St. John's Church

13372 Nature Avenue Hutchinson, MN 55350 Phone: (500) 270-3317 If no answer, call secretary (320) 864-6188



St. John's Messenger November/December 2000 and January 2001

Pastor's Notes	1
Reflections	
Meeting Notes	
Women's Guild	3
Council	3
Congregational Meeting	4
Youth Page	
Meet the Babies	7
135 th Anniversary Celebration	
Dedication	9
Announcements	
Who's Who	11
Calendar of Events	12
Regularly Scheduled Activities	

PASTOR'S NOTES

God does move in strange ways, but always remains faithful! I am thankful for the opportunity to shepherd this rural congregation of hard working believers. Recently, I met a retired pastor of this church. When I asked him what advice he could give me, he replied, "Just love these people!"

My first month or so here at St. John's has presented a wide range of ministry needs, challenging me to find a pastoral style which is both sensitive and appropriate for each occasion. I have probably had some hits, and some misses. Fortunately, these folks are patient, and I appreciate all comments and suggestions.



Sunday morning worship is important here, and with each service I gain a better sense of what works and what doesn't. One morning, I forgot to pray for the service because I was "busy." The service was lacking, I felt. That spark of ignition that comes from God just wasn't there. It is so easy to forget that without Christ we can do nothing!

I am glad to be where many great traditions of the Church are still held. As the parish program moves through its cycle, I am excited about the Advent and Lenten seasons ahead. The sacraments are respected here and to administer them is a privilege, as is providing instruction for my six communicant students. Commitment and organization seem to be the order here at St. John's Church, from the Sunday School program to the Women's Guild to the Council and Choir – even the way this beautiful old building is maintained. There's a lot happening here, and a place and purpose for every member.

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God. And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all building is fitly framed together, growing into a holy temple unto the Lord. Ephesians 2:19-21

Pastor Paul Gould

REFLECTIONS

This is a longer story, but with the Christmas season coming upon us, it is a beautiful way to remind us of God's love for us.

THE TABLECLOTH

The brand new pastor and his wife, newly assigned to their first ministry, to reopen a church in suburban Brooklyn, arrived in early October excited about their opportunities. When they saw their church, it was very run down and needed much work. They set a goal to have everything done in time to have their first service on Christmas Eve.

They worked hard, repairing pews, plastering walls, painting, etc. and on Dec 18 were ahead of schedule and just about finished. On Dec 19 a terrible tempest - a driving rainstorm - hit the area and lasted for two days.

On the 21st, the pastor went over to the church. His heart sank when he saw that the roof had leaked, causing a large area of plaster about 20 feet by 8 feet to fall off the front wall of the sanctuary just behind the pulpit, beginning about head high. The pastor cleaned up the mess on the floor, and not knowing what else to do but postpone the Christmas Eve service, headed home. On the way he noticed that a local business was having a flea market type sale for charity so he stopped in.

One of the items was a beautiful, handmade, ivory colored, crocheted tablecloth with exquisite work, fine colors and a Cross embroidered right in the center. It was just the right size to cover up the hole in the front wall. He bought it and headed back to the church.

By this time it had started to snow. An older woman running from the opposite direction was trying to catch the bus. She missed it. The pastor invited her to wait in the warm church for the next bus 45 minutes later. She sat in a pew and paid no attention to the pastor while he got a ladder, hangers, etc., to put up the tablecloth as a wall tapestry. The pastor could hardly believe how beautiful it looked and it covered up the entire problem area.

Then he noticed the woman walking down the center aisle. Her face was like a sheet. "Pastor," she asked, "where did you get that tablecloth?" The pastor explained. The woman asked him to check the lower right corner to see if the initials, EBG were crocheted into it there. They were. These were the initials of the woman, and she had made this tablecloth 35 years before, in Austria.

