

The St. John's Messenger

St. John's Lutheran Church and School

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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Rev. Chris Cordes, Pastor ~ Mr. Dan Rick, Principal

www.stjohnsse.com



OCTOBER 2014

It Was Just a Little Garlic!

I love garlic. Maybe you've already gotten wind. They say does good things for the body, but it can be strong on the breath. (Sorry!)

In the days when dairy cows foraged in open pasture, a neighbor planted garlic in his garden. On the other side of the fence was the dairyman's pasture. The neighbor wasn't a dairy farmer, so how could he have known?

His garlic grew well in his little garden plot. He watched it grow and dreamed of those great pastas and pizzas, and garlic butter on fish.

But garlic has a way of spreading. One season led into another. When he tilled his garden, some of the garlic bulbs missed getting collected. The tiller's tines tossed some little bulbs through the fence and into the neighbor's pasture.

Where they started to grow.

Now cows can be curious, and every now and then they'd mosey over near the fence that kept them from the neighbor's garden.

Where the little garlic leaves on the pasture side were nice and green like the grass around them.

Now, we don't know what cows think. Did they like the savory flavor of the "grass" by that garden fence? They probably didn't imagine spaghetti or garlic bread.

But the next day the dairy farmer got a phone call: "Something's funny about the milk from your farm! What are you feeding your cows?!"

"Ah," you say, "but it was just a little garlic!"

The kingdom of the church is like this. Just toss a small false idea into the mix. Get lax about what your kids are "eating" spiritually. Don't be discerning about what you hear on the radio – "It's Christian radio, after all."

It only takes a little falsehood to start affecting the whole batch of "milk".

This is why you want to know your Bible better than the average Christian. Not that you're supposed to compete, but the bar is set way too low these days, and most Christians are not familiar with their Bibles.

If you don't read it every day, now is the time to make that decision. You don't have to understand everything you read; just read. That book is so different from all others, that it will teach you just by reading it. If you get to a part that seems hard to understand or keep your interest, skip over that part for now; you can come back through another time. When you finish reading through the Bible once, it's simply time to start again. This is how you get spiritual training from God. It grows on you. It has its own appetite. You'll find yourself wanting more – and gaining even more! The way a child wants mommy or daddy to read to him/her is the right way to feel: crave it, hunger and thirst for it!

It's just a decision, but it will make you discerning – and careful to let no "garlic" grow in the green pastures of God's precious truths. –Pastor Cordes.

Dear Members and Friends of St John's,

Last month we enjoyed the fulfillment of a dream: Your loving donations and efforts at restoring and improving our organ came to fruition. I found myself grateful that you chose to wait until a new pastor could be installed before having the organ dedication. My family and I were blessed to celebrate the event with you.

We can all be grateful together for the individuals and families who made the day possible. From you who donated funds for the project to the individuals and groups who worked at making the celebration happen – thanks to each one!

You may not have noticed, but everyone on your newly formed Worship Team had a part in the day's activities. Your team consists of Jesse Cordes, Rachel Cordes, Janet Crabtree, Jan Dittbenner and Paula Windschitl. Their time and energies in this and other projects makes it possible for me as pastor to do more of the work I'm trained for and less of the work they are quite capable of doing. In a couple weeks I'll sequester myself and try planning out the next worship themes and topics through May, after which the Team will again bend their shoulders to the task of planning out worship services for you to worship him "in spirit and in truth," which will mean our God will be glorified!



Someone requested copies of the Organ Memories submitted by individuals for the day's entertainment. You'll find those on pages 10 and 11 of this newsletter. Also here is a link to the KEYC TV video of the organ update. <http://www.keyc.com/category/201273/video?clipId=10583761&topVideoCatNo=201272&autoStart=true>

In other big news, our Vision Planning is moving forward. Through two congregational meetings, several proposals emerged for a Mission Statement and several key focuses for our congregation. A small focus group was assembled in September to narrow the lists down to two possible mission statements and three key ministry focuses. These are being presented to the groups in our congregation so members of those groups can help fashion them further. The hope is to get this step done before the next Voters' Meeting. You will then have a chance to hear the final proposals, which will then be voted on at the Voters' Meeting. **For this reason** it will be good to have women of the congregation as well as our teens join the voting assembly in the discussion before the voters put it to a final decision. The input of everyone is a valued gift.

