



# The St. John's Messenger

Monthly Newsletter

St. John's Lutheran Church & School

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Sleepy Eye, MN 56085

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

Www.lutheransonline.com/lo/stjohnsse or /stjohnsschool



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## A Few Words from Martin Luther on Baptism

In all Christian earnestness I would ask all those who administer baptism, who hold the children, or witness it, to take this wonderful work to heart in all its seriousness. For here, in the words of these prayers, you hear how meekly and earnestly the Christian church concerns itself about the little child and how it confesses before God in plain undoubting words that he is possessed by the devil and is a child of sin and wrath, and prays very diligently for aid and grace through baptism that he may become a child of God.

Remember, therefore, that it is no joke to take sides against the devil and not only to drive him away from the little child, but to burden the child with such a mighty and lifelong enemy. Remember, too, that it is very necessary to aid the poor child with all your heart and strong faith, earnestly to intercede for him that God, in accordance with this prayer, would not only free him from the power of the devil, but also strengthen him, so that he may nobly resist the devil in life and death. And I suspect that people turn out so badly after baptism because our concern for them has been so cold and careless; we, at their baptism, interceded for them without zeal . . . .

See to it, therefore, that you are present in true faith, listen to God's Word, and earnestly join in prayer. For when the priest says, "Let us pray," he is exhorting you to unite with him in prayer. And all sponsors and the others present should repeat with him the words of his prayer in their hearts to God. For this reason the priest should say these prayers very clearly and slowly so that the sponsors may hear and comprehend them and also pray with him with one accord in their hearts, carrying the little child's need before God most earnestly, setting themselves against the devil with all their strength on behalf of the child, and showing that they realize this is no joke as far as the devil is concerned.

For this reason it is right and proper not to permit drunken and boorish priests to baptize or such people to serve as sponsors. But decent, moral, earnest, and pious priests and sponsors ought to be chosen who can be expected to treat the matter with seriousness and true faith, lest the holy sacrament be made a mockery for the devil and an insult to God, who through it showers us with the abundant and infinite riches of his grace. He himself calls it a new birth by which we are being freed from all the devil's tyranny, loosed from sin, death, and hell, and become children of life, heirs of all the gifts of God, God's own children, and brethren of Christ. Ah, dear Christians, let us not value and administer this unspeakable gift so indolently and indifferently; for baptism is our only comfort and admits to every blessing of God and to the communion of all the saints. To this may God help us. Amen.

– Luther's Works, Vol. 53, p. 101

**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]  
B194 IN  
Camp Bucca  
APO AE 09375  
Todd.hammerschmidt@us.army.mil



Members  
in the  
Military

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.**

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



**We are still looking for 4-5 more families/couples to be placed on a rotating schedule for church cleaning.**

Cleaning is estimated to take approximately two hours per week. Our goal is to get enough volunteers so that each family only has to clean the church 3-4 times per year. In the past this has been a paid position. We estimate that volunteers will save the church \$2,000 per year. If you are able to volunteer please add your name to the list in the back of church or call John Mueller at 507-723-6152.

**Faith  
in  
Action**

# Church Council Minutes – August 21, 2007

Present: Leo Derkowski, Van Tallman, John Mueller, Kurk Kramer, Paul Maasz, Jim Mielke, Barry Hillmann and Pastor Draper.

Pastor Draper opened the meeting with devotion and a prayer.

## Minutes

Van Tallman/ Steve Windschitl made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 2007 meeting. Motion carried.

## Pastor's Report

Pastor Draper provided a written report on statistics. Pastor asked the council if his report should be based on the previous month or on the period between Council meetings. Pastor was asked to base his report on the month previous to the Council meeting. Leo Derkowski/John Mueller made a motion to accept the transfer of membership of Pastor Kevin Draper and his family: Sallie, Stanley, Luke and Benjamin Draper. Motion carried.

## Treasurer's Report

John Mueller/Jim Mielke made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

## President's Report

No formal report

## Board of Elders

A written report was submitted by Jim Mielke.

Elders are suggesting that communion be scheduled twice a month, most likely the first and third Sundays of the month, at both services. A formal recommendation will be made at the next Council meeting.

