

St. John's Church

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St. John's Messenger May/June/July 2000

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REFLECTIONS

Memories and Mother

When Mother came to our room
To tuck us in at night,
Her face would look so gentle
In the soft, bedside light.

And though we may not always
Have behaved our best that day,
She'd let us know she loved us
In a very special way;
An extra fold to the covers,
A little pat, a hug
And we'd settle down to dreamland,
Feeling safe and snug.

And of all the childhood memories
That there have ever been,
We love best to recall the times
When Mother tucked us in.

Submitted by LeaEtte Peters

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!



Have you decided what to plant in your garden this spring? Think about this while you're planning what you want to harvest from your garden....

Your Millennium Garden

Plant three rows of peas:
Peace of mind
Peace of heart
Peace of soul.

Plant four rows of squash:
Squash gossip
Squash indifference
Squash grumbling
Squash selfishness.

Plant four rows of lettuce:
Lettuce be faithful
Lettuce be kind
Lettuce be happy
Lettuce really love one another.

No garden should be without turnips:
Turnip for service when needed
Turnip to help one another
Turnip the music and dance.

Water freely with patience and
Cultivate with love.

Your garden is abundant, because you
reap what you sow.

To conclude our garden we must have
thyme:

Thyme for fun
Thyme for rest
Thyme for ourselves.

Pretty nice garden, don't you think?

*Submitted by LeaEtte Peters
and Genise Quast*

CHICKEN SOUP FOR ST. JOHN'S SOUL

Baby Lambs Visit Members of St. John's LeaEtte, Roxanne, Tipsy and Moe (Tipsy and Moe are bottle-fed lambs) went for a visit at Long Term Health Care Center in Glencoe. It was great to see Clarence back in Glencoe so that he and Rosie can spend more time together. I think that Clarence really enjoyed having the lambs come right to his room for a visit.

Elmer is still talking about the lambs that came to visit. Elmer enjoyed holding the lambs and showing them to the other residents. (The picture at right shows Elmer with Tipsy.)



Elmer Peters, Rosie & Clarence Ziemer with Nibbles and Hoppity

LeaEtte and Roxanne went back for another visit at Glencoe Health Care Center just before Easter. This time we brought Angora rabbits. The rabbit Clarence was holding snuggled in and almost fell asleep while Elmer fed his rabbit a whole carrot. Elmer suggested any more new babies born could come for a visit too.

If you get a chance, stop and visit some of our shut-ins. You will enjoy the visit as much as they do!

Submitted by Roxanne Sladek

A True Story about a Good Samaritan

About a week ago, my family and I went to Pizza Hut. As we were waiting for our pizza, the kids were busy watching the video machines, and I noticed a mom and two young girls. The girls were already enjoying their pizza, but the mother seemed very distracted. She kept walking out trying to call someone. This went on for about 15 minutes, then a middle-aged couple walked up to them as if they knew her. As she talked to them, she started to cry, explaining something. I finally figured out that she had locked her keys in the car, was from out of town, and spent the last of her money at Pizza Hut. As our family walked out, I asked the man, "Did you do a good deed?" He replied, "Yeah, I guess, (either) I bring her all the way home or I pay for a locksmith." All this time I thought they knew her, but they didn't. What a "Couple" of Good Samaritans.

Submitted by Jodi Sancken

PASTOR'S NOTES

Opportunity Knocks

There are times when we wonder if we can make an impact for God through our lives and our church ministry. We see the great needs in our world and feel so insignificant and unimportant. In times like this, we sometimes fail to see the opportunities that God has provided in our present life situation.

First, we fail to see that we are gifted by God to be His servants. Every person who has placed his/her faith in Jesus Christ is gifted by the Holy Spirit to be used by God for His work. Some gifts seem so evident and important: pastors, missionaries, evangelists, or church leaders. Yet the Bible teaches that every gift is important to God. The one who helps and the one who encourages are as important as the church leader with an international reputation.

