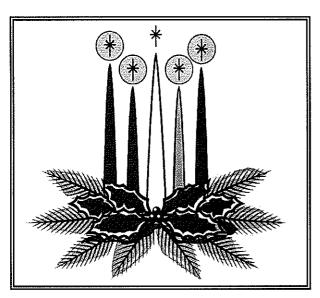
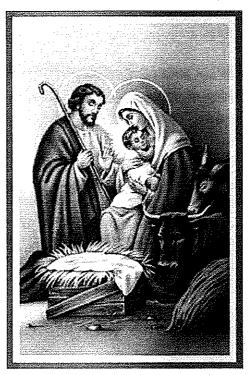
# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS, FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

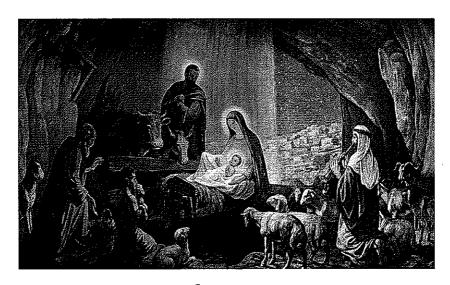
December 24 & 31, 2017



4th Sunday of Advent



Holy Family



Christmas

## **NEW PRAGUE AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**

Three Sites of Worship, One Faith Community

Including St. Wenceslaus & The Western Catholic Community of St. John the Evangelist and St. Scholastica

#### We welcome you...

Welcome to the greater New Prague Area Catholic Community which includes the Church of St. Wenceslaus and the Western Catholic Community of St. John the Evangelist and St. Scholastica. We are happy you are here. Should you be visiting just for today, WELCOME! If you are seeking a church home, we would be honored to have you consider joining our faith community. If you are interested in a membership, please phone the parish office for assistance and registration. If you are over the age of 21, we ask that you register. Please feel free to stop by the parish office during office hours to register or you may do so online. Again, we are happy you are here.

#### At the Church of St. Wenceslaus

#### **PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday - Friday 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

#### **MASS SCHEDULE**

Weekend Masses	
Saturday	5:00 pm
Sunday	8:30 & 10:30 am
Morning Word & Communion	
Monday & Tuesday	8:00 am
Weekday Masses	
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday	8:00 am

#### **SACRAMENTS & OTHER INFORMATION**

#### **Anointing of the Sick**

Available to those who are seriously ill or suffering from a prolonged illness. Call 952-758-3225

#### Confirmation

Preparation required. Call 952-758-5131

#### Reconciliation

Saturdays at 4 pm in the church.

#### **Baptism**

Preparation required, Call 952-758-3225

#### Marriage

Six months to one year preparation time required. Call 952-758-3225

#### Rosary

Monday - Friday 7:30 am & Saturday 8:00 am in the church.

#### Fatima Prayer Cell

Monday - Wednesday after 8 am service in the chapel.

#### Adoration

Friday 9:00 am to midnight in the chapel

#### **Early Morning Scripture Study**

Wednesday 6:45 to 7:50 am - Pius X Room in church basement.

#### Fr. Kevin's Bible Study

Saturdays  $9:30\ to\ 11\ am$  - Pius X Room in church basement.

#### **Prayer Chain**

Judy: 952-758-2220 or Arnita: 952-758-4943

#### From the Desk of Father Kevin

#### **Remembering JOSEPH at Christmas**

Of course, seeing in our mind's eye the Madonna and Child is certainly central to the feast of Christmas. After all, it was Mary's "yes" that brought about the personal infusion of God into the human condition. But what about Joseph! He is often in the picture of the Holy Family-but usually in the background.

The incarnation was first expressed by God becoming one of us-a human flesh and blood individual. But human beings aren't just a blob of biology. All of us are born into human communities and social networks that shape us and powerfully influence the agendas and the directions of our lives. So it was for Jesus. His coming did not avoid being born into the human condition of a time and place in history. 2,000 years ago there were national customs and traditions as well as family roles and routines that people lived in. Joseph and Mary certainly knew and practiced family routines and roles of their time. But they also knew that the hand of God is always present in the day-to-day affairs of human beings. God engages each human being right where they are and graces the human condition with His presence in all circumstances. Believing that and knowing that, Joseph and Mary lived in and moved within their human condition-knowing that each human life is graced by God.