"And what about the By-Laws?" The revision to our By-Laws has not been forgotten! What needs to happen is that we first have a clear statement of our overall mission, and also some key focuses our congregation will specialize in. That will enable us to evaluate our structure and the areas of ministry we have, to see if they are adequate or need adjusting too. This will, in turn, suggest possible changes in our By-Laws. So, you see, one step at a time.

What is so cool about all this is we are working on good things for our Lord and his kingdom. The work we do as a church needs to be on purpose, focused and efficient. We want to involve more of God's people in various meaningful ways, have fun using our gifts for him, and end up glorifying him through it all!

–Pastor Cordes.

Worship Note!

At the end of this current sermon series "Four Gifts You Can't Do Without," your Worship Team will provide a special gift to each member and guest, to bring to mind the specific gifts and remind you to pray for them again and again.



Below is a letter our WELS pastors received at a recent pastors' conference. Written by a layman from Redwood Falls, he invites you to a special opportunity.

Your Church Council suggested putting the information in this newsletter and in the bulletin for several weeks. It looks like a very good idea of any members interested in wisely protecting their estates and leveraging the (sometimes unknown) opportunities in our US tax system.

If you have any questions about this seminar, feel free to call Dave Silfies of our congregation (320-212-4623), or one of our WELS Planned Giving Counselors, Rev. Michael Dietz (507-779-7054) or Rev. Mike Hatzung (612-280-4491).

Dear WELS lay Leader:

May I introduce myself to you? My name is Roger Heller and I am a 51 year member of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Olivia (WELS). I wish to propose an educational event that can be extremely helpful to many WELS members and very likely to the congregation to which they belong.

So many of us see our congregations and other ministries struggle financially, even as we face changes in our town and agriculture. The Lord has blessed us in so many ways, and he wants us to care for our family, pay taxes, and support the spread of the gospel.

The proposed educational event will show us some techniques the government allows that may be good both for our family and for support of our local congregations and even sharing the gospel around the world. Here are some of the items that will be addressed:

How to reduce or eliminate taxes when

- 1 Marketing highly appreciated assets such as appreciated farm land, other investment real estate, and appreciated stocks
- 2 How a retiring farmer or other businessmen can market depreciated assets (i.e. farm equipment) and avoid the recapture of the depreciation
- 3 How farmers can gift grain or other production, instead of cash to their church and avoid self-employment taxes
- 4 How some families can save taxes with charitable trusts and or charitable annuities prior to death as an overall strategy of estate planning
- 5 How one can improve his/her/their cash flow during retirement

We have been able to engage the services of experienced CPAs, Jim Heilman and Jenna Peterson, from the prestigious Clifton Allen Larson firm to cover the above subjects, including estate planning. The seminar is scheduled for Thursday, November 20, 2014 at 1:30pm in Redwood Falls. The cost of registration is \$10 and will be used to defray expenses for the seminar.

Most of us hire professionals to help us with our tax returns and that is what their specialty is. These CPAs specialize in other areas of tax planning enabling many of us to benefit. In many cases, those "special circumstances" involve a charity such as our WELS congregation or other entities of the donor's choice. It becomes a "win-wins" situation.

It is good stewardship to plan our business affairs, and for us to be ever mindful that all of our blessings come from our Lord and Savior, as Scripture says: "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it" (Psalm 24:1). It also offers us another opportunity to thank Jesus for his love and forgiveness in our lives.

Please find the enclosed registration form (**last page of this newsletter**) to mail in.

If you have any questions about this proposed seminar, please feel free to call me at 320-523-1050 or 320-522-1040.

God's blessings to you!
Roger Heller

President's Report to St. John's Church Council & Congregation

A wonderful hog roast was held on Sunday, September 7th! There were over 150 in church participating in worship which in turn led to superb sound as we praised our Lord! Our principal, Dan Rick, presented a power point program about our school and all the great facets it has to offer parents and students, underscored by a most important Christ-centered education. A great meal was hosted by the council, elders and their wives. Over a 100 were served. The free will offering was gathered. The proceeds of this offering would allow Pastor to have a new tablet and key board for sermon texts, and a new desktop computer for Lisa to do her work for the church and school. The contributions were very close to covering the costs of these two units. A special thanks to Matt Steffen for again preparing the pork; he does it so well and has for a number of years now.

