



# 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



OCTOBER 2007

VOLUME 4

NUMBER 10

## Your Feet Are Beautiful

We all agree that mission work is important. After all, without mission work how would our church grow? This is true for the Christian church in the world wherever it is found, as well as the Wisconsin Synod, and also for us at St. John's in Sleepy Eye. God has decided that he would grow his church through the spoken Word. Paul makes that eloquently clear in Romans,

*“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’” (Romans 10:14-15)*

The answer to all of Paul's questions is “They can not!” No one can believe in Jesus as their savior unless they have heard that Jesus died for their sins. No one can hear about Jesus unless someone tells them.

It is important to support mission work with our prayers and our offerings so we can send missionaries out into this country and in the world with the Gospel, but let us not forget the mission opportunities we have right here in Sleepy Eye. Here are a few ideas.

- Our Mission Festival Sunday (October 21<sup>st</sup>) will look at the mysterious ways God works through pain and hardship to bring about opportunities for mission work among those we already know.
- This month, if the Lord is willing, we will start English as a Second Language classes for people in our community who grew up with a language other than English. This will be an opportunity for members of St. John's to form relationships with people in the community who do not attend a church. Please consider helping!
- At the end of October we will celebrate the Reformation and the wonderful blessing we have in God's truth. This is something we want to share in a world full of Satan's lies.

The opportunities we have to share the Gospel are endless. This is not something that should be left to paid professionals but God intends it to be the work of every Christian. Remember, as you share that good news your feet are beautiful.

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.*

---

## Support for Military Personnel

Sgt. Hammerschmidt, Zachary [birthday: Sept. 2]  
Back from Iraq

SPC Kostoff, Stephen M. [birthday: Dec. 11]  
Back from Iraq

SPC Piotter, James L. [birthday: June 21]  
Back from Iraq

Sgt. Hammerschmidt, Todd [birthday: November 7]  
Back home in October 2007  
Todd.hammerschmidt@us.army.mil

SRA Mattes, Jessica  
[birthday: Dec. 16]  
PSC 41 Box 5596  
APO AE 09464

Recruit Piotter, Luke G. [birthday:  
April 28]  
2nd RTBN Fox Co. PLT 2127  
36001 Midway Ave.  
MCRD San Diego, CA 92140-2127 [‘til Jan. ‘07]

**If there are any changes to the above addresses, or if an e-mail address is available please contact the school office at 794 - 6200. Thank you.**



## ST. JOHN'S PIE STAND

The Pie Stand at Corn Days was a huge success thanks to all of you who worked and donated over 50 pies. They all sold. \$433.35 in sales was made at Allison Park and Thrivent donated \$200.00, making a total of \$633.35.

A thank you to St. John's Youth Group who took care of trucking the pies from the church basement to the park, and also taking care of sales. The proceeds will be shared by the Ladies Aid, who will use the money for their projects and to the Youth Group who plan to use it for next summer's trip.

Mary Ann Trebesch

## Hosanna Circle

Hosanna Circle met on Thursday, August 23rd. Sallie Draper lead us in a devotion on Christian decision making.

We discussed the upcoming ADVENT DINNER scheduled for December 9th. Please keep this date open for some wonderful Christian fellowship. We have a theme for this event, "Advent Music" which should fill our hearts with joy and understanding about how this music came about. If you are interested in hosting a table, contact SuAnn Hinderman or if you want to help on any committee, contact Arlene Hinderman. Watch the bulletin for more details as they unfold.

There is a Hayride being planned, more details will follow. This should be a fun event for everyone.

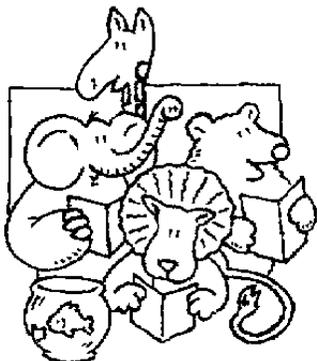
There is a committee, Bev Bartz, Mary Ann Trebesch, Connie Trebesch, Pam Dittbenner and Marcia Derkowski, who met on September 25th to discuss new ways that St John's could handle the serving of funerals. If you have any ideas, please contact one of these committee people.