The woman could hardly believe it as the pastor told how he had just gotten the Tablecloth. The woman explained that before the war she and her husband were well-to-do people in Austria. When the Nazis came, she was forced to leave. Her husband was going to follow her the next week. She was captured, sent to prison and never saw her husband or her home again.

The pastor wanted to give her the tablecloth; but she made the pastor keep it for the church. The pastor insisted on driving her home, that was the least he could do. She lived on the other side of Staten Island and was only in Brooklyn for the day for a housecleaning job.

What a wonderful service they had on Christmas Eve. The church was almost full. The music and the spirit were great. At the end of the service, the pastor and his wife greeted everyone at the door and many said that they would return. One older man, whom the pastor recognized from the neighborhood, continued to sit in one of the pews and stare, and the pastor wondered why he wasn't leaving. The man asked him where he got the tablecloth on the front wall because it was identical to one that his wife had made years ago when they lived in Austria before the war and how could there be two tablecloths so much alike?

He told the pastor how the Nazis came, how he forced his wife to flee for her safety, and he was supposed to follow her, but he was arrested and put in a prison. He never saw his wife or his home again all the 35 years in between.

The pastor asked him if he would allow him to take him for a little ride. They drove to Staten Island and to the same house where the pastor had taken the woman three days earlier. He helped the man climb the three flights of stairs to the woman's apartment, knocked on the door and he saw the greatest Christmas reunion he could ever imagine.

True Story - by Pastor Rob Reid

MEETING NOTES

WOMEN'S GUILD REPORT:

August, September and October

In August the Aid helped with the 135th Anniversary of the Church. We had a Church service and Polka Fest plus a catered meal. Everything went very well and was enjoyed by all.

Elaine Carrigan was a guest at our September meeting. Suggestions were brought up on what to have for entertainment at our Christmas Family Night the 1st Sunday in Dec. The Earth Angels were suggested and LeaEtte is looking into getting them. Also the Swifts have offered to purchase a new rug to replace the one by the front door. It will be larger to cover the carpet stain.

In October LeaEtte informed us that she had gotten the Earth Angels to entertain on Dec 3rd. At 6:00pm there will be a potluck dinner and at 7:00 the entertainment of contemporary Christian Music.

We took in \$390 at the Brat Stand this year at EconoFoods.

Also it was discussed to purchase some new chairs for the basement. The old ones can be stored in the shed and used outside for the Ice Cream Social. This was tabled until Nov. meeting.

Submitted by Betty Sanken, Secretary

COUNCIL REPORT:

(summarized) for Aug, Sept, Oct Council members: Tom Senske, Duane Wigern, Celine, Swift, Sue Rose, Jerome Karl & Roxanne Sladek

Aug. 9, 2000

• Tom has gotten the sign changed on the outside of the church.

- The new windows are ordered and will be done by Oct. 1st. Gutters will be done before that time.
- Pastor Supply has been filled for Aug. and hopefully permanent position will be filled by Sept.
- Cory Garoutte has contacted Pastor Vern Damm to let him know of the Pastor Search Committee's wishes.
- Congregational meeting is scheduled for Aug 20th to vote on recommendations by Pastor Search Committee to hire Pastor Paul Gould.
- Pastor Contract was discussed.

Sept. 6, 2000

- Installation Ceremony should be scheduled. Potluck and social time will follow ceremony.
- Gutters are done.
- Refinishing windowsills is done.
- Speaker system needs repairs and improvements. Dave Swift will get consulting to see what we might need to update our system.
- Council reviewed the bylaws and they are ready for Celine to discuss with the lawyer.

Oct. 4, 2000

- Pastor Paul thanked council for help during the last month and asked for constructive criticism.
- Windows are completed and we have had good feedback.
- Glen and Roxanne resized the blinds to fit the windows.
- Sue will update the information in newspapers.
- Dave Swift and Cory Garoutte have worked on rewiring the speaker system. Lapel microphone will be working by Sunday. We will try these changes for a while and then look at others if needed.
- Door seals and weather-stripping need replacing. Glen Sladek is working on this.

