

The St. John's Messenger

St. John's Lutheran Church & School 221 Walnut St. S.E.
Sleepy Eye, MN 56085
Church 794-6202 School 794-6200 Pastor 794-4500
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SEPTEMBER 2012

God Cares, So We Care

My son has Type I diabetes, also known as juvenile onset diabetes. He is dependent on insulin and carries an insulin pump wherever he goes. My wife and I thank our gracious God for the fantastic improvements that have been made in the last several decades in how we deal with diabetes. My son can live a fairly normal life. He can eat and be active like a normal kid as long as he checks his blood sugar level regularly and adjusts the insulin that is pumped into his body accordingly. Less than 100 years ago a child with this kind of diabetes would have a difficult life to live. The slow wear on his body caused by the high blood sugar would mean that he would have a high probability of going blind or losing a limb, and his life expectancy would be drastically lower.

The topic of diabetes and diabetes research suggests an interesting question in connection with the theory of evolution. The basic principal of evolution is that over millions of years life changed in random ways. Some of those changes were good and some were not as good. The good changes stayed as they were reproduced in future generations, while the organisms with less useful or harmful changes would more likely die rather than reproduce. This is called "natural selection."

But what about diabetes? Type I diabetes is partially a genetic problem. That means that a person is more likely to develop diabetes if others in the family have it. So, if human beings really did become the wonderful creatures we are by evolution and natural selection, then why are we spending time and money on research for diabetes and other genetic problems? Aren't we fighting against evolution? Shouldn't we allow "natural selection" to continue to weed out less useful or harmful genetic traits? Wouldn't that allow the human race to evolve into something better?

Yet we as a society continue to do research and continue to help not only children with diabetes, but people with many other genetic conditions. What a happy inconsistency! But why do we do this research? Isn't it because we know inside us that it is the right thing to do? We know we should help others and care about them, even though it contradicts a fundamental principal of evolution. This desire to care for others is evidence that we were created by a loving and caring God who made us to love and care for each other and that we did not evolve through natural selection.

However, the care and concerns human beings have for others is not perfect. Along with the caring acts are sometimes unkind or cruel acts. But I am thankful that God's love for us is perfect . . . even with all our faults, genetic or otherwise! If you want to see his love for us more clearly, look to Christ and his cross. "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

In Christ who Loves Us,
Pastor Draper

St. John's Mission statement:

*The continuing purpose of this congregation is to serve all people in God's world
with the gospel of Jesus Christ on the basis of the Holy Scriptures.*

Presidents Report to St Johns Church Council & Congregation August 2012

His master replied, 'Well done good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' Matthew 25:21

Two of our long time members have recently passed away and they are meeting their reward with our savior Jesus Christ. Millie Maas and Mary Ann Trebesch have been pillars of our congregation here at St John's for many years. Their contributions to their families, friends and our congregation will carry on for a long, long time. They believed in God and the work needed to be done for him here at St Johns and they sought to carry it out. We will miss them but the example they set for us to be followed is exceptional. Pray for the families that they may be able to continue on and trust in the Lord till they meet their loved ones again. Pray that we too are able to be faithful to God, taking care of what he has entrusted us with so that along with trusting in the salvation Jesus Christ has brought us we too will enjoy his happiness.

We continue to look for people to help with the work that needs to be done here at St Johns. At this time our council needs a secretary, the Elders need two more men to serve on their board & the school board will need another member. The finance committee can use another counter of the Sunday offerings. If you cannot help in these positions there are many other projects that can use help. Check with myself or Pastor; let us know what you may be interested in and we can suggest things that could be done.

Dave Silfies is our new stewardship chair. He will be working the role of defining the needs of our congregation and looking for ways to accomplish them through our congregation's time, talents and treasures.

The street project continues on, there have been contractor delays so it may be a time before the work is complete. I appreciate the patience all have had here. Please consider helping out to fund this project. It may not be as glamorous as some things to give to but it is important to the infrastructure here at St Johns.

Work has begun on the preparation of the sprinkler system and fire safety systems needed in the school. This will continue through the school year with most of the actual construction starting after May 15, 2013.