We are in need of any donations of children's hard page board books for the quiet bags. If you can help, please contact Laurie Halvorson.

On September 6th, we had a joint meeting with the Ladies Aid. Hosanna Circle will meet on October 4th at 7:00 p.m. Anyone interested in joining us for fellowship and good Christian support, is welcomed.

To God be the Glory!  
Pam Dittbenner and Connie Trebesch

## "QUIET BAG" BOOKS NEEDED



**Children's  
Story Time**

Do you have any children's religious books, cloth or board books at home that are no longer being used?

We would like to update and add to our materials for the Children's "Quiet Bags" that are in the back of the church. If you have anything you would care to donate, please contact Mrs. Halvorson at the school. (507) 794-6200

## Church Council Minutes – September 23, 2007

Not available this month. Please see your monthly newsletter that was mailed to you.

# † Memorials †

## In memory of Ruth Meyer

To Choir  
Dave & Char Zimmerman – \$5.00

## In memory of Art Seifert

To the Organ Fund  
Family & Friends – \$500.00  
Eugene & Marlys Lochner – \$5.00  
Melania Meyer – \$5.00  
Ralph Grundmeyer – \$5.00  
Wally & Mary Ann Trebesch – \$5.00  
Milda Dey – \$5.00  
Harold & Bev Bartz – \$10.00

To the Window Fund  
Family – \$25.00

## In memory of Erwin Schwartz

To St. John's School  
Bob & Jan Steffen of Sanborn

## In memory of Toots Rono

To Ladies Aid  
Family & Friends – \$6.00  
Harold & Bev Bartz – \$15.00  
Shorty & Mary Jane Haus – \$5.00  
Brad & LeAnn Berkner – \$5.00  
Delbert & Eunice Sandhoefner – \$10.00

To the Organ Fund  
Wally & Mary Ann Trebesch – \$10.00  
Ken & Linda Lang – \$10.00  
Family & Friends – \$324.00

To the New School Fund  
Steve & Paula Windschitl – \$20.00

To the Window Fund  
Family & Friends – \$365.00

To St. John's School  
Armin & June Grundmeyer – \$5.00



## Mark your calendars for our Fall Church Hayride!

All members are invited to a fall hayride at the  
Jerry and Jan Dittbenner farm

Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> @4:00

BBQ and hotdogs will be provided.  
Please bring a snack to pass.  
Join us for this fun fellowship event!



Maps available at the back of church! A sign up will also be available for help in determining numbers  
for food and the size of wagon needed.

See you there!

Questions? See Sue Jensen

# From the Principal



October brings with it the feel of autumn in the air. The school year is now well under way, and the first quarter mid-term reports go home already, even though it seems the school year has just started. The usual daily classroom classes continue and there are a number of activities outside the classrooms that will also be taking place this month. School pictures will be taken for all classrooms and faculty members at the beginning of the month. The Kindergarten through third grade students will be visiting the Sleepy Eye Care Center to spend some time with the residents. There is a local crosscountry meet at MVL that will be held for athletes in grades 5-8 to participate in. The Southwest Lutheran Conference volleyball tournament will also be held at MVL. Our volleyball team will be concluding their season at this tournament. The PK-3 grade students will be taking a trip to the Minnesota Zoo. The eighth grade students will be spending a morning at MVL going to classes and finding out more of what high school will be like for them next year. The upper grade students will be going to Orchestra Hall for a concert later in the month.

The students in grades 3-8 will be taking the Terra Nova standardized tests this month. Stay tuned for the results of these tests later in the school year. The past years our students have tested from one half grade to two and a half grades above their grade levels. This is what we will continue to strive for here at St. John's LES, academic achievements complemented with the Word of God.

October also brings with it the annual State Teacher's Convention that means two days of no school for the students. The faculty will be attending this two-day conference which will be held in Mankato at Bethany College. This year's convention theme is "*Enriching Our Lives to Serve Others*". Each faculty member from every school will be sharing a classroom idea with all those attending the conference. These ideas will be displayed on a 3-foot trifold board. These boards will displayed for both days of the convention and will offer many different ideas from any area of the curriculum. A picture of all the boards will be placed on a website linked to a PDF of the lesson for teachers to reference for there own classrooms. This is an idea that will be used for the first time at a WELS/ELS teacher's convention.