We also fail to see the opportunity that sits at the doorstep of our church. No county in the United States has shown an increase in the number of Christian believers in the last ten years. The population of unchurched people in our nation is increasing at an alarming rate. Today, 50-60% of people don't go to church. Every church has a mission field within a 5-mile radius of their location.

So, opportunity knocks for every church in America. Opportunity for outreach and growth. Opportunity for strengthening the people of God for the work of Jesus Christ. Opportunity knocks for St. John's Church today. God wants the church to be alive with the love of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit to reach the people in Biscay, Hutchinson, Glencoe and everywhere in between.

May God bless you as He leads you to do His work.

In the Lord,

Ron Hamilton,
CCCC Area Representative for the Upper Midwest



*THIS PARTICULAR PASTORAL SELECTION COMMITTEE
WAS KNOWN FOR ITS THOROUGHNESS.*

COMMITTEE UPDATES

DENOMINATION SEARCH UPDATE

Since the last newsletter, St. John's has selected a new denomination affiliation. Representatives from both the Evangelical Covenant Church and the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference (CCCC or 4C's) have spoken to the congregation and answered our questions. A congregational meeting was held on March 12th, and the congregation voted to leave the UCC and join the CCCC. (See meeting notes on page 7 for details of the meeting).

The UCC was contacted and they granted our request to break ties with them. Pastor David McMahill express sadness in our wanting to leave, but was working to complete the process as gracefully as possible. Their official vote took place on April 8th.

We have also contacted the CCCC and have begun the process of joining with them. Pastor Ron Hamilton (who spoke to the congregation on Feb 29th, and who wrote the "Pastor's Notes" for this edition of the *Messenger*) has expressed that he is excited about our church becoming a part of their fellowship. He said the process will likely be complete by June. He welcomes us to send representatives to the Annual Meeting in Green Lake Wisconsin when we can formally be accepted into the denomination. In the meantime, we are welcome to take advantage of any of the CCCC services (like VBS and Sunday School materials, Hymnals, Pastor placement, scholarships, etc.). The CCCC has already listed our need for a pastor in the bimonthly publication called the "Foresee".

Submitted by Celine Swift

PASTOR SEARCH UPDATE

The pastor search committee has met and begun the search process for a permanent part-time pastor. Pastor Ron Hamilton from the CCCC came to meet with us and give us support and suggestions.

We are in the early stages of spreading the word that we need a pastor. We have posted flyers at Crown College and Bethel College, and have put an ad in the Christian Chronicle. We are also trying to spread the word by "networking". We have made up 3x5 cards of the job description, and we are handing them out to area pastors and asking them to pass them on to anyone who might be interested. *(If you know of someone who might know someone who might be interested in being our pastor, see a committee member for a job description card. Let's all help spread the word!)*

We are also speaking with the Brownton and Norwood CCCC churches to see if there might be some pastor sharing opportunities. Pastor Ron is looking into opportunities with seminary students at Bethel College. We have a goal of having a permanent pastor by the end of summer.

Please remember to keep the Pastor Search Committee - Dave Sanken, Julie Karl, Cory Garoutte, Denny Schwanke, Celine Swift, LeaEte Peters -in your prayers.

Submitted by Celine Swift

KID'S KORNER

Get Ready for Vacation Bible School!

WELCOME to Outback Expedition! Our theme for Vacation Bible School is set in Australia. This program will take the kids on a walkabout in God's word and shows how God shares his awesome love through families. Five unique Australian animals introduce important Bible concepts. We will also have music, games and crafts.

There will be a planning meeting for Vacation Bible School on Wednesday, May 3 at 7:00 p.m. at Jodi's house. If you can't make it but have ideas or would like to help, contact Jodi Sanken.

We have tentatively set Vacation Bible School for July 30 – August 3. All children between 3 years - 5th grade are invited. 6th graders and up are welcome to help. Tell your friends!

So hang on to your hat as we go Down Under and learn that through Jesus, we are all God's Children.

Submitted by Jodi Sanken



Above is a picture of last years VBS outing at Lake Marion Park. The children on the boat are acting out the scene of Jesus calming the storm.