- The seal has been ordered and should be here soon.
- Bathroom project. Jerome and Glen will work on this soon.
- Choir has asked for \$100 for Christmas music. Council approved.
- John Peters will be joining a new church so Celine will send a transfer letter.
- There is a need for a list of Usher / Greeter tasks. Jerome will work on putting together a list of responsibilities for Sundays, Communion Sundays, funerals, etc.
- Pastor's robe is needed for Pastor Paul. Council approved purchase of a robe.

All meetings closed with the Lords Prayer.

Submitted by Roxanne Sladek

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:

Aug. 20, 2000

- President Tom Senske opened the meeting.
- Cory Garoutte presented the Pastor Search Committee's update. They have advertised locally, through the CCCC and Christian Chronicle. They interviewed 2 pastors and are recommending that we vote to hire Pastor Paul Gould.
- The following information was given to the congregation. Paul Gould, 47, from Philadelphia. He and his wife have recently moved to Brownton. He is Ordained with the International Ministerial Fellowship. Previous experience has been 6 months at a CCCC church and since that time has done supply and adult Bible Study. He believes in adult baptism, but will do infant.
- The congregation asked the following questions that were answered by the Pastor Search committee:
 - Why did he leave is position with the CCCC church? Answer: Lots of conflict at the church when he started.

- How is Pastor Paul currently employed?
 Answer: He is not, but apparently has another source of income.
- Does Pastor Paul feel comfortable with this type of setting? Answer: We believe so.
- What are his plans for youth involvement? Answer: Served as counselor for teens in crisis. Excited about Confirmation Class.
- This is a very different lifestyle than he is used to. Is he comfortable with it? Answer: Willing to try to adjust wants to fit into our church cultural style.
- Why are we considering a person who we know so little about when we have had Pastor Vern who has been here and served our church well for the past 6 months and we know of his strengths and weaknesses? Answer: The Pastor Search Committee could not all agree on Pastor Vern so we felt we had to continue with our search until we found someone that we could all support.
- Salary concerns. Is Pastor Paul able to take a part time position with this low of a salary without another job? Pastor Paul seemed to be ready for the wages offered.
- Is Pastor Paul willing to give the hours it takes to serve our church for the wages that we are offering? Answer: At the present time he is willing to give more time than we have asked for. We do have to remember that later on he may take another job that would limit the amount of time he can give our church.
- After the questions had been answered Duane Wigern made a motion to vote to hire Pastor Paul for a 6 months trial. Mary Garoutte seconds the motion and ballots were distributed. With 39 yes and 2 no votes.
- Duane Wigern made a motion to close the meeting and Jerome Karl seconds this motion.
 The meeting was adjourned.

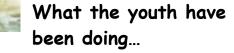
True friends are like diamonds, precious but rare. False friends are like autumn leaves, found everywhere.

The Youth Page











July 20th: A day at Valley Fair for 10 members of the youth group. I think the pictures say it all. We had a great time!

July 31st: Roxanne took four of the youth and went to Granite Falls to help with tornado clean up. We worked at the Peterson Farm. We were there only a short time but it made us all see life a little differently. Some of the youth said they would like to go back to help more. There was so much to do before the lives of those people would be anywhere close to what we consider normal.













August 24 - 25th:

Six members of the youth group went on a camping

trip to Piepenburg Park. Everyone enjoyed canoeing even though the canoe was tipped many times! Swimming and the campfire were also a lot of fun. There were a few fish caught and a couple of turtles too. We all had a really good time. Roxanne and Kathy both said they would be willing to do it another year.

September 24th: Pizza and Video night at the Trimbo's. The youth came in slowly that night keeping Kathy and Roxanne wondering if they would be eating all that pizza and watching the video with just one or two. But within about 20 minutes we had 6 there to eat the pizza and watch <u>The Ride</u>.