School will start August 21, our summer church schedule ends Labor Day weekend, and the Elders have their Hog Roast scheduled for September 9th. All of our fall activities will soon begin such as choir, Wednesday Bible Study, Sunday school and more. If you haven't been involved in some of these activities, give one a try!

Yours in Christ,

Steve Windschitl
President, St John's Congregation

August 17, 2012

Dear Elders/St. John's Members,

I am planning to take a field/camping trip this fall to Camp Croix in Danbury, WI. The camp is owned by a WELS group. They currently run week-long camps in the summer, but are hoping to expand their operation. The goal is to arrange a three day, two night overnight trip for grades 5-8. We would attend Monday-Wednesday October 15-17. On our way to Camp Croix, we would stop at the North West Fur Company and have tour guides lead us in three 40-minute sessions. We would eat sack lunches there, and then proceed to Camp Croix. At Camp Croix we would have classes in team work, orienteering, canoeing, outdoor survival, cooperative group skills, hiking, singing around the campfire, and geocaching. After our stay at Camp Croix, we would stop at the Hinckley Fire Museum.

Camp Croix has a commercial kitchen, which we will use to make our own food. We are making our own food to help keep the cost of the camp down.

Costs: Staying overnight at Camp Croix 2 nights	\$14.00
Groceries for 5 meals	\$15.00
Gas cost	\$20.00
Fire Museum	\$ 2.00
North West Fur Post	\$ 5.00
Money to purchase food on the trip back	\$ 5.00

This would bring the total to \$61.00 per student. The reason for the camp is to have opportunities to interact with other students, develop social skills, learn more about Minnesota History, and enjoy God's creation of the outdoors.

Currently, we have 12 people attending (chaperones and students). I would like to see donations from the Hog Roast sponsor a majority or even the full cost of the trip. The full cost would be \$732. The most that I would ask my students to pay would be \$18 each. That would bring the donations amount to \$516. I am asking for donations to be given to my class trip and range anywhere between \$516 to \$732.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dan Rick

Church Council Minutes August 14, 2012

Present: Jerry Dittbenner, Jim Mielke, Steve Windschitl, Andy Lochner, Shorty Haus, Dan Rick, Dave Silfies, Dave Zimmerman and Pastor Draper.

Pastor Draper opened the meeting with devotion and a prayer.

Minutes

Dave Zimmerman/Shorty Haus made a motion to approve the July 2012 minutes. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

Pastor reported he is preparing for the picnic in the park worship service and the upcoming school year.

Treasurer's Report

Andy Lochner/Dave Zimmerman made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

President's Report

Written report.

Board of Elders

Jerry Dittbenner/Shorty Haus made a motion to transfer out Spencer & Heather Hammer & family to St. John's Lutheran, New Ulm, Mn. Motion carried.

The hog roast is scheduled for September 9th. Proceeds will be used for grades 5 – 7 camping trip on Oct. 15th to 17th.

Dave Zimmerman/Shorty Haus made a motion to approve the camping trip for Oct. 15-17 for grades 5-7 and the funds from the hog roast to be used for this purpose. Motion carried.

Principal & Board of Education

There was discussion on the new billing service as well as the student handbook revisions. Back-to-School night went well!

Worship Committee

Shorty Haus/Dave Zimmerman made a motion

to continue the summer worship schedule with the addition of adding Sunday School at 10:15 a.m. on Sundays and moving worship service to 7 p.m. with Bible class at 8 p.m. on Monday evenings through the end of October. This will begin with the second Sunday in September. Motion carried.

There was discussion on summer service and attendance. Plans are being made for the upcoming year.

Maintenance Committee

There was discussion on the sprinkling system, the organ repair progress, street repair and the parking lot project.

A "big" thank you to all who helped with clean up days!

Outreach

No report.

Stewardship

There were lots of discussion on the work that needs to be done concerning stewardship within the St. John's congregation and community.

MVL/WELS

No report.

Endowment and Trust Fund Committee

No report.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

No new business.