St. John's Youth Group Revived

Young people are very important to us. They are the future of our church and our community. It has been a few years since there has been much activity with the St. John's youth. It's time to get things going again. Kathy Trimbo and Roxanne Sladek will be the leaders of the revived youth group at St. Johns Church. We are open to any ideas and suggestions that you may have for the youth. We would also appreciate contributions to help out with expenses of our first few activities until the youth have a chance to hold some fund-raisers. Anyone wishing to contribute to the youth group fund can place the money in their offering envelope and note youth group and the amount on the outside. Thanks for your help. Roxanne and Kathy

St. John's Youth We Need You!

We would like to see a lively, active youth group at St. John's Church. We hope that this group can be what the youth is looking for. Therefore we need the opinion of our youth. If you are currently in 5th grade or higher we want to hear from you. If you are not able to attend our first event (pizza party and Geoff Moore concert) please get in touch with us and let us know what you want this youth group to be. Thanks! Roxanne Sladek 587-7394 or Kathy Trimbo 328-4241

Submitted by Roxanne Sladek

MORE KID'S KORNER

Sunday School Kids involved in the worship service on Palm Sunday

The Palm Sunday service was opened with the special tradition of the children walking around the Sanctuary, waving their palms during the opening hymn. The children also sang two special songs, and stayed up front to listen to Pastor Vern's children's message, as he read to them about the meaning of palms, Easter Lilies, and other Easter traditions. *(Pictures by Roxanne Sladek)*



St. John's Sunday school students singing on Palm Sunday.

Pastor Vern Damm giving the children's sermon on Palm Sunday.



MEETING NOTES

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

March 12, 2000

Meeting was called to order by President Tom Senske. 42 members present.

Celine Swift reviewed how we had come to this point. After Pastor Doug left we realized the need to evaluate our beliefs, etc. in order to hire a Pastor that could adequately meet the needs of our church. A committee was appointed to research options of other denominations, independence or remaining with the UCC. Congregational meetings were held with representatives of denominations that would best fit our beliefs and values.

Sue Rose made a motion to withdraw from the UCC. Jerome Carl seconds the motion. Ballots were distributed for membership vote. 40 members voted yes to withdraw from the UCC. 2 members voted no. Council will proceed to break ties with the UCC.

Members were given the recommendations of the Denominational Search Committee (see attached sheet). It was discussed and there were no additional questions. Sue Rose made a motion to vote to Join CCCC, Join covenant, or Independent. Denny Schwanke seconds the motion. Ballots were distributed with results 35members voting to join CCCC, 2 votes for Covenant and 4 votes for being Independent.

The Denominational Search committee will continue the transition to officially join the CCCC. Next step is to have a CCCC representative come again some time soon. Denominational Committee will also look into youth camp options, as the CCCC does not offer camps regularly.

The congregation voted yes by a show of hands to have the Council and a Pastor Search Committee (to be appointed) proceed to fill with Supply Pastors or hire an Interim Pastor.

A Pastor Search Committee was formed: Dave Sanken, Julie Karl, Cory Garoutte, Denny Schwanke, Dave Swift, LeaEtte Peters

A motion was made by Celine Swift to Change the name of our Church from St. John's UCC to St. John's Church. Second be Julie Carl. Floor opened to discussion. A vote by show of hands to officially change our name to St. John's Church.

One additional item of business presented by Lilian Nemitz of the ladies guild. They are looking for suggestions regarding a possible celebration of our 135th Anniversary. Sue Rose made a motion to celebrate our 135th Anniversary. Mrs. Martin seconds the motion. Yes was voted by show of hands. Suggestions should be given to members of the ladies guild.

Submitted by Roxanne Sladek

WOMEN'S GUILD REPORT:

Our January meeting consisted of taking down the Christmas decorations, with help from some church members. We discussed basement window curtains, but it was tabled until another time.

The guild helped with the worship service on Jan 16 as Pastor Bob wasn't able to be there.

In February, we made and delivered 13 Valentine cookie and candy plates to the shut-ins. We also had help with some of the delivering.

In April More 4 notified us that we would be manning the Brat Stand on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Sept 7-8-9. Volunteers are needed for this.