Our long range planning information from the open forums held in July now moves to a small group, who will work on refining the suggestions made on the mission statement and focus areas for our church. They will condense it to a manageable level and present it our boards, committees, groups and congregation for more input. After they have taken the suggestions from all these people, it will be further refined to a level where it will be presented to the voters at a meeting soon. Once finalized, this will serve to help formulate our bylaws. Watch for more information as it progresses.

I see a lot of activity with all of our boards and committees at this time. It appears that the pace of everything is picking up! School is in session, Choir is practicing, and a well-attended Bible information class is being held. I came to a meeting on a Wednesday night at the school and our parking lot was full! It almost looked like it could be a Sunday. Thank you to all who have become so involved. It is good to serve our Lord together and grow in our faith as one.

I would like to share with you a Grace Moment from Time of Grace (www.timeofgrace.org). These are short daily thoughts into the Bible and how it can apply to our lives. It is titled "I Love Laughing with Friends".

Lord, have I thanked you lately for my friends? How you have blessed me with the circle of people who keep me sane. Honestly, I think I would go crazy if I didn't have people to bounce ideas off of, talk me off the ledge, point out my foolishness, encourage me when I'm right but too timid, make me feel like I belong, help me out in a pinch, explain things to me, give me advice, and generally magnify my good times into great times.

HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD TODAY?

As I think about the dear people you have brought in my life, I get what the psalm writer was talking about when he expressed his joys not just by himself but with people he loved: "Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy" (Psalm 126:2) Lord you designed laughter as an amazingly healing human activity. My friends help me lighten up and not take myself so seriously. They give me perspective on my struggles, they share things they have learned, and they help me when I am in trouble.

I don't want to be just a taker. How can I show people how much they mean to me? Please let me give as much of a lift to other people as they give me. How can I show you how much I appreciate the gift of loving people in my life?

We have great friends at St. Johns,

Steve Windschitl
President, St John's Congregation

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.

St. John's Lutheran Church & School
Church Council
September 11, 2014

Present: Jerry Dittbenner, Shorty Haus, Dave Silfies, Glen Kotten, Gary Kuelbs, Andy Lochner, Jim Mielke, Steve Windschitl, Pastor Cordes, Don Gulke, Paul Maasz

Pastor opened the meeting with devotion and a prayer.

MINUTES

Motion made to approve previous minutes, Shorty Haus 1st, Andy Lochner 2nd; motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT

-written report from Pastor

TREASURE'S REPORT

-written report

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

-written report from President

FINANCE REPORT

-written report

Motion made to approve finance report by Don Gulke, 2nd by Paul Maasz; motion carried.

ELDER'S REPORT

Thanks to everyone for supporting the hog roast. Planning to do visits to non-frequently attending church members. A big thank you to Matt Steffen for donating the pork for the hog roast.

No membership changes.

SCHOOL REPORT

Balance beam and swings have been installed. Tuition assistance has been completed. Bids are being taken for landscaping around the school.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Written report by Pastor.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Corn Days parade float was well done. The Bible Information Class (BIC) has had an average of 24 in attendance. Sunday the 5th of October after worship service is the next outreach committee meeting.

MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

A wish list will be included in the monthly newsletter for items needed around the church.

The bricks on the back of the Church are set to be completed towards the end of September.

Request by Ladies Aid to order a dehumidifier for the Church basement is being taken into consideration.

Ladies Aid is willing to donate a cleaning cart for the Church with cleaning supplies.

Thank you to Dave Piotter and his family for donating paint and painting the teacher garage.

Shorty Haus made a motion to unanimously approve Madalaine Cordes for Church Maintenance position, Glen Kotten 2nd; motion carried; Dave Silfies and Pastor Cordes abstained from vote.

STEWARDSHIP

Let Dave Silfies know of any Church jobs/tasks that are available and members who are interested in assisting, email him at bigfish_56266@yahoo.com.

MVL/WELS

MVL hot topic subject of fellowship doctrine for non-fellowship students.

MVL issue of MVL taking family to court for non-payment of tuition.

ENDOWEMENT AND TRUST

Written report.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Estate Planning presentation in Redwood Falls convention center on November 20, 2014 geared towards WELS members with marketing highly appreciated assets such as appreciated farm land, other investment real estate, and appreciated stocks.

Ideas for generating more consistent giving from Church members discussed.

Next Council Meeting is on October 14, 2014.