The next Church Council meeting will be held Thursday, September 13th at 7:30 p.m.

Dave Silfies/Jim Mielke made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Jerry Dittbenner, Acting Secretary

St. John's
Lutheran Church,
Sleepy Eye
Annual Hog Roast

Worship service @ 9am
Bible Study & Sunday School @ 10:15am

Sunday, Sept. 9th
11:15AM

Menu:

Pork in a bun, German potato salad,
beans, chips, pickles, lemonade,
coffee and desserts.



Please join us for a day of faith,
food and fellowship!

Hosanna Circle

August has been a very busy month but a month filled with many blessings. We started the month with our Church picnic on August 5th. The service was held at Sportsman Park and it was a beautiful day by the lake. Games for all followed the service and we had a wonderful Potluck meal. Thank you Stacy and Justin for your help with the little children's games.



August 16th some of our ladies met at church around 8:30 a.m. and baked 40 pies for our Pie Stand in the Park. Several ladies met early in the evening to bake more pies and share some fun and fellowship. Thank you to Judy Draper, Rita Lochner, Marcia Derkowski, Char Zimmerman, Micky Meyer and Paula Windschitl for all your efforts and skills to make this a great success.

August 17th Pies were transported and sold at the Park for Corn Days and we wish to thank the youth group and all the ladies and their helpers for a job well done.



On August 18th St John's had a float in the Parade and again thank you all for your efforts. After the Parade a meal was served and we had an outdoor movie night. The movie was "Time Changer". It was a great Christian movie and a very enjoyable movie with a theme worth spending your time watching. It teaches much about our world and how we view it. Please if you are able, rent or borrow this -it is a MUST SEE MOVIE!!

Hosanna Circle will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, Sept 6th for a joint meeting with the Ladies Aid to kick off a new year for us to glorify our Lord. Please join us if you are able, we would love to have you.

Your Sisters in Christ,
Pam Dittbenner and Connie Tresbesch

Lutheran Women's Missionary Society

Our Befriend a Mission partners in Hong Kong and New York City have special days to celebrate in September. If you have a moment, would you consider sending a note of encouragement to them?

On September 6th, Steven Witte will celebrate a birthday. He is a missionary at the Asia Lutheran Seminary in Hong Kong. You can mail a card to him at:

Asia Lutheran Seminary
Steven Witte
8/FL., Chun Hoi Commercial Building
688 Shanghai Street
Mong Kok, Kowloon
Hong Kong

Remember to have your envelope checked at the Post Office for proper postage; and do NOT write the title of "Pastor" Missionary" or "Reverend" etc on the envelope.

Also, Home Missionary Dan Olson's daughter, MacKensie, will celebrate her 4th birthday on September 8th. Pastor Olson serves at Sure Foundation in New York City.
Her address is:

MacKensie Olson
5021 61st St.
Woodside, NY 11377-5829

I would like to extend thanks to any of you who have sent cards or notes to our missionary families. Every little bit of encouragement is always appreciated ☺. They lead a busy life; if you do not hear back from them, please do not be discouraged. Your prayers for the work they do to serve the Lord and for their families are very important.

God's blessings to each of you as you serve Him in your role as a steward in our congregation.

Paula Windschitl
LWMS Reporter



Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid met on Wednesday, August 1st at 2:00 p.m. President Marlys Lochner presided. Pastor Draper led us in our devotion, Ephesians 3:1-13. These verses told of the Apostle Paul's work which was to preach the mystery of God's plan of salvation.

Our chair fund has a total of \$56.00 as of this date.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to pay for 5 copies of the large print meditation booklets at \$18.50 a subscription, a total of \$92.50.

We received a letter from East Fork Lutheran School with a little history of their school and thanking us for our past support.

Rita Lochner has accepted the office of Vice President, replacing Mary Ann Trebesch. Thank you Rita! Many thanks to Mary Ann for her many years of giving her time and talents to the Ladies Aid.

Block 2 served the lunch for Mildred Maas' funeral on July 18th.
Block 3 served for the Mary Ann Trebesch funeral on August 15th. Block 4 is up to serve.