October 13th: Bowling had to be canceled due to lack of participation. There were just too many school activities on a Friday night.

Looking ahead...

(Please watch the weekly bulletin at church or call Kathy or Roxanne for upcoming dates and information. It is difficult to contact everyone individually each time we meet.)

- November 19^{th} : Mall of America, Christmas Shopping. We will leave right after church on the 19^{th} and stop for a quick lunch on our way to the mall. We plan to return back to church at approx. 7:00 PM.
- In December we hope to join with others from church and do some caroling and visiting with our shut-ins. No date has been set yet.

Garage Sale: One idea the youth has for a fundraiser is a garage sale in the spring. We need a garage to use - If you live in town and would be willing to let the youth hold a garage sale in your garage please let Roxanne or Kathy know. Also please begin to set aside things that could be donated to the youth to sell at our garage sale.

Submitted by Roxanne Sladek

MEET THE BABIES



Zachary Aaron Kowarsch

Son of Korry and Korrine Kowarsch

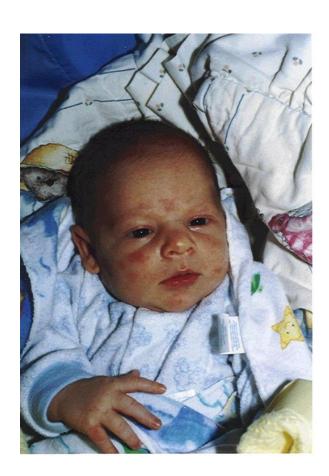
Born July 12, 2000 at 11:51 pm. 7 lbs 13 oz Baptized at St. John's on September 17, 2000 <<<<

Adam Cory Garoutte

Son of Cory and Brenda Garoutte

Born Sept 29, 2000 at 5:50am. 8 lbs 13 oz Baptized at St. John's on October 22, 2000 >>>>





Noah Dennis Eischens

Son of Jason and Kari Eischens

Born September 1, 2000 at 9:45 am. 5 lbs 8 oz Baptized at St. John's on October 15, 2000 <<<<

ST. JOHN'S 135TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



This year marks the 135th anniversary of St. John's Church. On August 6th, we celebrated the anniversary with a special service and dinner.

Music for the service was provided by the Erwin Suess Polka Band, and the VBS children shared some songs, too. The service included a reading of the history of St. John's Church and the history of our Women's Guild.



There were special words from some of our past pastors. Honors were given to our members over 80 years of age and to couples married over 50 years.

After the service, the Polka band kept playing while the "Country Diner" caterers finished preparing our meal. About 120 people stayed for the tasty buffet dinner.

Pictures submitted by Roxanne Sladek

DEDICATION

This issue of <u>St. John's Messenger</u> is dedicated in memory of those members who died this past month. Our hearts go out to their families. We at St. John's are praying for you, that God may give you strength and comfort.

Duane E. Brecht

Born: December 10, 1953, Departed This Life: September 14, 2000 Funeral Services were held at St. John's on September 17, 2000 at 2:00pm.

Elmer Henry Peters

Born: July 22, 1906, Departed This Life: September 15, 2000

Funeral Services were held at St. John's on September 19, 2000 at 10:00am.

Clarence H. Ziemer

Born: September 26, 1918, Departed This Life: September 29, 2000 Funeral Services were held at St. John's on October 2, 2000 at 11:00am.

Letter From Heaven

To my dearest family, some things I'd like to say. But first of all, to let you know, that I arrived okay.

I'm writing this from heaven. Here I dwell with God above. Here there's no more tears of sadness; Here is just eternal love.

Please do not be unhappy just because I'm out of sight. Remember that I am with you every morning, noon and night.

That day I had to leave you when my life on earth was through, God picked me up and hugged me and He said, "I welcome you."

It's good to have you back again, you were missed while you were gone. As for your dearest family, they'll be here later on.