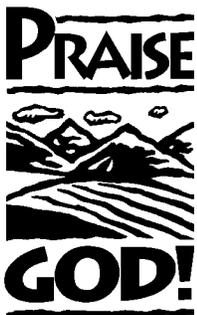


**Kurk K. Kramer**  
**Principal**  
**St. John's LES**

## Pre-School and Kindergarten News

By Miss Zastrow

I can hardly believe I am finally here, at St. John's in Sleepy Eye, MN, teaching! It seems like just yesterday when I looked in fear and excitement at the thought of attending Martin Luther College to become a "real" teacher. Praise God from whom all blessings flow! I would like to also take this opportunity to thank everyone for the very warm welcome I have received in these first months at St. John's. Your kindness is greatly appreciated!



The month of September has given the Preschool, Kindergarten, and myself the time to get used to the routine of school again. All people take comfort in routine, in knowing what is going to happen next, and this is especially important in the lives of young children. Now that we are into a routine, the children and I are starting to have a lot of fun learning about each other and ourselves! In our Christ-Light lessons for



September and October, we are learning the Old Testament stories about Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Jacob, and Joseph. "The Lord is faithful to all His promises." – Psalm 145:13 is one of our memory treasures this month. The Lord is indeed faithful to all His promises! We are reminded of this truth day in and day out as the Lord protects us throughout our daily activities.

The Preschoolers are learning all about our names, our bodies, our senses, our feelings, and about staying healthy with the "Letter People". Mr N taught us about our names and ourselves. Ms. W taught us about what we should wear, depending on the weather. Ms. P taught us about our bodies. Mr. H will teach us about staying healthy and Mr. M will teach us about our

five senses. Ms. A will teach us about our feelings and Mr. B will teach us about sharing. ☺

Kindergarten is learning about family, friends, neighborhood, and ourselves. God made all people different in their own ways. We will be learning more about our neighborhood and how many different people contribute to making our neighborhood what it is! Preschool and Kindergarten will also be taking a field trip to the Zoo on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

## 1st & 3rd Grade News

By Mrs. Halvorson

Another school year has begun in which to learn and grow in our faith. First graders are busy making new friends and enjoying having a desk of their own. Second graders have dusted off the cobwebs of their Reading and Math skills and are a great help to show grade one "the ropes". We welcome two new third graders to our school also. Now October brings us busy, and beautiful fall days.



### October

In our Christ Light Bible lessons this month we see how God promised the Savior to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. These old Testament believers trusted in God's promises just as we New Testament Christians can do today.

The children will also learn about Martin Luther in our afternoon devotions later on in the month. We will learn what Luther discovered in the Bible: we are saved by faith alone in God's Grace!

Our Mathematicians will be busy this month. Grade 1 will be working on learning doubles facts in addition and showing number sentences through their drawing. They will also work with balances and pattern blocks. Grade 2 will be learning to read a thermometer to the

## Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid held their monthly meeting on Sept. 7th at 7:00 p.m. It was a joint meeting with the Hosanna Circle. Marlys Lochner opened the meeting and Salli Draper led us in devotion.

Paula Windschitl reported on the LWMS. There is a meeting on Oct. 13th in Arlington. Anyone is invited to attend this.

We received income in the amount of \$612. The money was received from the rental of the basement, funeral lunches and memorials. Motion was made and seconded to send \$50.00 to the Wels Kingdom Workers. Motion was made and seconded to pay \$25.58 for place mats. Also we paid \$107.50 to LWMS for the last half of our donation.

The Hosanna Circle will be in charge of the potluck on Mission Fest in October.

The Pie Stand on Corn Days was a great success. We netted about \$433.00 It will be shared with the Youth Group. Thrivent will match up to \$200.00. Thanks Mary Ann Trebesch for organizing it.

On Oct. 11th we are serving cake and ice cream to the residents at the Sleepy Eye Care Center.