Voters meeting is at 6:30 P.M. on the 19th of October 2014.

Motion made to adjourn by Andy Lochner, 2nd by Shorty Haus; motion carried.

Pastor closed with Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Glen Kotten, Recording Secretary



Pastor Appreciation Month

It's not a secret how much we appreciate our Pastor! We are just calling your attention to the fact that October is right around the corner, and you know what that means? It's Pastor Appreciation Month! That doesn't mean that we can't show our appreciation year-round, as many of us do. Just take this as an opportunity to express to Pastor Cordes and his family, how much they really mean to us!

New Member

We welcome Amber Sommerfeld to our church family. Amber is the wife of Mark Sommerfeld. Amber wanted to explore membership in our church and the WELS, so she has been taking our Bible Information Course. Now she is ready to express her faith in the Lord Jesus and all he teaches in the Bible, and to declare her unity with us as a full member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. The Holy Spirit has brought her into our church family so she and all of us together would be mutually blessed as we serve one another in love.



Welcome Amber!

Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid met on Thursday, September 4th, at 6:00 p.m. for a joint meeting with the Hosanna Circle. President Marlys Lochner presided. Pastor Cordes' devotion was from Psalm 119. God's Word is our Light for our Path.



The amount of the check for our Pie Sale at Sleepy Eye Corn Days amounted to \$968.40. Eighty nine pies were sold. Thanks to our coordinators, Mickey Meyer and Rita Lochner, all the volunteers, pie bakers, the Youth Group, and all others who helped. The pie sale was once again a success. The Youth Group will receive half of the proceeds after expenses.

Bake Sale

The latest newsletter from CAMM was read by Marcia Derkowski. It is an interesting insight on the events at this mission.

The LWMS Fall Rally will be held at Zion Lutheran in Olivia on September 20th, with registration at 8:00 a.m. Closing devotion will be at 12:00 p.m.

Block 2 served for the Don Radel funeral. Block 1 will serve the potluck on Sunday, September 14th after our organ rededication services. Block 3 is up to serve.

A motion was MSP to give \$50.00 to the Jesus Cares Ministries.

A list of members in our block system will be posted on the church bulletin board for a reference for everyone.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, October 1st at 2:00 p.m. Come join us!

Marilyn Deibele, Secretary



LWMS News

The MN Valley LWMS held its Fall Rally on September 20th in Olivia. Watch for a report on it next month!



Thank you to all who contributed by church envelope to the LWMS in July or August. Our Fall contribution totaled \$368.00. This money is used by our local chapter and also by the National LWMS to support mission work near and far.

Our MN Valley Chapter has been asked to consider hosting the 2017 National Convention, tentatively scheduled to be held in Rochester, MN. Some things to consider: Should we do it alone, or with another chapter? Will we have enough volunteers from congregations such as ours to work at the convention and with the planning? Our chapter wants to know YOUR thoughts! Please share your thoughts, concerns, and opinions with our LWMS Reporter, Paula Windschitl, so a decision can be reached in accordance with the majority of members in our chapter. A decision will be made in mid-October.

The hotel registration is already open for the LWMS National Convention next summer (2015) in Rapid City, SD! If you have interest in attending, it would be a great time to select the hotel of your choice before it is booked up. Also, if you have never attended a convention, but have interest in attending and find it difficult for financial reasons, please apply for the SOS (Send One Sister) grant!! Up to \$300 could be paid to the recipient(s) to help defray costs. The MN Valley Chapter of the LWMS would be paying for this grant. If you would like to know more about it, please contact Paula Windschitl.

Paula Windschitl, Reporter

MLC Auxiliary News

The Ladies Auxiliary of Martin Luther College will gather for its annual meeting on Saturday, October 25th at the college. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the Luther Student Center. With the meeting set to begin at 9 a.m. in the Wittenberg Collegiate Center Auditorium. Come and hear about the projects the auxiliary has already completed and new ones they will sponsor for the upcoming year. There will be joint worship with the students in The Chapel of the Christ, lunch in the cafeteria, a chance to attend various workshops, get a preview glimpse of the fall musical, “*The Music Man*” and get a personal update on college activities from Prof. Bill Pekar. As always, everyone is welcome, child care is available, and food shelf donations will be accepted if you bring them. (Students are available in the parking lot to help you with them.) It really is a fun day, we hope to see you there!

