

St. John's Church

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



*Beside a country road, peacefully nestled between fields of grain, stands the little church;
a beacon -- calling all who live throughout the countryside to come;
to enter through its open doors; to pray; to praise; to hear God's holy word; to heed his call;
with thankful hearts to provide; and leave, prepared to serve and glorify the Lord!*

By Eleanor Akland, submitted by Irene Nemitz

St. John's Messenger August/September/October 2001

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Pastor's Notes: *"ORDINARY TIME"*

September marks my first full year as pastor of St. John's Church, a year filled with excitement and tremendous blessings for Holli and I. We are thankful for all our new friends, and the warmth and kindness shown to us. I am also thankful for the growth we are seeing! Five babies have been born, and three more on the way. Two weddings are coming up, and seven people (so far) will join St. John's Church on September 9th. Holli and myself will bring the total number to nine. Visitors are coming regularly, which is encouraging to me. When I see them return, I rejoice.

We are also seeing many answers to prayer! Voicing our requests, sharing our burdens and agreeing together in a congregational setting empowers our faith and allows God to move in our midst *TO CHANGE THINGS*. This is the greatest strength of the Church: A privilege given to us by Jesus Christ - the same He had with the Father while on earth. The momentum we are experiencing at St. John's happens only when He is allowed to be Head of the Church. Good pastoring is knowing when to get out of the way, and let the Lord be Lord.

The long season between Pentecost and Advent is known as "*Ordinary Time*" in the Church. But to me these days seem extraordinary! The Church calendar year begins in December, but it is the first Sunday after Labor Day when the parish program begins a new cycle, and my second year as your pastor. I guess I am just lucky.

God bless you, and have a great Summer!



Pastor Paul

REFLECTIONS

It was a cold winter's day that Sunday. The parking lot to the church was filling up quickly. I noticed as I got out of my car that fellow church members were whispering among themselves as they walked to the church. As I got closer I saw a man leaned up against the wall outside the church.

He was almost laying down as if he was asleep. He had on a long trench coat that was almost in shreds and a hat topped his head, pulled down so you could not see his face. He wore shoes that looked 30 years old, too small for his feet with holes all over them, his toes stuck out. I assumed this man was homeless, and asleep, so I walked on by through the doors of the church.

We all fellowship for a few minutes, and someone brought up the man laying outside. People snickered and gossiped, but no one bothered to ask him to come in, including me. A few moments later church began.

We all waited for the preacher to take his place and to give us the Word, when the doors to the church opened. In came the homeless man walking down the aisle with his head down. People gasped and whispered and made faces.

He made his way down the aisle and up onto the pulpit he took off his hat and coat. My heart sank. There stood our preacher ...he was the "homeless man." No one said a word.

The preacher took his Bible and laid it on the stand. "Folks, I don't think I have to tell you what I am preaching about today."

Then he started singing the words to this song.

If I can help somebody as I pass along,
If I can cheer somebody with a word or song,
If I can show somebody that he's traveling wrong,
Then my living shall not be in vain.

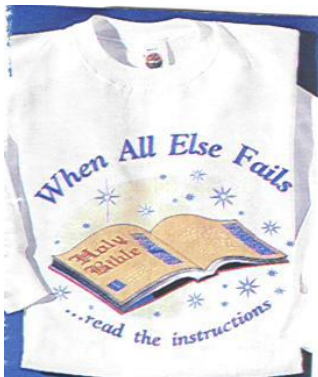
*Justice - When you get what you deserve
Mercy - When you don't get what you deserve
Grace - When you get what you don 't deserve*

Bible Bits

The Bible in 50 words or less

God made
 Adam bit
 Noah arked
 Abraham split
 Joseph ruled
 Jacob fooled
 Bush talked
 Moses balked
 Pharaoh plagued
 People walked
 Sea divided
 Tablets guided
 Promise landed
 Saul freaked
 David peeked
 Prophets warned
 Jesus Born
 God walked
 Love talked
 Anger crucified
 Hope died
 Love rise
 Spirit flamed
 Word spread
 God remained!

