
for these  
bounteous  
gifts

## Grades 3-5

*Miss Foelske*

I love fall. The brisk weather always seems to make the students more energetic, like they know that soon after the weather changes the holiday seasons begin. We are all set for Reformation with knowing all four verses of "A Mighty Fortress." We worked very hard to accomplish this task and I am very proud of them!

Another awesome experience that we have had was making scarecrows for the Chamber of Commerce Scarecrow Patch. The students were very creative so stop by sometime to see their work on Main Street.

Our classes have been busy, busy, busy! Christ Light is always a joy to have because they show such amazing faith! It is truly wonderful to see "child-like faith" in action. Literature classes have finished another book and now we are talking about nonfiction works. We also finished our read aloud book and started a new one, Say Cheese, Medusa! a funny spoof of Greek myths. In Social Studies, we have looked at the economy and made our own businesses to see all that there is to think about. Soon we will be looking at our ancestors and will have some interesting reports on them! Science class has led us to become "experts" on the make-up of the Earth.

Our class has been blessed with wonderful minds, eager attitudes, friendly personalities, and ever-growing faiths. We have a lot to praise God for!



## Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid met on Wednesday, October 1st at 2PM for their regular scheduled meeting.

Pastor Draper's devotion was on Job Chapter 1.

A thank you was received from MLC Auxiliary for our recent donation of \$92.00.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to give \$50.00 to the WELS Kingdom Workers. A motion was made, seconded and passed to have all Circles host the Craft and Bake sale scheduled for December 7th. The congregation is invited to donate items to sell.

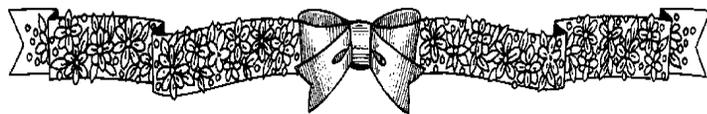
St. John's work day at the Treasure Haus is the first Friday of each month. Volunteers are always needed. Store hours are from 10AM - 4PM.

Cash register tapes from local businesses are being collected for the 08-09 school year. The Campbell Products labels and the milk bottle caps with the 5 cents for school are also being collected. There are containers in the church basement for each of the collections.

Block One is up to serve the next food event.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, November 5th at 2PM. All ladies of the congregation are invited and encouraged to attend all of our meetings.

Marilyn Deibele, Secretary



## † Memorials †

*For Carl G. Draper*

*Pastor's Grandfather*

### Organ Fund

Armin & June Grundmeyer - \$10

Doc & Marilyn Deibele - \$5

Harold & Bev Bartz - \$20

Wally & Mary Ann Trebesch - \$10

### School Technology Fund

Kurk & Janet Kramer & girls - \$10

### Undesignated

Eugene & Marlys Lochner - \$10

Laurie & Don Halvorson - \$20

Ladies Aid - \$25

Mike & Barb Lux - \$20

Brad & LeAnn Berkner - \$15

Milda Dey - \$5

Barry, Lisa & Andrew Hillmann - \$10

Dave & Char Zimmerman - \$10

Beverly Wischstadt - \$10

# Written by "6th – 8th Grade Students"

## 6 Grade Spelling

In spelling we talked about adding -ing and -ed, homophones and the vowel sounds rule and view. This week we are going to be studying unexpected consonant spelling.

## 7 Grade Spelling

On our previous units we had double constants, homophones, and I before e except after c.

## 8 Grade Spelling

We have gone through eight units so far. We have learned about adding "es" and "s" to words like tariff to tariffs and veto to vetoes. We have also learned of hidden sounds in words like luckily and favorite. We are also currently learning about different sounds spelled the same.

## 6 Grade Math

In Math we learned about multiplying, adding, and subtracting fractions. We also learned about degrees on a thermometer, and about graphs. We learned also about comparing fractions with pictures.

## 7 Grade Math

We just learned about dividing fractions and we are also looking at angles and vertices. We also are learning about perimeter, area, diameter, and radius. We also learned about changing fractions to percents and factors and multiples.

## 8 Grade Math

In Math the eighth graders have been learning how to find the area of a triangle, we also have been learning about mode, median, and mean. We have also been learning about area as a difference, metric length conversions, and unit multipliers.

## 7 Grade Geography

In Geography we learned about the different cultures that people have in different countries. The cultures differ from the clothes we eat to the food we eat and the house we live in. Our class also talked about the government, population of cities, and lifestyle. All this was studied from Canada and the United States.

## 7-8 American History

In our history class, we have been studying the rise of industry and all the inventions during the years of 1850-1900. A few major inventors were Thomas Edison and Alexander Graham Bell. Looking ahead we will be studying the population growth in the United States.