Paula Windschitl, Auxiliary Contact



Grade 1-4

October's Fall days are beautiful and busy ones for grades 1-4.

CHRIST LIGHT

In our Christ Light Bible lessons we are studying New Testament lessons. This month we begin hearing about Jesus' public ministry. We will see the many ways he showed his almighty power as he preached and did miracles.

Later in the month, the children will learn about Martin Luther in our afternoon devotions. We will learn that Luther discovered in the Bible that we are saved by faith alone.

Reading

Grade one has finished their review of concepts and has begun the newest adventures of the SUPERKIDS! We are all enjoying this new, interactive, reading series! The older children are reading chapter books at their own level and preparing a biography book report for later this month. Everyone continues to enjoy escaping with a good to book to the READING LOFT!



Math

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 nearest 10, tell time to the half hour, count dimes and pennies, find missing addends, sort, and draw and write number sentences. Grade 3 is busy writing fractions, working with thermometers and counting coins. Multiplication is just around the corner!

Social Studies

Grade 3-4 will study different types of maps to learn about the geography, climate patterns, and resources of the entire United States. Then we will learn about the Midwest. This will be familiar and interesting to learn new facts about our home state and our part of the nation.

Grade 1-2 have begun a unit on MEXICO. We will study its climate, geography, people, and customs.

Our mid-month fall field trip will take us to the Amaze'n farm near Paynesville, MN. We are praying for good weather as we explore the maze, animals, and other attractions!

Enjoy God's Fall glory!
Mrs. Halvorson



Grades Pre-K/K

Word of God: The children began the year learning about God fulfilling His promise and sending His Son to save us from our sins. We learned about the joy that was shown the night Jesus was born. May we show that same joy the shepherds showed that night. May we joyfully proclaim, "Jesus has come!"

Theme Time: The children have learned about community helpers and learned about where we live. We are now learning about apples and studying the life cycles of plants.

Reading: The Kindergarten class has begun learning the alphabet and its sounds. They have finished letters C and O and have begun learning about the letter G. They have also learned several sight words like 'the' and 'for.'

Math: Each day the children do a calendar program on the smartboard. It is a program that tallies the days, graphs the weather, sings about the coins, and has a pattern for them to finish. It is a new program that we are trying this year. So far, the children love it. They love that calendar time has become so interactive.

Besides the calendar, the children are mastering the numbers 0-10, graphing, and making patterns.

New Items: I would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Trebesch for making crate chairs for all the students to sit on during carpet time. It is nice to have the children off the floor and having their own space during this time.



Grades 6-8

The school year has been off to a great start for all the students, staff, and faculty. The students are excited and have a willingness to learn. The classroom is very busy, but the students have developed good routines and follow the rules well. Recess time has also been an exciting time for many students. Soccer and kickball are the main choices of events during recess and the students have been showing good sportsmanship and athletic ability. Grades that participate range between K-8.



Three big events in September were a visit from Mr. Plath, school spirit day, and the installation of our new swings! Mr. Plath, principal at MVL, spoke to the upper grades on Friday, Sept. 5th. The students learned more about MVL and the great opportunities that the school offers. On Friday, Sept. 26, it was "Blue & Yellow Day" for all the students! Students were encouraged to wear a hat to show their school spirit. A traveling trophy is awarded to the classroom that has the highest percentage of participation. Finally, our playground is complete! On September 17, our playground received new swings and wood chips which has completed our playground project!

Below are two highlighted classes from the classroom:

Bible History

Grades 5 through 8 have Mr. Rick for Bible history and catechism. They have been learning New Testament stories like "The Birth of Jesus" and "The Twelve Year Old Jesus.". They write down important questions during class and complete worksheets after class.

Math

There are many math classes in the upper grades classroom and everyone has been learning many new things. The 5th grade is reviewing subtracting, adding, multiplying, and division. The 6th grade is currently learning about negative numbers.

For more information regarding the upper grades classroom, visit our school website and upper grades web page.

Memories of an Instrument: The Organ



Anecdotes about organs and organ music shared by members and friends at the Organ Dedication dinner, Sunday, September 14, 2014.