As there was no other business the meeting was adjourned and lunch was served. There was 15 women in attendance.

Dorothy Shellum, Secretary

## Newsletter Deadline

Please remember to have your newsletter articles in by the deadline. It is an important part of our planning schedule. If this is not possible, please contact the office and let us know an approximate date when it will be ready and how much space will be needed. Also, bulletin articles should be in the office no later than Tuesday. Thank you for your efforts!



## DAY OF CARING

On Saturday, October 13th United Way and Faith in Action will have their first countywide Day of Caring. The Day of Caring is an annual celebration of community volunteers giving "One Day to Help One Another". Volunteers provide "helping hands" for services that people, for diverse reasons, cannot do.



Do you, or someone you know, need an extra hand with a difficult task? Projects can range from writing letters, reading, housework, yard work, painting, washing windows. Cleaning gutters, small repairs and much, much more.

Volunteers are needed, so gather a team together. Recruit family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to make a team. Teams can range from size and ability.

For more information contact United Way at (507) 354-6512.



## Befriend a Missionary Letters Sent



On Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, several members got together and wrote letters to our Befriend-a-Missionary families. We enjoyed this opportunity to encourage them in their work, sending along friendly greetings from our congregation to theirs.

There will be Befriend-A-Missionary information available at the Mission Festival Sunday in October. You too, can be a great source of encouragement to them!

*Proverbs 12:25 - An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up.*

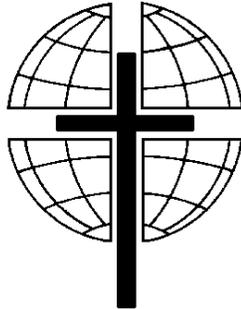
# 7th & 8th Grade News

By the Students

**Math:** The 7th graders have been reviewing basic operations such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. They are also reviewing basic algebra, geometry, fractions and percents.

The 8th graders have been reviewing the basics. Right now they say, “math is pretty easy”.

**Geography:** The students have been learning how geography and history are closely related. They are also studying maps, places, locations, landforms, rivers, latitudes, and longitudes.



**Spelling:** The 7th graders have been learning about single and two consonant words. They have also had practice getting letters in the correct order and worked with unexpected consonant spellings.

The 8th graders have learned how to arrange letters in the correct order and how many consonants are in one word. They also say, “We are thankful to have Mrs. Halvorson as our 8th grade spelling teacher”.

**English:** Sentence’s, subjects and predicates, punctuating sentences, kinds of sentences, compound, fragments, and run on sentences are what has kept the students busy in English class this past month.

**Catechism:** This year Catechism class is taught by Pastor Draper. So far the students have reviewed parts of the Bible, creation and God. They then took a quiz to see how much they learned.

**American History:** The students started off American History by learning about the land make up of the United States. They made a map showing some main rivers, a bar graph comparing the lengths of the rivers and drew a picture of a bridge. Currently they are learning about the first Americans, which include the Native Americans.

**Literature:** “Call it Courage” is the book the students in literature class have just completed. They are currently reading “Sing Down the Moon.” They describe it as a Navajo tribe fighting against the Long Knives. Two of the Navajo people named Bright Morning and Running

Bird get captured by the Spaniards and are sold as slaves.

**Bible History:** The students are reading the books of Acts and the letters. Currently they are following the story of the Apostles’ and Stephen getting stoned. Next they will learn about Paul when he was a persecutor of the Christians and when God converted him and he became a great Missionary.

**Science:** Science class is all about the study of the water cycle, water on and under the surface. Recently they started a chapter on fresh water resources. This chapter entails where our drinking water comes from and the filters it goes through.

**Art:** Lately the students have been learning to draw outlines better and to using certain colors in the primary and secondary families. They have learned to shade and tint with warm and cool colors as well as many other coloring techniques.

**Computers:** Introducing the new computer teacher, Mrs. Draper. She has been showing the students online CNN videos, and using an internet program called Cyberspace. The students have also been practicing by using the “old stand by,” Mavis Beacon.



**Music:** Recently the students have been learning about different kinds of notes and beats. They are also learning the song “Jesus Lead Us On”.