We are starting to make some plans for our 135th Anniversary and a Polka Fest and catered dinner have been suggested. We will be checking these out.

\$50 was sent to the Steve Dobie Family, who lost their mother and a child. The father is left with 4 small children.

LeaEtte will purchase the Easter Lilies by April 16 for Palm Sunday.

In May the Guild plans to have our meeting at Rosie's. Mary will serve.

Submitted by Betty Sancken

COUNCIL REPORT

Feb. 2, 2000

All members present

- Sent a thank you to Plato Woodworking.
- Celine has checked with an accountant for tax help with pastors for 1999. Accountant has also helped to create a policy in regards to church employees (pastors, secretary, organist, etc)
- Pastor Bob requested permission to send letter to members of the church explaining his position as an insurance agent. Approved his request.
- May 21st will be confirmation Sunday. Tom has measured for the gowns.
- We will transfer \$5000 from checking into investments.
- Jerome will begin to get estimates for replacement windows and gutters.
- Jerome will check into bathroom project. Glen will help him.

On Feb. 15, 2000 the council held a special meeting to discuss Pastor Bob's wishes to leave St. John's Church.

March 1, 2000

- Sent a thank you note to Pastor Bob.

- Congregational Meeting will be held on March 12th. We will vote on our denomination affiliation. Our bylaws do not allow us to have absentee votes. The council should look into this for the future.
- Discussed inactive members. We will ask our new (permanent) pastor to visit all members & hopefully get some of those less active to become more involved.
- Supply Pastor or Interim Pastor was discussed. We will fill with supply through confirmation.

April 4, 2000

- Mavis has been updating church records. There are a few still lingering. They have been mailed out but not returned.
- New member Sunday will be April 9th.
- Pastor Vern is now doing visitation and has the communion kit.
- Roxanne and Kathy are working on getting a youth group started.
- UCC – Celine has sent the information that they have requested. April 8th will be the UCC meeting to dissolve the relationship.
- There is still an old sign on Hwy 22. Tom will remove it.
- Roxanne will check with the county about placing a sign at the end of Co. Rd. 70.
- Updating the Bylaws. Each council member will go through the old bylaws put some thought into them and begin to discuss at our May meeting. We intend to have any changes ready for a vote at the annual meeting next Jan.
- Sue will check into buying a fire proof file cabinet.
- Installation of council members will be this Sunday.

Submitted by Roxanne Sladek

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE HAVE A WINNER!

Have you noticed the new title of our newsletter? Congratulations to Dick and Bernetta Swift for submitting the name "St. John's Messenger".

The council selected that name from a list of many good names (and some just-for-fun ones, too!) Dick and Bernetta received a gift certificate to the Lighthouse Bookstore for having the winning entry. The runner-up entries were:

The Country Messenger
The Biscay Bugle
The Country Chronicle
The Evergreen Messenger
Our Church Family Newsletter
St. John's Deere
St. John's Quartered Deere
St. John's Quarterly Deere
St. John's Deere Quarterly
The Biscay Buzz
St. John's Heavenly News

Thanks to everyone for your entries. Can you guess who submitted the "Deere" titles?