Submitted by Mary Paulson

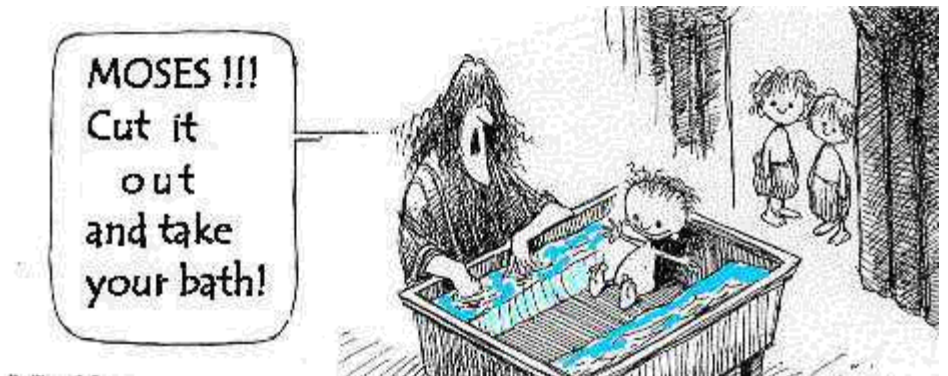


Submitted by LeaEtte Peters

Seek and You Shall Find!

In this remarkable paragraph are hidden the names of 15 books of the Bible. It's a real lulu, kept me looking so hard for the facts, I missed the revelations. I was in a jam especially since the names were not capitalized. The truth will come to numbers of you - to others it will be a real job. For all it will be a most fascinating search. Yes, there will be some easy to spot and others hard to judge, so we admit it usually results in loud lamentations. One lady says she brews coffee while she puzzles over it. *Can you find all 15?*

Submitted by Bernetta Swift



Everything I Need to Know I Learned from Noah's Ark

- 1 Don't miss the boat.
- 2 Remember that we are all in the same boat.
- 3 Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
- 4 Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
- 5 Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
- 6 Build your future on high ground.
- 7 For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
- 8 Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
- 9 When you're stressed, float a while.
- 10 Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
- 11 No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

Submitted by Bernetta Swift

MEETING NOTES

WOMEN'S GUILD REPORT:

- We purchased a new Electric roaster so will have enough and won't have to borrow.
- Save your grocery receipts from Econofoods. We have points from every slips. If we get \$150,000 in slips, the church will receive \$1,000. As of now we have \$14,228, so keep the slips coming.
- All of the woodwork items that Dick Swift donated and the afghan donated by Irene Nemitz netted a total of \$329 for the Ice Cream Social raffle.
- Graduation gifts were bought and given to our 3 graduates, Kim Wigern, Travis Brecht, and Sarah Trimbo.
- Marge donated some shelves to the church and Dick Swift has installed them.
- New adding machine was purchased for the Econo Food slip counters.
- The Brat Stand is coming up now Aug 2-3-4 at Econo Foods. Please sign up to help work. It's a good way to make money for the church.
- LeaEtte will purchase a new Baptism Certificate updated for this millennium.

Respectfully submitted, Betty Sanken, Secretary

COUNCIL REPORT:

(summarized) for May, June and July.

Council members: Tom Senske, Mark Wigern, Celine, Swift, Randy Blake, Jerome Karl & Roxanne Sladek

May 2, 2001

Pastor Paul, Tom, and Randy absent.

- Roxanne has finally gotten through to Larry Gozzow at the Zoning Office to find out the requirements for placing a sign on Co. Rd. 70. The county is considering new signs and Council decided to wait and see if County gets new signs going by this fall.
- Guest / visitors table will be put where the plants are.
- May 20th we will recognize the Sunday School teachers.
- Tried out a new vacuum. Mark made a motion and Celine second to purchase the Royal commercial vacuum cleaner for \$431.00. Council approved.
- Visitations - Council has decided to write a letter to send to non-active members. This will relieve Pastor Paul of other visits so he can spend time visiting the shut-ins more often. Celine will start a draft letter.

June 6, 2001

- Pastor Paul and Holly attended the CCCC annual conference. It was great.
- Pastor Paul is trying to contact all potential new members and get their letters of transfer or other paperwork started.
- Flash cards - Pastor Paul has been receiving flash cards and would like help paying the bill for them. Money will be taken out of Pastor's growth fund.
- Pastoral visits of shut-ins. Council has requested that Pastor Paul contact each shut-in every month with a phone call, and visit each shut-in every other month. (Shut-in names were listed in May minutes)
- Council has also requested that Pastor Paul arrive at church 1/2 hour prior to the start of the service each Sunday. He may spend this to prepare for the service or visiting as people arrive at church.

July 11, 2001

Tom and Jerome absent.