## World History

In world history we were learning about Mesopotamia (the fertile crescent) and how they take care of their crops. They make little canals to get water to their crops. They figured out how to do that, and their crops are fine. Before they learned that, they had bad crops because the Tigris and Euphrates river would flood their crops.

## Bible History

In Bible History we learned about Moses, Joseph, Jacob, and Aaron. We also learned about the plagues. These plagues are, turning the Nile River into blood, frogs, gnats, flies, all the livestock died, and boils, hail, locusts, and darkness. We are learning about how the Israelites were traveling into the desert.

## 6-8 Grade Science

In Science class, we are learning about the human body and its functions. We are studying cells, the main structures of the body, the heart, ventricles, the lower heart chambers, and arteries, blood vessels that carry blood away from the heart. We will soon be studying respiration and excretion.

## 6-8 Grade Literature

We started a new book called "My Louisiana Sky", and it's about a girl whose parents are retarded. She lives with her parents and her Grandma, and her Aunt Dorie Kay buys them a TV. Her mother becomes addicted to it. Then she moves to Baton Rouge with her Aunt, but she moved back after a hurricane.

## English

In English we have just finished learning about the objects and predicates of sentences. We have started learning about nouns and the different kinds of nouns. There are nouns such as singular, plural, and appositive.

## Current Events

We are learning about drugs and alcohol and how they can harm our body now and in the long run also. We are really concentrating on positive self-esteem and how to build that up.

## Hymnology

In hymnology we learned the Hymns, 432: I am Jesus Little Lamb. Last week the Hymn was 201: A Mighty Fortress is our God. For this week the Hymn is 293: God's Word is our Great Heritage.

## 6-8 Grade Phy Ed

In Phy Ed we have still been playing flag football, we have two teams, the blue team, and the gold team. Everyone has passed the flag football test, and we all know how to play. Although, we didn't have the chance to play flag football for the past two weeks.

## Art

In art we did a project in which we took an old milk carton and then covered it in brown construction paper on each side. We then poked a hole on the top of the carton. We put a Popsicle stick in the hole, and then made a sail with a custom design. This project was called "Explorer's Ship". We also did a project in which we picked one shape, and filled a poster with that specific shape. We then painted it. These shapes had to fill the entire sheet of paper and overlap. This project was called "Geometric Shapes".

## 2008 MLC Auxiliary Ladies Day Update

Eager to support the work of Martin Luther College, approximately 116 women (and a few men!) attended the MLC Ladies Auxiliary Day held October 8th at the college. We were privileged to hear from Jeff Grundmeier, Student Senate President, who thanked us for projects completed and reminded us how encouraging our contribution and presence is to the students. Scholarship recipient Carla Carmichael also addressed the group, thanking us for the scholarship received and how it has been a blessing to her. A stirring presentation was given by Elisabeth Babinec on her work in China last year, leaving few dry eyes as we saw the work of the Holy Spirit through baptism. And, near the end of our day, we were treated to a scene from the upcoming Fall Play – ‘The Sundance Kid’, written by MLC students!

Always a highlight of the day, we were blessed to attend the chapel service where we heard MLC President Mark Zarling give the message. He reminded us to pray boldly and confidently for MLC, its staff, faculty and students, as God has assured and promised to hear and answer our prayers.

Project summaries were given for last year’s selections, and it was a joy to hear that every one of the projects on the list was completed! An overview of this year’s project choices was given, and after a vote, the new projects will be funded in the following order:

1 – Paraments for the new chapel	\$2500
2 – Library kiosk furniture	1305
3 – Weather alert radios for dorms	400
4 – Student financial assistance for MLC outreach projects	3000
5 - ECLC bike/trike replacement	500-1200
6 – PA/Sound system for new soccer field venue	4300
7 – Fitness Center equipment	2700

The ongoing commitments of Scholarship Fund (\$2000) and Library Fund (\$1250) will again be funded as our very first projects of the year.

New officers voted in this year include: Susan Post, 2nd Vice President, and Karen Kohls, Secretary. Pastor Richard Kuckhahn has consented to complete the term as Pastoral Advisor for the Auxiliary since Pastor Troy Jacobs has accepted another call.