Working with and going beyond the basic requirements of religion, allowed Christ to be born and grow in wisdom and age. Joseph took a pregnant Mary into his home rather than terminating the relationship as Jewish custom would have supported. Few people in his community would have counseled Joseph to take Mary home and raise her child as his own. A nice man would have quietly concluded the relationship. Joseph was not a nice man. He proved himself to be a holy one when he made the radical choice to do what God wanted, rather than an easier way accepted and supported by others.

We think of Joseph's decision as a single decision that he lived with for the rest his life. Actually as husband of Mary and step-father to God's son, he had to keep making decisions for God's will over his own, every day for the rest of his life. For example, Joseph chose to become a refugee in taking his whole family to safety when Herod began a campaign of destruction. Joseph chose to abandon the familiarity of his country, his relatives, and his business. He never returned to Judea, but resettled later in Galilee to protect his family. He lived attentive to heaven's requirements and was not slavish to human laws, social expectations, or personal preferences. To be the head of a household that included Mary and Jesus, Joseph had to be a spiritual and discerning man indeed.

We are the Josephs of the 21st century. We too advance the mission of Jesus by discerning and doing the will of God. We too create a time and space where Jesus is incarnate in our own human lives. Jesus was first born centuries ago into the care of Joseph and Mary. His presence continues when the incarnation of Christ happens in human condition of our own lives. This is the profound truth Christians celebrate at Christmas. It is the profound meaning of "God is with us".

Merry Christmas!

Fr. Kevin Clinton

Pastor

New Prague Area Catholic Community

## Western Catholic Community

#### From the Desk of Deacon Bob

Christmas, for those experiencing loss(es) in their lives, can be a very difficult time to endure. I see this in the lives of those going through separation and divorce and those grieving the death of a loved one. The loneliness can feel oppressive. For others, the busyness and demands of the season can also be burdensome. In these instances, there is a temptation to mouth the words Scrooge muttered in Dicken's <u>A Christmas Carol</u>. Scrooge says that the next person greeting him with Merry Christmas should be boiled in his own pudding and buried with a stake of holly through his heart. This sentiment of Scrooge may ring familiar to those undergoing stress this Christmastide.

However, I would suggest that instead of harboring the "humbug" of Scrooge, witty in its own cynical way, we, instead, put into practice the words we hear from the prophet Isaiah in the first reading on Christmas Day. "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of those who bring glad tidings, announcing peace, bearing good news, announcing salvation, and saying to Zion, "Your God is King!"

It is easy to overlook the darkness in the lives of the Jewish people at the first Christmas. They were an oppressed people whose country was occupied by a foreign power. Mary and Joseph were coerced to make the arduous journey to Bethlehem at the whim of the Roman Emperor who ordered a census of his territories. The Jewish people were in need of hearing "good news." The angels fulfilled this need with the Good News of Jesus' birth. When Jesus matured, he shared the Good News of God's love and compassion to the castoffs and desperate of Judea. Upon Jesus' Ascension into heaven, the Apostles and their successors continued to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to all the world.

For those of us who find ourselves in darkness, may we put away the boiling pudding and stakes of holly, and open our hearts to the peace and joy of the Angels' Christmas message. For those of us who are God's messengers this Christmas, may we gently share by our presence the Good News of God's love and compassion to those overburdened by loss. How beautiful, indeed, are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of God's love to all.

# Deacon Bob Wagner Pastoral Associate New Prague Area Catholic Community

#### Mass Schedule Volunteers - St. John's & St. Scholastica

Dec. 30 & 31, 2017 Jan. 6 & 7, 2018	Saturday St. John's 8:15 PM	Sunday St. Scholastica 8:00 AM	Sunday St. John's 10:00 AM
Lector	Carol Weiers ~ Sandy Kubes	Kay Schanus ~ Jon Estabrooks	Danielle Solheid ~ Amy Lemke
Eucharistic Ministers	Sandy Kubes ~ Carol Weiers	Marlene Dohmen, Geraldine Odenthal & Jenna Heimer Ted Odenthal, Becky Colwell & Kevin Odenthal	Lori Wooten, Amy Lemke & Jill Holden ~ Jill Holden, Megan Giesen & Dave Webb
Servers	Mitchel & Hunter Pomije ~ Craig & Katelynn Brezina	Lydia Schmitz & Leo Pexa	Brenna & Samantha Soiheid, Katelynn & Craig Brezina ~ Gloria, Owen & Sylvia Lemke, Teagan Lambrecht
Gift Bearer Family		Mary Lou Kroyer Family ~ Anne Meger Family	Tim Lemke Family ~ Tom Fahey Family