Elder suggest donating hog roast proceeds to English as a Second Language (ESL) (See New Business below) start up and/or organ fund. Voters have given the Elders discretion to select what programs will be supported by the hog roast so no motion was required. The Council is in agreement with the recommendation.

There are still two vacancies on the Board of Elders. Member list has been divided up among existing Elders.

It was requested that the Secretary send a letter to Jason Thom for his donation of work on the parsonage floors and to Dan and Lynn Hacker for their work on the parsonage landscaping.

## Principal & Board of Education

Kurk Kramer submitted a formal report.

Hot lunch process for the 2007-2008 school year will be \$2.50 per child, per meal, for students in grades preschool through three. The cost will be \$2.75 for students in grades four through eight. A second pint of milk will cost \$.25 per carton.

Leo Derkowski/John Mueller made the following motion: St. John's will pay for substitute teachers for all called workers who are summoned to jury duty. The called worker will reimburse St. John's the money they receive for serving as a juror. The called worker will keep any money paid for transportation costs. Motion carried.

## Worship Committee

Pastor Draper stated that in the coming months we will see subtle changes in the worship service, for example, more singing of prayers and responses.

## Maintenance Committee

The school custodians resigned without much prior notice. New custodians have been hired. John is working out hours and duties with them.

Family signups for church cleaning continue. It was suggested that the signup list be put in the narthex of the church for the next few weeks. Families will be assigned cleaning duties for the term of one month. John will be contacting those families who have already signed up. A check list of duties will be prepared.

Phase One of the organ repair will be completed by Friday, August 24, 2007.

Work on the parsonage continues.

## Outreach

Refrigerator magnets will be purchased.

## Stewardship

No formal report.

## Endowment and Trust Fund Committee

No report.

## MVL/WELS

MVL – Kurk Kramer submitted a written report.

WELS – Leo Derkowski is the new synod contact person. He will look into what is required to get on the e-mail/ mailing list from the synod.

## Old Business

A financial audit will be completed before the next quarterly congregational meeting.

Volunteers are still needed to help with the hog roast.

## New Business

Jon Mueller/Leo Derkowski made a motion that the \$100 donation in memory of Joe Diebold be used for children's school bags. Motion carried.

It was suggested that a "thank you" poster be created for the bulletin board in the church basement to recognize those who have made a special contribution to the church through projects or other efforts. The council agreed with the recommendation.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, September 23, 2007 at 7:00 PM** in the Church basement.

Pastor Fischer (MVL) plans to attend the next Council meeting on the suggested date of October 16, 2007. The Council has not yet decided when the October meeting will be held. Pastor Draper will check with Pastor Fischer to see how flexible he can be with his schedule.

Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Leo Derkowski, Secretary

# † Memorials †

**In memory of Bob Carruthers & Arlene Liesenfeld**

To Chair Lift Fund  
Dave & Char Zimmerman – \$10.00

**In memory of Adeline Lange**

To the Organ Fund  
Family & Friends – \$140.00  
David & Rosemary Brosch – \$25.00  
Nick & Diane Roman – \$25.00  
Armin & June Grundmeyer – \$5.00  
Wally & Mary Ann Trebesch – \$5.00

To Ladies Aid  
Family – \$217.00  
Harold & Bev Bartz – \$20.00

**In memory of our brother Joseph L. Deibele who was born on August 4, 1956 and passed away August 21, 1977**

For Children's Bags in back of church – \$100.00  
Connie & Lowell Helget & family  
Jayne & Brian Borth & family  
Tom & Lori Deibele & family  
Jim & Joni Deibele & family



## GIVING OPPORTUNITY

Would you, as a member of St. John's, like to see an additional **\$30,000+** added to our giving contributions? This is not an unattainable goal! How can we do this? If you are a Thrivent member, up to \$300 will be given to St. John's if you make a \$600 contribution to St. John's. Thrivent members have formed a committee and are setting a goal of \$10,000 in matching funds for 2007 and you can help us reach that goal! Since our church has a unified budget your gifts to the church do support our school.