UPCOMING EVENTS

- On Wednesday, May 3rd at 7pm, the Women's Guild will meet at Rosie Ziemer's place, Orchard Estates, Glencoe.
- The 135th Anniversary Polka Fest will be on Sunday, August 6th with Erwin Sues playing. The "Country Diner" of Hutchinson will cater our meal. The Caterers are Janet Dolezal and Kathy Graf.
- Vacation Bible School is tentatively set for the week of July 30-Aug 3. A planning meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 3 at 7 p.m. at Jodi's house.
- The More 4 grocery store has given St. John's the opportunity to run their "Brat Stand" on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Sept 7-8-9 from 10am to 6pm. The Guild is able to work one day, but will need help for the other 2 days. Interested? Look for a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, or speak with a Guild member.
- Communion will be on Confirmation Sunday, May 21st, instead of the first Sunday in May. Also, communion will be the second Sunday instead of the first Sunday of June.
- The first Thursday in May (May 4th) is National Day of Prayer. Let's each of us try to spend a few more moments in prayer on that day. Maybe it could develop into a habit!
- There will be a special service on May 7th, put on by the Kids of St. John's. They will share songs, prayers, and stories as they lead our worship service. Please make a special effort to come worship and listen to God's word through the mouths of our young.
- The Ice Cream Social is scheduled for Thursday, June 8th. The committee is: Sue Rose, Doug and Carol Block, Celine Swift, and Elaine Carrigan. The job slips will be handed out in the next couple of weeks. If you have a specific job you would like to do, or if you will not be available to help this year, please see a committee member before May 10th.
- The National Annual Meeting of the CCCC is scheduled for August 14-17th in Green Lake, Wisconsin. This is a great opportunity to meet fellow Christians, and to get a flavor of what the CCCC is all about. Interested? See a council member for information and a registration form.

RECENT EVENTS

- April 9th was New Member Sunday. A special welcome is extended to our newest members: Brenda Garoutte, Troy Uecker, and Jason Eischens. Pastor LaDon also led an installation ceremony for our Council that day.
- Did you notice the choir had some new members? The choir worked extra hard to prepare some special music for the Easter Season. Thank you, Choir, for your beautiful musical ministry.
- When we called the CCCC office to let them know we had voted to join, Pastor Ron Hamilton invited us to send representatives to the annual Upper Midwest Congregational Fellowship Friendship Dinner that Friday night (March 17th). Roxanne Sladek and Celine Swift went to represent St. John's. It was a nice catered meal followed by special music from Fresh Fire (a Bethel College choir) and presentations from a variety of pastors and lay persons as they talked about their missionary work and other church projects. We had a chance to meet people from CCCC churches all over the upper Midwest. Members of the Norwood Church of Peace came by to greet us personally after the program, to welcome us to the CCCC, and to share their experiences as they left the UCC church to join the CCCC church a few years ago. It was a nice opportunity to get a taste of what the CCCC is all about.
- The Hutchinson Leader is putting together a keepsake directory of churches in the Crow River area. St. John's has submitted a summary article about ourselves to be put in the article. We will be receiving several complementary copies of the directory, which they were hoping to have completed soon.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Reports, ideas, feedback, calendar information, etc. for next Newsletter issue is due to Celine by July 15. The next issue will be mailed Aug 1st.

Please let Celine Swift know if your address is incorrect on this newsletter or if it changes, or if you would like to be added or subtracted from the mailing list. Also, think about others who may want to receive copies of our Newsletter, and let Celine know.

POINTS TO PONDER

February Income reported by Sue Rose:

2000: \$2182.77

1999: \$1727.85

1998: \$2570.50

March Income reported by Sue Rose:

2000: \$2391.15

1999: \$2625.60

1998: \$2428.88

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

There is still a need for volunteers to do Altar Guild duties for the months of June, September, November, and January 2001. Please consider volunteering for one *or two* months. It's easy! Instructions are printed on the bulletin board.

Our Church Leaders for 2000

SUPPLY PASTORS:

Visitation: Rev. Vern Damm 562-2806
 Confirmation: Rev. LaDon Rydberg ... 275-2917

COUNCIL

President: Tom Senske 864-5924
 Vice President: Jerome Karl 587-7702
 Secretary: Roxanne Sladek 587-7394
 Treasurer: Celine Swift 864-6188
 Finance Secretary: Sue Rose 864-6862
 Building Fund Admin: Duane Wigern . 864-5336

WOMEN'S GUILD

President: Lillian Nemitz 587-8748
 Vice President: LeaEtte Peters 864-3282
 Secretary: Betty Sanken 587-4956
 Treasurer: Mavis Mielke 328-5339
 Sunshine Chairman: Elaine Carrigan ... 864-3330