I need you here badly, you're part of my plan. There's so much that we have to do, to help our mortal man."

God gave me a list of things, that he wished for me to do. And foremost on the list was to watch and care for you.

And when you lie in bed at night, the day's chores put to flight, God and I are closest to you... in the middle of the night.

When you think of my life on earth, and all those loving years, Because you are only human, they are bound to bring you tears.

But do not be afraid to cry; it does relieve the pain. Remember there would be no flowers, unless there was some rain. I wish that I could tell you all that God has planned. If I were to tell you, you wouldn't understand.

But one thing is for certain, though my life on earth is over. I'm closer to you now, than I ever was before.

There are many rocky roads ahead of you and many hills to climb; But together we can do it by taking one day at a time.

It was always my philosophy and I'd like it for you too; That as you give unto the world, the world will give to you.

If you can help somebody who's in sorrow and pain; Then you can say to God at night... "My day was not in vain."

And now I am contented... that my life was worthwhile. Knowing as I passed along the way I made somebody smile.

So if you meet somebody who is sad and feeling low; Just lend a hand to pick him up, as on your way you go.

When you're walking down the street as you've got me on your mind; I'm walking in your footsteps only half a step behind.

And when it's time for you to go... from that body to be free, Remember you're not going... you're coming here to me.

Author Unknown Submitted by LeaEtte Peters

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A WORD OF THANKS

- A special thank you is extended to the Women's Guild for organizing the EconoFoods Brat Stand this year, and to everyone who helped run the stand. We made \$390. The money was given to two causes: The choir received \$100 for special Christmas music, and the rest was given to help offset the cost of the new windows and gutters.
- Thanks to the Pastor Search committee for all their hard work in searching for our new pastor.
 Welcome Pastor Paul and Holli Gould! Pastor Paul started officially as our pastor on Sept. 1st.
- Thanks to all who contributed to the building fund for the new windows and gutters. The total cost was \$13,103. And thanks to Jerome Karl for coordinating this effort. We received lots of good feedback.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- St. John's will be having their Christmas Family night on Sunday, December 3, 2000. A potluck supper will be held at 6:00 p.m. The program is at 7:00 p.m. Our guests will be "The Earth Angels" from Litchfield. Please bring your family and invite some friends for a fun evening of fellowship.
- St. John's Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 21st right after the morning service, followed by the usual yummy potluck. One of topics of discussion will be reviewing and updating the By-laws. Watch your mail for a draft copy of the proposed changes a few weeks before the meeting.
- Sunday School will begin early (9:00am) beginning Nov 26th through Dec 17th to prepare for the Christmas Program, which will be Dec 23rd at 7pm. There will be no Sunday School over Christmas break, Dec 24th and Dec 31st.
- Both Thanksgiving day and Christmas day services will be held at 9:30am.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- Keep your eyes on the bulletin board for sign-ups for next year's Custodians, Altar Guild, and Ushers. We need your help.
- There will be two openings for council members this year to replace the two whose terms are up. Please speak to a council member if you are interested.
- The choir is looking for some extra voices for the Christmas season. Interested? Consider a short term commitment for November and December. Come join us Wednesday evenings at 6pm.
- The church will be decorated on Saturday, December 2nd at 9:00am. Please come help.

RECENT EVENTS

Roxanne Sladek and Celine Swift went to the CCCC annual meeting in Green Lake, Wisconsin in August. They represented our church as we were officially welcomed into the fold. They met a number of people (mostly pastors and their families) from other congregations, shared lots of prayer and worship time, and participated as active voters in the business meeting. They both recommend the meeting highly. It's a fun way to show our involvement and to learn more about our new denomination.