#### **Important Information**

#### **Weekend Masses**

8:15 pm	St. John's
8:00 am	St. Scholastica
10:00 am	St. John's
5:00 pm	St. John's
5:00 pm	St. Scholastica
day of the month	า ~
are at 4:00 pm	
	8:00 am10:00 am5:00 pm5:00 pm day of the month

#### **SACRAMENTS & OTHER INFORMATION**

#### Reconciliation

Wednesday	4:30 pm	St. John's
Thursday	5:30 pm	St. Scholastica

#### **Baptism & Confirmation**

Preparation required, Call Fr. Dave Barrett

#### **Anointing of the Sick**

Call Fr. Dave Barrett

#### Marriage

Prep required. Call Fr. Dave Barrett

#### Adoration

Fridays 9:00 am to midnight at St. Wenceslaus Daily Chapel

#### **WESTERN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OFFICE**

20087 Hub Drive, New Prague 56071 952-758-4642

#### Rev. Dave Barrett

**Regional Associate Pastor** 

952-758-0469 (O) 651-470-0970 (C) Dave.Barrett@npcatholic.org

#### - uvotautione inpountion

Deacon Bob Wagner Pastoral Associate

952-758-3225 (O) 612-703-0808 (C)

Bob.Wagner@npcatholic.org

#### Hall Rental:

Patty Giesen 952-758-3008 or email: kpgiesen@bevcomm.net

#### Prayer Chain WCC

wyer chain trees	
Carol Bauer	952-873-6769
Noreen Giesen	952-758-2608
Mariene Dohmen	952-492-6879

Bulletin E-mail: info@npcatholic.org Website: http://www.npcatholic.org

#### **PARISH AND AREA NEWS**

#### Christmas Day Schedule Monday, December 25

9:00 am	Mass – SS
10:30 am	.Mass – SW

#### Solemnity of Mary Schedule Monday, January 1

#### **Adoration Closed**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be closed on Fri., 12/29, to allow scheduled adorers time off to travel. Adoration will re-open the 1st Friday in January.

#### **IMPORTANT** ~ Parish Pictorial Directory

Our parish pictorial directory is going to print soon. We will be publishing a parish roster with registered families' names, addresses, and the phone number we have on record. If your phone number/address has changed since you registered or you do not want that information published, please call or email the parish office, (952) 758-3225 or <a href="mailto:lisa.leverson@npcatholic.org">lisa.leverson@npcatholic.org</a>. Also, any child age 25 and older will not be listed in the directory if you did not have a photo taken with them.

#### **Area Separated & Divorce Support Group**

Area Separated & Divorce Support Group will meet Tues., Jan. 2nd & 16th, 7-8:30 pm, in the Parish Office Building. The topic will be "What Gives You Inner Strength?". If you or a loved one is experiencing the loss of a long-term relationship, married or unmarried, you may desire to connect with this group since they understand what you are going through at this time in your life. Questions? Please call Deacon Bob Wagner at (952) 758-0463 or Mary Pieper at (952) 873-6781.

#### **Bulletin Board Honoring Our Military**

In the back of church, there is a bulletin board display regarding local military currently serving and/or deployed. This is a way for our parishioners to keep these individuals and their families in your thoughts and prayers. Others interested to include your loved one on this display, contact Helen Hartman at 758-3842 or Mary Pieper at (952) 873-6781.

## Do you have a loved one who is ill or homebound?

If you or a family member are ill or homebound and would like our parish pastoral staff to call, visit, bring



communion, or send a card, please call the parish office at 758-3225. You can ask for prayer for your intentions on the parish prayer chain by calling Judy (758-2220) or Arnita (758-4943) for St. Wenceslaus and Jackie (758-3465), Noreen (758-2608) or Marlene (492-6879) for the WCC.