- Housing allowance. Celine checked with our accountant and has written up necessary paperwork for Pastor Paul. Total compensation remains the same; it will be distributed differently to take advantage of tax benefits.
- Carpet Installation went very well and the new carpeting looks great!!! David Streeter (Installer) did a wonderful job and was very easy to work with. Many people helped with whatever was needed during the week and everything was back in order by the next Sunday. Thank you to the Peters family for this wonderful memorial gift to our church!
- Sept. 9th will be new member Sunday.
- Window still whistles. Jerome needs to have Larry Murphy check it.
- Randy made a motion to hire a guest Pastor for new member Sunday since Pastor Paul and Holly will be joining our church. Mark seconded and council approved.
- Next meeting is scheduled for Wed, Aug. 1st. We will meet at Celine's house because VBS will be using the church.

All meetings closed with the Lords Prayer.

Submitted by Roxanne Sladek

The Youth Page - Summer 2001

In May the youth group had a garage & bake sale. We were very fortunate to have the Kaufmann family allow us to use their garage, house and much more! We also had many generous donations of both baked goods and garage sale items from several families of our church. Thank you to everyone who helped with the garage sale!!! The Youth Group earned \$436.



Kathy, Angela and Bonnie getting ready for the garage sale.



Warren, Angela, and Aaron working during the garage sale.

July 18th the Youth Group met for a Campfire at the Sladek's Farm. Although we only had Brandon and Tyler who were able to attend the campfire, we did hear from several of the youth who couldn't attend



due to other conflicts (so we know there is still interest).

The boys enjoyed visiting the animals and we grilled on the campfire. We also discussed plans for the rest of the summer.



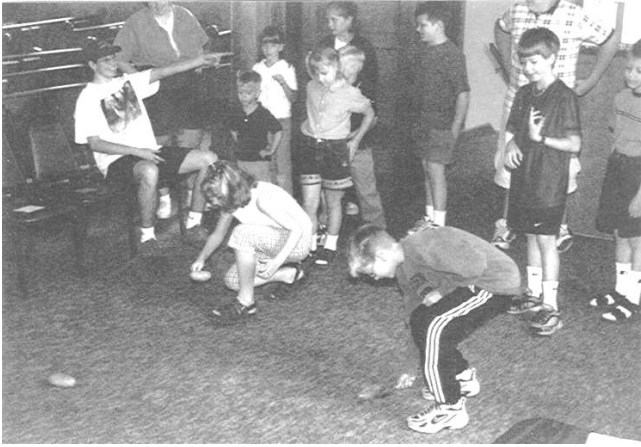
Aug. 15th - 17th we will go camping up at the Trimbo's cabin. The youth can look for a letter (permission slip and list of suggestions of what to bring) to be coming soon.

Also you can call Roxanne or Kathy with questions or suggestions for upcoming activities.

Submitted by Roxanne Sladek

RECENT EVENTS RECORDED ON FILM....

May 21st was a BIG Day....



Last day of Sunday School
(Jodi, what were those kids doing with the potatoes, anyway???)



S.S. Kids Sing



Sunday School Teachers Recognized

L to R: Celine Swift recognizing Jodi Sanken, Kathy Trimbo, Sandi Senske, Roxanne Sladek, Brenda Garoutte, Julie Karl

Rachel Senske, Jared Brecht and Jeremy Martin were confirmed. Council President Tom Senske and Pastor Paul Gould welcome them as members of St. John.



Ice Cream Social

June 14, 2001

This year the ice cream social was another success. Even the rain stayed away from our country church, while raining around us. A big thank-you to everyone for their time, hard work and food preparations. It wouldn't be possible without each and every one of the congregation's help.

The committee would like to extend a special thank-you to Irene Nemitz and Dick Swift for donating their time and energy in making the raffle prizes. Your talents are greatly appreciated.

Once again, music for everyone's enjoyment was provided by Ron Kraemer. And as a committee, we decided to serve inside this year due to the questionable weather. A total of 334 people were served raising a grand total of \$1329.55. In addition, raffle tickets brought in \$329.00 and sun catchers brought in \$6.00



People took the opportunity to visit during the brief wait before being served. The line in the back of this picture is the serving line.



The seating in the basement was continually near full, but not overcrowded.



Afghan winner McKensie Livermore shows her prize. Other raffle winners were: David Carrigan-step stool, Gloria Wigern-bench, Oudom Thammanongsa-stepstool, Gloria Wigern-Rocker, Pat Hepner-Bird Trellis



Desiree Strassburg, Gene Konerza, and LeaEtte Peters draw names of winners for the raffle. Wood stool and bird house prizes also pictured.