We are truly blessed to have gifted organists here at St. John's. One memory comes to mind when one Sunday morning the organ didn't work for some reason or another. So we went to plan "B" and used the piano. We were still able to praise God with music, which was great, but it made us appreciate how much more the sound filled the church with the organ playing. It's like having an orchestra playing vs. a small band. With the organ completed, we here at St. John's will be blessed with the many different sounds that will come from our organ. A life without music is truly a mistake! To God be the glory!— anonymous

We were extremely poor during my early years, but one time we traveled to the big city of Portland, Oregon, to meet up with the grandparents. They were well-off and took the whole family out for pizza. Going out for anything was a huge treat, but the grandparents took us to the Organ Grinder. It was pizza parlor, but it was like the entire place was an organ, with pipes on one wall and pipes on another. And there were more than pipes that the organ ran! There were drums. There were lights that winked on and off. There were whistles that blew different notes, maybe like kazoos. There may have been party whistles with paper tubes that unrolled as they inflated. The instruments that played notes were out of tune with each other, so it gave the whole song a calliope-carnival sound. There was a monkey I think that also began pounding on a drum or cymbals. I almost remember a sense of fear at first, overwhelmed with the sounds (and maybe that ugly monkey), but I remember my mother being so delighted to see the organist playing and keeping all these instruments alive and in motion, his fingers blurring across the keyboards, his feet dancing on the pedals, and his hands flying between the stops, pulling and pushing and reaching some more. So I also found it joyous, and then my mind began thinking of how all these instruments and tools could possibly be connected to that central console.

– Pastor Cordes

Bells are Ringing

The sound of chimes rang out in the cold air. They were coming from the organ in our church! As a child, I was very impressed with the beautiful sound of chimes that I could hear outside as we were coming up the sidewalk. I only heard them once or twice, and now I'm not even sure if my memory was right about it. I asked Eunice Sandhoefner, and she also said she remembered hearing chimes outdoors too. We aren't sure how it was done, but it was a special treat. Does anyone else remember that?

– Paula Windschitl

Organ service technician memories

Finding dead bats in the old electrical relay case inside the organ.

Finding dead bugs in some of the Trumpet (Corno) pipes.

Regular cleaning of electrical contacts before the organ renovation since the electrical contacts would become corroded and prevent notes from sounding.

Electrical issues with the electrical supply for the organ that caused the organ to be unusable for worship services at unexpected times.

– John Nolte

Organist memories

The joy of playing for worship services.

Struggling with opening and closing the roll top cover for the organ keyboards until it was repaired.

Dealing with pipes that didn't sound before the renovation and before I cleaned contacts during an organ service visit.

– John Nolte



It was an organist who first inspired my desire to play on a keyboard. Whether piano or organ, I just wanted to play. I wasn't very old at the time, because I remember being on the floor watching him practice in the basement of the parsonage which also served as our little church. His name was Loren Dirksen, and he was in his early 20's, so he was hero-class automatically. It was his interest and dedication that inspired my interest to learn how to play. It was also the way his shoe strings were tied with their bows off-center, to the outsides of his shoes, that made me start tying my tennis the same way.

– Pastor Cordes

One thing that was kind of fun for me in my high school and college years was substituting for other organists at other congregations in Milwaukee. We had three organists at my church, so I could go off pretty much when I wanted and see other organs. It was kind of like the proverbial box of chocolates, you never knew what you were going to get. You might, once in a while, get a nice pipe organ like we have here at St. John's, or, my very favorite (heavy sarcasm), a small Hammond home organ with the draw bars and a partial pedal board. Those may have been fun for the rock stars to use in their bands, but I didn't enjoy it much for church music. Nonetheless, we make the best of what we have and do our best for God's glory!

– Rachel Cordes

I'm late! I'm late!!

Mr. David Hackmann received his first call from DMLC in 1969 to St. John's. He was responsible for grades 6, 7 and 8; Principal, and organ. His duties for the organ included playing every Sunday, with two weeks off in the summer! Ruth Marti filled in for him when he had his vacation. He had never had this kind of responsibility before and he spent a lot of time practicing, sometimes until midnight or 1 a.m.