#### **Environment Worship Committee**

The Environment Worship Committee here at St. Wenceslaus is looking for additional people to join this important ministry. This committee is responsible for helping the church community celebrate the changing of liturgical seasons by creating an inviting and prayerful environment. They meet five times a year and are responsible for preparing the church for Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Holy Week. If you are interested in getting more involved (behind the scenes) here at St. Wenceslaus, this committee is for you! Please contact Lisa in the Parish Office if you are interested. Thank you so much for your consideration!

He became human... like you

#### **Discipleship Corner**

Why is it so important to have a personal relationship with Jesus?

Up until my late 20's, my faith wasn't important to me. At 30, I had a desire to learn more about our Catholic faith and, as time went on, developed a deeper relationship with Jesus. At times, I think back on how dark and lonely life was for me before I developed that relationship. Knowing that you can rely on Jesus to help bear your burdens has led to my life being more peace-filled and joyful. ~ Lisa

#### **Worldwide Marriage Encounter**

"Yet, O LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter; we are all the work of your hands." As we begin the waiting of advent, let us strive to become the work of his hands by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next weekends are Feb. 9-11 and May 4-6 in Buffalo, MN. For more information, call

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WINE: Women In the New Evangelization

invites women of all ages to the WINE: Catholic Women's Conference. It will be held 9:30 am-3:30 pm on Sat.. Feb. 10th, at Mary, Mother of the Church in Burnsville. The theme, Hope: An Anchor for the Soul, is inspired by Saint Philomena's example and Pope Francis' invitation to fight against enemies of hope (like discouragement and negativity) in order to shine as beacons of hope to those we encounter. The day includes inspirational talks by Sr. Ann Shield; Bible Study Evangelista Sonja Corbitt: and Catholic musician and storyteller Jaime Thietten. In addition, a delicious lunch, adoration, opportunities to pray with prayer teams, shopping, confession, and chocolate will round out the day. All are welcome to stay for 4 pm Mass with Archbishop Bernard Hebda. Attending the WINE: Catholic Women's Conference is the perfect way to prepare for Lent, which begins the week after the conference. Registration is \$55 before Jan. 10th and \$65 afterward. For more information and to register, visit www.CatholicVineyard.com and select the EVENTS tab.

#### 9th Annual "Blankets Because We Care" Drive

Please help us keep our brothers and sisters warm this winter. Please drop gently used or new blankets, coats, hats, mittens, or hygiene items (toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo etc) in the bin located in the back of church through Jan.19th. Any monetary donations will be used to buy fleece to make additional blankets and/or a cash donation to Sharing and Caring Hands and the Children's Hospital of Minneapolis. We would also be happy to pick up any donations up as well...just call! (952-457-9877). Donations will be accepted through January 19th. Thanks so much for your generosity and God Bless!

#### **Knights of Columbus BINGO**

Come join the fun every Tuesday evening October through April at the KC Hall in New Prague. Two warm-up games start at 7 pm with 16 regular games. Lunch and refreshments are available. Call (952) 758-3578 or (952) 758-3656 with questions.

#### Reminder from Greater Minnesota Gas, Inc.

With heating season upon us, Greater Minnesota Gas, Inc. (GMG) would like to remind residential homeowners or renters of the Energy Assistance Program (EAP). This federally funded program helps pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs for income-qualified households. Please contact your location EAP Service Provider to apply. For help finding your local EAP provider, call 1-800-657-3710. Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2018, to be processed for benefits for the 2017-2018 program year. You can find more information online at the Minnesota Department of Commerce website at: <a href="https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/">https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/</a>.

## FAITH FORMATION AND YOUTH MINISTRY

**Wednesday Night Disciples of Christ** 

Reminder that we do not have class on Wed., Jan. 3rd. It is our night to honor our wonderful catechists. Catechists ~ please remember to go on Wufoo to register for this supper and speaker that is just...for... you!

#### A Few Volunteers?

We could use a few more volunteers to help with the Catechist Appreciation supper. If you have a few hours to share with all of us, we'd love your help on Jan. 3rd. We could use help from about 6-8 pm. Call Laura at (952) 758-5131 to volunteer. Thank you!