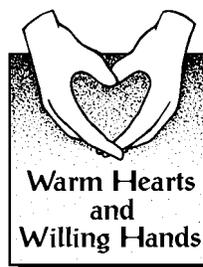


Our next meeting will be a joint meeting with the Hosanna Circle on Thursday, September 6th at 7:00 p.m. Come join us!

Marilyn Deibele, Secretary

Canvassing Opportunity

NEEDED:



We are invited to join others from the MN Valley Chapter of WELS Kingdom Workers in canvassing with St. Paul's of North Mankato on Saturday, **September 8th** from 10AM-2:30PM. The day involves training, canvassing, lunch, more canvassing, and wrap-up. No experience is necessary. I had a first experience with WKW canvassing in July, and found it an enjoyable, worthwhile experience. Observing the other participants, I do believe that everyone who participated found it a satisfying mission outreach opportunity. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Roger Knepprath at 507-345-7049 or stpaulsnorthmankato.com

Marcia Derkowski, WKW Volunteer Coordinator

Memorials

In Memory of Dorothy Haus

St. John's School

Mickey Meyer - \$10
Laurie Halvorson - \$15

Ladies Aid

Delbert & Eunice Sandhoefner - \$10

Street Repair

Dave & Char Zimmerman - \$5
Beverly Bartz - \$10
Brad & LeAnn Berkner - \$10
Marlys Lochner - \$10
Andrew & Rita Lochner - \$10
Jim & Joyce Bloemke - \$5
Arno & Orpha Lendt - \$5
Lorna Havemeier - \$10

In Memory of Richard Siegler

Street Repair

Dave Jensen Family - \$200

In Memory of Arlene Jensen

Street Repair

Dave Jensen Family - \$1,000

In Memory of Mildred Maas

Ladies Aid

Delbert & Eunice Sandhoefner - \$20
Greg & Mary Bartz - \$25
Bev Bartz - \$25
Shorty & Mary Jayne Haus - \$10
Roger & Marsha Marti - \$20
Linus & Marilyn Deibele - \$10
Don & Laurie Halvorson - \$25
Mike & Barb Lux - \$10
Dorothy Shellum - \$5
Marlys Lochner - \$10
Harill & Eileen Schroeder - \$5
Armin & Leona Lendt - \$5
Family & Friends - \$30

Street Repair

Dennis & Pam Dittbenner - \$15
Chuck & Deloris Menk - \$10
Dave & Char Zimmerman - \$5
Kevin & Marilyn Leopold - \$10
Pastor & Sallie Draper - \$25
Jim & Joyce Bloemke - \$10
Al & Hazel Maasz - \$10
Melvin & Lois Lendt - \$10
Matt & Chris Steffen - \$5
Family & Friends - \$10

St. John's School

Richard & Connie Trebesch - \$10
Donald Steffen - \$10
Steve & Mickey Meyer - \$10
Joleen Huiras - \$10
Prof. Ron & Karen Shilling - \$10
Tom & Lisa Plath - \$25
June Grundmeyer - \$10
Bob & Liz Hennenthal - \$25
Marc & Kathy Patton - \$20
Jon & Doreen Ziesemer - \$20
Pastor J.D. & Rosie Liggett - \$25
Jon & Pam Melby - \$25
Barry Hillmann Family - \$10
Earl & Bev Altmann - \$10
Layne Evers Family - \$10
Marc & Sue Radel - \$100
Gary & Jayne Radel - \$50
Dave & Carol Jacobson - \$30
Family & Friends - \$90

St. John's Church

Leo & Marsha Derkowski - \$20
Arla Lehnert - \$10
Arnie & Arlene Hinderman - \$10
Andy & Rita Lochner - \$15
Vern & Betty Hinrichs - \$20
Alda Rydin - \$20
Family & Friends - \$50

St. John's Choir

Penny & Ken Mathiowetz - \$10
Dan & Lynn Hacker - \$10

New School Building Fund

Steve & Paula Windschitl - \$25