**Current Events:** An article about Benjamin Franklin is what the students are currently reading in Current Events class. They learned he was an apprentice for his brother James’ print shop and how he wasn’t treated very good. They also did some comparison with jobs in today’s newspapers verses Benjamin’s job.

**Phy Ed:** Flag football is where it’s at in Phy Ed this fall. Last week the students took a test on flag football and will do so again this week. They have also had the opportunity to play a bit down at Burnside Park.



nearest 10, tell time to the half hour, count diems and pennies, find missing addends, short, and draw and write number sentences.

Third graders are busy writing fractions, working with thermometers and counting coins.

Now that we have learned about Pioneer Life and been to Walnut Grove to see the home of Laura Ingalls Wilder and a real Sod House, we will learn about Native Americans. We will study the Tlinglit, Apache, Ojibwe, and Sioux, tribes in particular to compare their customs and way of life.

On October 12th, K-3 will entertain the residents of the SE Care Center with seasonal songs. What fun! We are especially excited about our big fall field trip to the Minnesota Zoo! Many moms and dads will join grades PK-3 for this special outing. We hope to see some zoo babies.

Enjoy God's Fall glory!

## 4th – 6th Grade News

By Mrs. Evenson

God has currently blessed our classroom with many enthusiastic and helpful students! In connection with our lessons on creation, they eagerly brought animals to our Creature Corner,



such as a dragonfly, chicken, hamster, and parakeets (which took to flight around the room once!). We're also still goin' buggy with anticipation over our mealworm experiment, hop-

ing it will produce beetles soon. And we ventured north of town for an afternoon of investigating water insects in Hinderman Creek with the help of the DNR & RCRC. Earlier this month, the 4th

graders participated in Safety Day Camp at the Hockey Arena, courtesy of the SECC. Besides reading Shark Lady and Stuart Little during Reading class, the students have challenged themselves to read a class total of 50,000 pages this year! I'm seeing lots of bookworms go through more books every day – we'll keep you posted...

## Youth Group

In October & November, Youth Group will be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Starting in December, we'll meet the 1st and 3rd Sundays for the rest of the school year. Our Bible study and fellowship time will be between church services (9:15-10:15) in the computer lab at school. We will be working through Volume 2 of the video series and discussion called "Walk in My World." Each episode features the real-life stories of a variety of WELS teens and their families dealing with issues like witnessing our faith, God working through tragedy, serious illness, bulimia, and more.

On October 14, we will also go bowling in Springfield as our first activity of the year. We'll meet at the church at 1pm and plan to be back by 4pm. The cost of games & shoes will be covered, just bring some extra money for snacks you might want.



If you have any questions or ideas for Youth Group, please contact Mrs. Evenson (naomi.evenson@stjohnse.com). If you have an email address, please send it to me. Thanks!



Please join us October 21<sup>st</sup> for

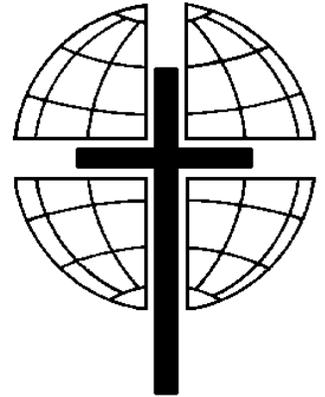
## Mission Festival Sunday

Pastor Ross Stelljes  
“God Moves in a Mysterious Way”

The Schedule for the day:

- 8:00 Worship
- 9:15 Mission Festival presentation
- 10:30 Worship
- 11:30 Potluck

Pastor Ross Stelljes is formerly the pastor of Living Savior Lutheran Church of Littleton, Colorado. Pastor Stelljes served this mission congregation for 12 years before accepting the call to serve as a recruiter for MLC. He will speak to us about the joys of mission work in a home mission field and the opportunities for sharing the Gospel that the Lord provides through tragedy.



### Mission Festival Potluck

Mark your calendars for another delicious potluck meal after the 10:30 a.m. Mission Festival service on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Please bring a dish or two to pass, and join your church family at the dinner table as we support missions and missionaries. Please see a separate announcement for the entire schedule for that day.