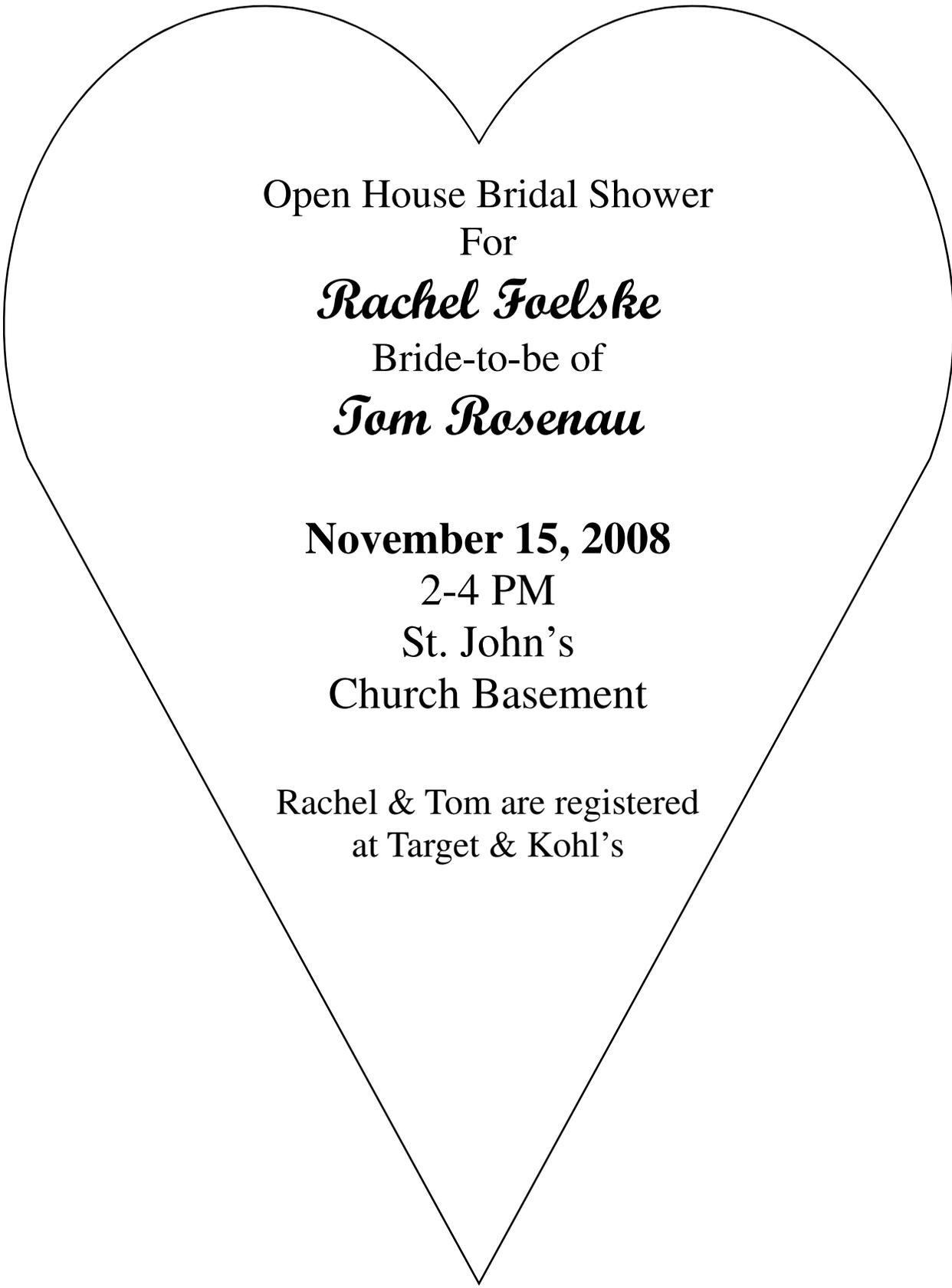
Prof. Bill Pekrul updated us on the chapel project as well as many other activities on campus. Steve Balza told us that an alumni web site is being developed. Edie Ash reminded us of the student food shelf, and thanked us for contributions. Married students can access the food shelf either the second Thursday or Saturday of the month. Kate Tohal reported on a new gifting program, “The MLC Shepherd Society”. Individuals can make memorial gifts to MLC to acknowledge called workers who have affected a difference in their lives.

The total offering of the day came to \$2,511.00. This amount may increase because of Thrivent forms submitted with \$1,000.00 of the offerings.

We closed with a devotion led by Pastor Kuckhahn based on James 5:13-18. He encouraged us in our theme of the day “*Live for the Day of Jesus Christ with Prayer*”.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Windschitl  
1st Vice President, MLC Auxiliary



Open House Bridal Shower  
For

*Rachel Foelske*

Bride-to-be of

*Tom Rosenau*

**November 15, 2008**

2-4 PM

St. John's

Church Basement

Rachel & Tom are registered  
at Target & Kohl's