## Youth Ministry Events Save the Date:

Coming soon this spring! Senior Youth Alive Retreat. February 17-18! Camp Victory! **New This Year:** 

Junior Youth Alive Service Retreat! Urban Immersion Service Retreats in the heart of Minneapolis April 13-15.

Contact Pamela for more information, (952) 758-0477 or Pamela. Sherlock@npcatholic.org.

# SWS

### **SCHOOL NEWS from SWS**

"Fill The Funnel" with Endowment Fund Donations

Please consider a <u>Year-End Tax</u> <u>Deductible Donation</u> to the SWS

School Endowment Fund. The school endowment helps provide financial support <u>year after year</u> with contributions earned through the endowment investments with Catholic Community Foundation.

Please send donations to:

SWS School 227 East Main New Prague, MN 56071 Donations Today!

SWS Kids Benefit Every

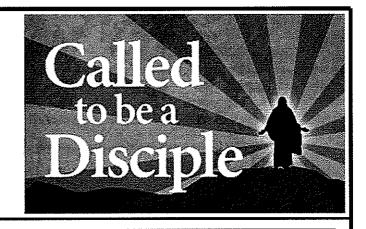
Questions:

(952) 758-3133, Kim Doyle, Principal or (612) 384-6170, Tom Chromy, Chairman of SWS Endowment Board of Directors

# WESTERN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY St. John's & St. Scholastica

Christmas Day Schedule Monday, December 25

# New Prague Area Catholic Community Member! You have been...



What: A Lenten Series on Discipleship

When: Feb. 18 until March 24, 2018.

How: There will be small groups meeting once each week during the five week period over Lent! Sign ups will be available after Christmas.

More: Watch for the Search for Support launch after Christmas. We will be searching for volunteers to fill various roles to make the Lenten Series successful!

Roles will include:

- Site Host/Hostess
- Small group facilitators; training will be provided.

### SAVE THE DATES!

Lenten Series Kick Off Event
February 11, 2018
6 p.m. Mass, 7 p.m. event.
Search for Support
January 2018
Lenten Series on Discipleship
Feb 18 - March 24, 2018

growing toge her

Our New Prague Area Catholic Community parish mission:

We are a Catholic community forming disciples of Jesus Christ dedicated to loving God through our worship, sharing the Good News, and loving service to others.

A key to discipleship is developing a personal relationship with Jesus and being willing to invite others into a deeper relationship with Jesus through our words and actions. Starting in Lent, our Catholic Community will be offering a very special Lenten Series on Discipleship! Over the coming months Search for Support will start for this discipleship initiative. We ask that you prayerfully respond to both support and attend this special Lenten Series on Discipleship!

#### **LITURGIES & MASS INTENTIONS**

INCLUDES ALL CHURCH LOCATIONS WEEK OF DEC. 25, 2017 - JAN. 7, 2018
. Monday, December 25 - Christmas Day
9:00 am Mass – SS
10:30 am Mass - SW
Tuesday, December 26
8:00 amWord & Communion - SW
Wednesday, December 27
8:00 am Mass – SW
Thursday, December 28
8:00 am Mass – SW
Friday, December 29
8:00 amWord & Communion – SW
Saturday, December 30
3:00 pmConfessions – SW
4:00 pmBonnie Busch Marthaler, Beverly
Pomije, Joseph & Emma Rybak,
Joseph & Mary Ryback, Sr.,
Grace Anna Dols – Mass – SW
8:15 pm
5,75 p
Sunday, December 31 - Holy Family
8:00 am Marcella Kaufenberg – Mass – SS
8:30 amDennis Skluzacek – Mass – SW
10:00 amJoe & Marcella Koenig – Mass ~ SJ
10:30 am Dr. James O'Rourke – Mass – SW
10.30 am Dr. James O Routke - Mass - 3W
Monday, January 1 - Solemnity of Mary
10:30 am Evelyn Ambroz – Mass – SW
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
Tuesday, January 2
8:00 amWord & Communion - SW
Wednesday, January 3
8:00 amRosella Riesgraf – SWS Mass – SW
8:00 amRosella Riesgraf – SWS Mass – SW
Thursday, January 4
-
Thursday, January 4
Thursday, January 4 8:00 am
<b>Thursday, January 4</b> 8:00 amMass – SW
Thursday, January 4 8:00 am