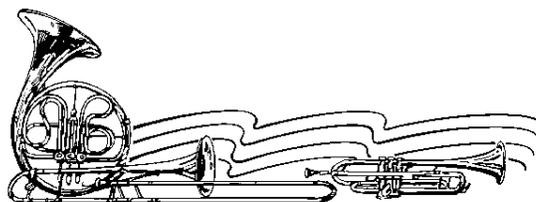
He tells the story about one time when he and his wife, Carol (CJ) went to Sanborn to visit friends. They played cards, and came home late. The next day was a Confirmation Sunday. He set his alarm so he would get up early, but alas, there was a power outage and his alarm did not go off in time! When he awoke to see a flashing alarm clock, it was only minutes before the start of the service. He was supposed to be over at school helping the choir warm up, but obviously he would not make that. He hurried, but church was already starting by the time he got there. Another teacher, Suzanne Waldschmidt, had hopped on the organ bench and did her best to fill in. The first hymn, "Thine Forever, God of Love", was on the board, so she started with that. Little did she know that Pastor Russow had instructed Mr. Hackmann to use a different melody than the one in the hymnal. Apparently that was an important point for some reason, and Pastor was not pleased. Anyway, Mr. Hackmann arrived and finished the service.

Another memory he shared was playing for weddings. They always required a lot more work and practice because it would often times be unfamiliar versions of songs that were requested.

When he directed the student body for the Christmas program practices, he would have his wife, Carol, sometimes fill in on the organ for practice sessions.

Mr. Hackmann is now retired from teaching. He most recently taught for many years at St. Jacobi in Milwaukee. They have 3 children and 9 grandchildren.

– As verbally relayed from David Hackmann to Paula Windschitl



September Altar Flowers

Special thanks to the family of Don Radel for sharing the beautiful bouquets to beautify our worship services in September. And thank you to



the volunteers who have been so dedicated in caring for and setting out arrangements!
We appreciate you!

Thrivent Board

Brown County Thrivent Board needs 2 officers for the board. The positions needed are President and the Director of Advocates. If you are interested, contact Markay Christensen 507-723-5228 dmre@newulmtel.net or Darlene Fretham 507-723-6230 darlenefretham@gmail.com

2015 Kingdom Workers Convention

Every two years Kingdom Workers holds a national convention for the purpose of sharing the mission skills, tools, and opportunities available to all the people of our fellowship. We hope that through this event many people will feel equipped and motivated to become personally involved in mission work and many congregations take steps to engage the mission and building services provided through Kingdom Workers in their own communities.

This January 2015, Kingdom Workers has been joined by five other WELS ministries to deliver an event in Scottsdale, AZ which not only includes the objectives of a Kingdom Workers Convention, but also delivers tools for leaders and aspiring leaders to be used in both their vocations and their local ministries. Join us for the 2015 The Christian Leadership Experience.

Registration is NOW OPEN. Visit www.ChristLead.com for full details.

Missing a cake pan, a bowl, a jacket?

Once again the west kitchen counter, always a popular catch-all, has a collection of various forgotten items. Please check to see if anything belongs to you.

Starting in October whenever an item is left, it will be tagged with a date. If the item is still there in a month, it will be donated to the Treasure Haus, the WELS resale shop in New Ulm. (This includes both kitchen items and clothing).



Flowers & Napkin Chart

We are looking to fill additional openings throughout the year for putting out flowers and cleaning napkins.

If you can help out with any of these duties, contact Lisa Hillmann or Paula Windschitl. If your name is currently on this list and you wish to have it removed or changed to another spot, please let us know as well.

Thank you for your dedication to beautifying St. John's services!

Month	Flowers 1	Flowers 2	Communion Napkins
January	Paula Windschitl	Mary Bartz	Marcia Derkowski
February		Mary Bartz	Marcia Derkowski
March	Lisa Hillmann	Mary Bartz	Connie Trebesch
April		Mary Bartz	
May	Pam Dittbenner	Mary Bartz	Marcia Derkowski
June	Mickey Meyer	Mary Bartz	Penny Mathiowetz
July	Paula Windschitl	Mary Bartz	Paula Windschitl
August	Char Zimmerman	Juanita Piotter	Char Zimmerman
September	Char Zimmerman	Lisa Hillmann	Char Zimmerman
October	Marilyn Leopold		
November	Lynn Hacker	Pam Dittbenner	Char Zimmerman
December		Mickey Meyer	Mickey Meyer

**WELS Minnesota River Valley Conference
Wise Estate Planning Seminar
Redwood Falls Convention Center
1:30 pm, November 20, 2014**

EVENT REGISTRATION FORM

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Spouse's Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please include a check for \$10 made out to Roger Heller. The fee will defray a portion of the cost for conducting this special event.