CEMETERY BOARD

Mary Paulsen 587-4684
 David Sanken 328-4164
 David Swift 864-6188

CHURCH SECRETARIES

Records Upkeep: Mavis Mielke 328-5339
 Clerical: Celine Swift 864-6188

PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

Julie Karl 587-7702
 Cory Garoutte 864-4646
 LeaEtte Peters 864-3282
 Dave Sanken 328-4164
 Dennis Schwanke 864-4597
 Celine Swift 864-6188

BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE

Julie Karl 587-7702
 David Swift 864-6188
 Duane Wigern 864-5336

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Preschool & Kindergarten: Angela Kaufmann & Annie Senske
 1st-3rd grades: Sandy Senske & Brenda Garoutte
 4th-5th grades: Genise Quast & Jodie Sanken
 6th-8th grades: Julie Karl
 Subs: Roxanne Sladek, Sue Rose, LeaEtte Peters

Job Sign-ups for 2000

ALTAR GUILD

(NOTE: please consider volunteering for the unassigned months. It's easy!)

January Sanken
 February Sladek
 March LeaEtte Peters
 April Alan Mielke
 May Sue Rose & Betty Benjamin
 June
 July ... Carol, Doug, & Marge Block
 August Swift
 September
 October.... Cory & Brenda Garoutte
 November
 December Kathy Trimbo

CUSTODIANS

January Duane Wigern
 February Sladek
 March Sankens
 April Dale & LeaEtte Peters
 May Sue Rose & Betty Benjamin
 June Mavis, Elaine, Eileen
 July ... Carol, Doug, & Marge Block
 August Swift
 September Senske Family
 October.... Cory & Brenda Garoutte
 November.... Mary & Jim Garoutte
 December
 1st week .. Mary & Jim Garoutte
 2nd week . David & Celine Swift
 3rd week Kathy Trimbo
 4th week Kathy Trimbo

USHERS

JanuaryD. Wigern & C. Paulsen
 February Roger & Kathy Trimbo
 March Tom & Annie Senske
 April Dale & LeaEtte Peters
 May Glen & Roxanne Sladek
 June Cory & Brenda Garoutte
 July W. Kaufmann & D. Block
 August David & Celine Swift
 September Jerome & Julie Karl
 October Troy & Angela Uecker
 November Randy & Molly Blake
 December David & Jodi Sanken

May 2000

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
USHERS: <i>Sladek</i> CUSTOD.: <i>Rose/Benj.</i> ALTAR: <i>Rose/Benj.</i>	1	2	3 VBS Plan. Mtg. 7pm Council 7pm Women's Guild 7pm	4 National Day of Prayer	5	6
7 Special Service to be led by the Children of St. John's (Communion will be celebrated May 21)	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Mother's Day	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Confirmation Sunday Communion Sunday	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Summer Hours Begin 9:30 am Worship Service No Sunday School	29 Memorial Day	30	31			

June 2000

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
USHERS: <i>C. Garoutte</i> CUSTODIANS: <i>Mavis,</i> <i>Elaine, Eileen</i> ALTAR: <i>(OPEN)</i>				1	2	3
4 Communion Sunday	5	6	7 Women's Guild 7pm Council 7pm	8 Ice Cream Social	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Father's Day	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Remember to pick up the next issue of Upper Room	26	27	28	29	30	

July 2000

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
USHERS: <i>Kaufman/Block</i> CUSTODIANS: <i>Block</i> ALTAR: <i>Block</i>						1
2 Communion Sunday	3	4 Independence Day	5 Women's Guild 7pm Council 7pm	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 Newsletter reports due.
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Vacation Bible School (tentative date)	31 VBS	VBS Through Aug. 3				

LOOKING AHEAD:

Aug 6: 135th Anniversary with Polka Fest and catered meal
 Sep 7,8,9: More 4 Brat Stand
 Sep 10: 10:30 worship and Sunday School

REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. Sunday (last day May 21)
 Worship Hour: 10:30 a.m. Sunday
 (summer hours May 28 thru Sept 3 with worship at 9:30 a.m.)
 Choir Practice: 6 p.m. Wednesday
 Women's Guild: 7 p.m. 1st Wednesday of the month
 Council: 7 p.m. 1st Wednesday of the month