If there are any suggestions for next year's social please bring them up to a committee member (pictured right): Julie Karl, , Roxanne Sladek, Brenda Garoutte, Kathy Trimbo or Sandy Senske.

.Submitted by Brenda Garoutte



New Carpet Installed



All the prep work (removing pews, piano, organ, altar, etc.) was done with volunteer church labor. The altar came apart, was moved and was put back without a scratch!!

The pews were carefully stacked (some three deep) in the back of the church while the main sanctuary was carpeted.



This picture shows the carpeting of the empty sanctuary near completion.

As for a picture of the final outcome??? No picture can do it justice! You'll just have to come see how nice it looks.

The project began after the service on June 24th. The carpeting was completely installed, all items returned to their places, and cleaned up before the following Sunday's service. Thanks to Glen Sladek for coordinating this huge effort, and for all who helped in the many stages of this project.

Special thanks to the Dale, LeaEtte, John and Jim Peters for funding for this project in memory of Elmer and Inez Peters.



Elmer & Inez Peters
1990

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

- The next Women's Guild meeting is August 8th at 6pm at Bernetta Swift residence.
- The next council meeting is August 1st at Celine Swift's house.
- Vacation Bible School is Sunday, July 29 through Thursday, August 2, from 6-8pm. VBS will meet at the Silver Lake Pool on Tuesday for swimming (parents are welcome), and at Lake Marion on Thursday (everyone is welcome) for fishing, picnic and lots of fun!. Otherwise, VBS will be at the church. Call Jodi Sanken if you have questions.
- Don't forget the Brat Stand! It will be Thursday through Saturday, August 2, 3,& 4 from 10:30am-6pm. The sign up sheet is at the church. Call a Guild member for more information.
- The Choir begins meeting for practice again Wednesdays beginning August 29th. The time is different this year - We will meet at 6:30pm.
- They Hymnal Committee is happy to report that a new hymnal has been picked out. Some samples of the different colors have been requested so they can be seen with the new carpet. Once the color choice is made, the purchase can be made. At Rosie's request, the hymnals will be paid for with the Clarence Ziemer memorial money.
- New Member Sunday is scheduled for September 9th. We plan to be welcoming the following members into our fold: Andrea Filk, Dick and Bernetta Swift, Gene and Karen Konerza, Allan and Sonya Borg (and son Leif), Cindy Hahn, and Pastor Paul and Holli Gould. If others are interested in joining, please see Pastor Paul.

- Sunday School begins again on September 9th at 9:15am. This will also be the day the 3rd graders' bibles will be handed out. (Wow, it's going to be a busy day.)
- Winter hours resume on September 9th. Worship services will change back to its 10:30am time son Sunday mornings.
- We have two weddings coming up this fall: Amy Blake will be marrying Matthew Field on September 8th. Mark Wigern and Andrea Filk will be married on October 13th.
- 7th and 8th graders: Pastor Paul plans to begin Confirmation classes on Wednesday, September 12th. If you will be starting your first year of this class this year, please see Pastor Paul.

HELP NEEDED

- Reminder – turn in cash receipts from purchases at Econofoods to the box in the back of the church. When the receipts total \$150,000.00, the church will receive a check for \$1,000.00. Please remind your friends to share their receipts with us. Receipts can include grocery items, prescriptions, postage, cigarettes, and lottery. We now have receipts for \$14,228.00. It's an easy way to make money for the church. Help us meet that quota! Thank you to Marge Block and Lillian & Irene Nemitz in their efforts in totaling the receipts thus far.

POINTS TO PONDER

Quarterly income.

	1999	2000	2001
Apr	\$3422.82	\$2407.89	\$1863.46
May	\$1848.95	\$2495.19	\$3049.96
Jun	\$1548.93	\$2784.96	\$2350.21
Quarter	\$6820.70	\$7688.04	\$7263.63

Joke Time:

Children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note that said, "Take only one; God is watching."

Moving through the line, to the other end of the table, was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A boy wrote a note, "Take all you want; God is watching the apples."