10:00 am.....Rosella Riesgraf – Mass – SJ

10:30 am..... Mass - SW

11:45 am......Baptisms – SW

#### STAFF DIRECTORY NEW PRAGUE AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

#### Rev. Kevin Clinton

Pastor

952-758-3225

Kevin.Clinton@npcatholic.org

Rev. Dave Barrett

Regional Associate Pastor

952-758-0469

Dave.Barrett@npcatholic.org

**Deacon Bob Wagner** 

Pastoral Associate 952-758-0463

Bob.Wagner@npcatholic.org

Mary Higgins

Pastoral Ministry Associate

952-758-0464

Mary.Higgins@npcatholic.org

Peter Guzulaitis

Parish Business Administrator

952-758-0465 Peter.Guzulaitis@npcatholic.org

**Ruth Weinandt** 

Parish Accountant

952-758-0466

Faith Formation Assistant

952-758-0486

Ruth.Weinandt@npcatholic.org

Laura Schoenecker

Faith Formation Director

Pre-K throuah Adult

952-758-5131

Laura.Schoenecker@npcatholic.org

**Pamela Sherlock** 

Youth Ministry & Confirmation Coordinator

952-758-0477

Pamela.Sherlock@npcatholic.org

#### ST. WENCESLAUS MEETINGS & **EVENTS CALENDAR**

WEEK OF DEC. 25, 2017 - JAN. 7, 2018

Dec. 25, 2017-Jan. 1, 2018 - No School Monday, Dec. 25: Parish Office Closed

Wednesday, Dec. 27: Early Morning Scripture Study, 7-8 am - Parish Office Dining Room

Thursday, Dec. 28: Men's Group, 6:30-8 pm

- Parish Office Upper Parlor

WINE Book Club, 6:30-8 pm

- Faith Formation Office

Saturday, Dec. 30: Fr Kevin's Scripture Review, 8:30-10:30 am - Pius X Room, CB

Sunday, Dec. 31: Children's Liturgy of the

Word at 8:30 and 10:30

Masses - SW Chapel

Monday, Jan. 1: Parish Office Closed Tuesday, Jan. 2: Separated & Divorce Support

Group, 6:45-8:30 pm - Deacon Bob's Office Wednesday, Jan. 3: Early Morning Scripture

Study, 7-8 am - Parish Office Dining Room Catechist Appreciation Night, 6-8 pm - PAC

Thursday, Jan. 4: FID Facilitator - Host Training, 6:30-8:30 pm - Parish Activities Center Foyer

Friday, Jan. 5: Adoration, 9 am-midnight - Daily Chapel

Sunday, Jan. 7: Children's Liturgy of the Word at 8:30 and 10:30 Masses

Confirmation Class, 8:45-11:30 am - Campus Wide

#### WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Please look for the daily scripture readings at: http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings

#### Kim Dovle

St. Wenceslaus School Principal 952-758-3133

Kim.Doyle@swsaints.org

#### Jolene Busch

Preschool Director

952-758-0480

Jolene.Busch@swsaints.org

#### **Debbie Gregor**

Director of Liturgical Music at SW

952-758-4207

Debbie.Gregor@npcatholic.org

#### Lisa Leverson

Parish Administrative Assistant

952-758-3225

Lisa.Leverson@npcatholic.org

#### PARISH BUSINESS OFFICE

215 Main St E. New Prague, MN 56071 PH 952-758-3225 FAX 952-758-2960

#### **FAITH FORMATION OFFICE**

On campus in Parish Activity Center ST. WENCESLAUS SCHOOL

227 Main St E. New Prague, MN 56071 PH 952-758-3133 FAX 952-758-2958

LITTLE SPIRITS PRESCHOOL

On campus of SWS ~ 1950's building 952-758-0480

#### MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

952-758-2327

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Annie Peters

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#### Date:

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Winner: Lori Seurer

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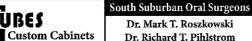
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