**Giving is easy.**

- **Sign a Giving Plus Form (available in the back of church) only one form needed and will be kept on file in the church office**
- **You can use your weekly giving envelope**
- **Please make your checks out to St. John's School.**
- **Write "MATCH" on it and the church office will take care of the rest.**

Once you have reached \$600 the form will be sent in and Thrivent will send St. John's a check for \$300!  
You can also designate the area you would like your gift to be used in!

Remember each Thrivent member age 16 and older can have their contribution matched.

We will have a kick off to this program on the day of the Hog Roast. Nate Scharlemann will be with us to explain this program and answer any questions you may have regarding this form of matching funds. If you are a Thrivent member we would like you to sign a form that day.

The Redwood Falls School received over \$50,000 in marching funds last year alone. Let's work together to take advantage of this program.

If you have questions at this time please see one of our committee members.

They are: Todd and Jodie Marotz, Dave and Char Zimmermann, Tom and Sue Jensen, Mr. Kurk Kramer

# From the Principal

Here is some thought provoking information I came across on a web site that I thought would be worth sharing as we begin another year.

Many kids experience more intense shyness at the beginning of the school year.

With these tips, you can help your child get more comfortable at school, at home – and with his or her friends.

## 1. **Don't speak for your child.**

Your child may not be comfortable speaking for herself. That doesn't mean you should speak for her. It can be agonizing to watch a child clam up when adults or other kids ask her questions. But it's better to let her struggle a little than to answer for her. When you step in, you tell your child that it's OK for them not to speak to others, and that could make them dependent on you.

## 2. **Don't label your child.**

When your child hears you apologize for him, or call him shy, it could make him more self-conscious. It could also lead others to treat him differently, which could make him withdraw further. The other risk in labeling a child shy is that he could use the label as an excuse for avoiding new situations.

## 3. **Boost your child's confidence.**

Many shy children resist taking chances or trying new things. You can make them more confident and help them to feel better about themselves in general by encouraging them, and praising the skills and talents they've developed.

## 4. **Don't push.**

It's hard to resist the urge to push a shy child into new activities or social situations. But the more you push, the further your child might retreat. A child may excel in her piano lessons. That doesn't mean she's ready to put on a command performance for grandma. If you give her the room, she'll let you know when she is ready.

## 5. **OK, push a little.**

On the other hand, if you never at least gently nudge your shy child into new situations, her development could be hindered. Your child really does want to join in. It's just not as easy for her, and that's why your support is so important. Even if she hangs back, she'll pick up cues by observing how other children interact. But keep an eye out for signs of extreme discomfort and step in if your child appears overwhelmed.

## 6. **Let the teacher help.**

Work with teachers to ease the transition back to school and raise your child's comfort level. Maybe a teacher can subtly pair your child up with a "buddy," or recommend which kids your child might like to play with outside of school. You can also clue the teacher into your child's favorite activities, so he can be called upon to try to take a larger role at those times.

## 7. **Make school less scary.**

When you drop your child off, make a point of letting her see you have friendly conversations with the teacher and other administrators, and explore the classroom with her to find the things she'll enjoy the most.

## 8. **Be prepared.**

There are ways to make parties more comfortable for your child. First, tell him in advance who he'll see, and what will be expected of him. Then, arrive early. It's far easier for a shy child to meet people as they arrive one at a time than to walk into the middle of a full-blown party. If you're the host, give your child a job to do. Bringing a soft drink to everyone will occupy him and get him involved.

## 9. **Make them the leaders.**

Arrange for your child to play with some children a year or two younger. She'll be more likely to try on a leadership role with younger kids, which will go a long way toward developing assertiveness with kids her own age.

## 10. **Make sure it's not about home.**

Some children will develop shyness when there's a major source of stress at home, like their own or a parent's illness, or extreme tension between parents. In these cases, the shyness should ease when the source of stress does. But whenever there's stress at home, be sensitive for signs of withdrawal in your child.

A child becomes extraordinarily agitated in social situations, lashes out, or refuses to make eye contact, and more generally if you feel you're making no progress with your child's social development, there may be more serious concerns, and it may be wise to meet with your pediatrician and/or school psychologist. In such cases, shyness may be a sign of inner anger, fear, or distrust, and the child may not be able to develop needed social skills adequately without professional intervention.

**Kurk K. Kramer**  
Principal