Submitted by LeaEtte Peters

Our Church Leaders for 2001

PASTOR:

Rev. Paul Gould 328-5330

COUNCIL

President: Tom Senske 864-5924
 Vice President: Jerome Karl 587-7702
 Secretary: Roxanne Sladek 587-7394
 Treasurer: Celine Swift 864-6188
 Financial Secretary: Randy Blake 587-5472
 Building Fund Coord: Mark Wigern 864-5336

WOMEN'S GUILD

President: LeaEtte Peters 864-3282
 Vice President: Lillian Nemitz 587-8748
 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

BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE

Julie Karl 587-7702
 David Swift 864-6188
 Dennis Schwanke 864-4597

YOUTH GROUP LEADERS

Roxanne Sladek 587-7394
 Kathy Trimbo 328-4241

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Preschool – 1st grade: Julie Karl & Annie Senske
 2nd-4th grade: Sandy Senske & Brenda Garoutte
 5th-6th grade: Genise Quast & Jodie Sanken
 7th-8th grade: Mary Garoutte

CCCC

Area Rep.: Ron Stewart 320-356-9001
 Conf. Minister: Cliff Christenson .. 651-739-1474

Job Sign-ups for 2001

ALTAR GUILD

January Trimbo
 February Sladek
 March Blake's
 April ... Sue Rose & Betty Benjamin
 May Dale & LeaEtte Peters
 June Elaine, Mavis
 July ... Carol, Doug, & Marge Block
 August Sanken
 September Peters
 October Swift
 November Mary & Jim Garoutte
 December Cory Garrouette
 Jan 2002 (Open)

CUSTODIANS

January Wigern
 February Sladek
 March Blake's and Trimbo's
 April Dale & LeaEtte Peters
 May ... Sue Rose & Betty Benjamin
 June Mavis, Elaine
 July ... Carol, Doug, & Marge Block
 August Sanken
 September Senske
 October Swift
 November Mary & Jim Garoutte
 December
 1st week .. Mary & Jim Garoutte
 2nd week . David & Celine Swift
 3rd week Sanken
 4th week Cory Garoutte
 5th week Cory Garoutte
 Jan 2002 Dick & Bernetta Swift

USHERS

January D. Wigern & C. Paulsen
 February ... Glen & Roxanne Sladek
 March Roger & Kathy Trimbo
 April . Randy Blake & Curt Paulsen
 May Dale & LeaEtte Peters
 June Cory & Brenda Garoutte
 July W. Kaufmann & D. Block
 August Troy & Angela Uecker
 September Senske's
 October Swift's
 November Jerome & Julie Karl
 December David & Jodi Sanken
 Jan 2002 Duane & Mark Wigern

August 2001

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div> <div> USHERS: <i>Ueker</i> CUSTODIANS <i>Sanken</i> ALTAR: <i>Sanken</i> </div> </div>	(VBS began 7/29)	(VBS at Sliver lake pool)	1 VBS at Church. Council 7pm at Celine Swift's.	2 VBS at Lake Marion. Econofoods brat stand.	3 Econofoods brat stand.	4 Econofoods brat stand.
5 Communion Sunday	6	7	8 Women's Guild 6pm at Bernetta Swift's.	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Remember to pick up the next copy of Upper Room	27	28	29 Choir begins 6:30pm	30	31	

September 2001

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div> <div> USHERS: <i>Senske</i> CUSTOD: <i>Senske</i> ALTAR: <i>Peters</i> </div> </div>						1
2 Communion Sunday	3 Labor Day	4	5 Women's Guild 7pm Council 7pm	6	7	8 Amy Blake / Matthew Field wedding
9 Sunday School begins Bible handout to 3 rd graders New member Sunday Service starts at 10:30am	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

October 2001

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Women's Guild 7pm Council 7pm	4	5	6
7 Communion Sunday	8	9	10	11	12	13 Mark Wigern / Andrea Filk wedding
14 Newsletter Reports due	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Daylight savings time ends. Set clocks back 1 hour Remember to pick up the next copy of Upper Room	29	30	31		USHERS: <i>Swift</i> CUSTOD.: <i>Swift</i> ALTAR: <i>Swift</i>	

REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. Sunday (begins September 9th)
 Worship Hour: 10:30 a.m. Sunday (beginning September 9th)
 (Summer hours through Sept 2 with 9:30am worship)
 Confirmation class: 5 p.m. Wednesday (beginning September 12th)
 Choir Practice: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday (begins Aug 29)
 Women's Guild: 7 p.m. 1st Wednesday of the month
 Council: 7 p.m. 1st Wednesday of the month

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

- Next newsletter reports are due to Celine Swift by October 15th. You may bring them to the church, or mail them to me (13902 125th St., Glencoe, 55336) or email to swift@hutchtel.net. Thanks for all the input we've received to date!