POINTS TO PONDER

Quarterly income reported by Sue Rose. All figures reported are averages of weekly offerings:

	1998	1999	2000
July	\$402.69	\$428.75	\$433.45
Aug	\$449.05	\$574.90	\$626.69
Sept	\$474.30	\$467.19	\$574.00
Quarter	\$442.55	\$502.45	\$536.15

Our Church Leaders for 2000

PASTOR:	CHURCH SECRETARIES
Rev. Paul Gould328-5330	Records Upkeep: Mavis Mielke328-5339
	Clerical: Celine Swift864-6188
COUNCIL	
President: Tom Senske 864-5924	CEMETERY BOARD
Vice President: Jerome Karl587-7702	Mary Paulsen 587-4684
Secretary: Roxanne Sladek587-7394	David Sanken328-4164
Treasurer: Celine Swift	David Swift864-6188
Finance Secretary: Sue Rose 864-6862	
Building Fund Admin: Duane Wigern . 864-5336	BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE
	Julie Karl587-7702
WOMEN'S GUILD	David Swift864-6188
President: Lillian Nemitz587-8748	Duane Wigern864-5336
Vice President: LeaEtte Peters864-3282	-
Secretary: Betty Sanken587-4956	SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS
Treasurer: Mavis Mielke328-5339	Preschool – 1 st grade: Julie Karl & Annie Senske
Sunshine Chairman: Elaine Carrigan 864-3330	2 nd -4 th grade: Sandy Senske & Brenda Garoutte
	5 th -6 th grade: Genise Quast & Jodie Sanken
	7 th -8 th grade: Mary Garoutte

Job Sign-ups for 2000

ALTAR GUILD

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

January	Sanken
February	Sladek
MarchLea	aEtte Peters
April	Alan Mielke
May Sue Rose & Bett	y Benjamin
June	
July Carol, Doug, & M	Iarge Block
August	Swift
September	
October Cory & Brene	da Garoutte
November	
December Ka	thy Trimbo
Ian 2001	-

CUSTODIANS

January Duane Wigern
FebruarySladek
March Sankens
April Dale & LeaEtte Peters
MaySue 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 & Iim Garoutte

1st week...Mary & Jim Garoutte
2nd week...David & Celine Swift
3rd week.......Kathy Trimbo
4th week......Kathy Trimbo
Jan 2001

Start thinking about 2001!

USHERS

JanuaryD. Wigern & C. Paulsen
February Roger & Kathy Trimbo
MarchTom & Annie Senske
AprilDale & LeaEtte Peters
MayGlen & Roxanne Sladek
June Cory & Brenda Garoutte
JulyW. Kaufmann & D. Block
AugustDavid & Celine Swift
September Jerome & Julie Karl
OctoberTroy & Angela Uecker
November Randy & Molly Blake
December David & Jodi Sanken
Jan 2001

November 2000

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
USHERS: Blake CUSTODIANS Garoutte ALTAR: (open)			1 Women's Guild 7pm Council 7pm	2	3	4
5 Communion Sunday	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Sunday school children sing	20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving service 9:30am	24	25
26 Sunday school starts at 9am for Christmas program practice	27	28	29	30		

December 2000

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
USHERS: Sanken CUSTODIANS: (Mix) ALTAR: Trimbo					1	2 Decorate church 9am
3 Sunday school starts at 9am Communion Sunday Family night: 6pm potluck, 7pm program	4	5	6 Women's Guild 7pm Council 7pm	7	8	9
10 Sunday school starts at 9am	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Sunday school starts at 9am	18	19	20	21	22	23 SS Christmas program 7:30 pm.
24 No Sunday School 31 No Sunday School	25 Christmas service 9:30 am.	26	27	28	29	30

January 2001

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Jun	1	2	3 Women's Guild 7pm Council 7pm	4	5	6
7 Communion Sunday	8	9	10	11	12	13 Newsletter reports due to Celine.
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Annual Meeting/Potluck	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31		CUSTO	S: (open) D.: (open) R: (open)

REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. Sunday Worship Hour: 10:30 a.m. Sunday 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