

St. John's Church

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Hutchinson, MN 55350

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St. John's Messenger

November & December 2001, January 2002

<i>Pastor's Notes</i>	1
<i>Reflections</i>	1
<i>Bible Bits</i>	2
<i>Meeting Notes</i>	
<i>Women's Guild</i>	3
<i>Council</i>	3
<i>Youth Page</i>	4
<i>Recent Events Pictures</i>	5
<i>Announcements</i>	7
<i>Who's Who</i>	8
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	9
<i>Regularly Scheduled Activities</i>	10



Pastor's Notes:

The Autumn cycle began with a flurry of activity: A funeral, a wedding, and the reception of new members on September 9. As I watched the events of September 11 unfold, I knew I had to get busy: Sunday's service would be a special one. The church was full, as our congregation came together to mourn and to pray. It was a time of sudden realization for America: Without God, we are a frail and vulnerable people.

The month ended with Faith & Freedom Sunday, an observance I had planned for months which seemed oddly coincidental but appropriate. On Sunday, October 7th, I was inspired by Galen Houk from the Gideons, who came and shared a message of hope. Our congregation prayed that day for the divine protection of our service men and women. That afternoon, I learned that Allied air-strikes had begun at the very hour we prayed.

Looking ahead, November 4 is International Day of Prayer: We will join many other churches to intercede for the Persecuted Church around the world- including several people jailed in Afghanistan for sharing the Gospel. Thanksgiving Day service is the 22nd, and Family Night is Sunday December 2nd, which begins the Advent season. Good things are happening, so mark your calendar! A reminder also: Our in-home Bible Study for adults is just getting off the ground, so please take advantage of this time of relaxing fellowship and sharing from God's Word.

I continue to be impressed by the quiet strength of this congregation. They are Spirit-filled believers in the true sense. Signs, wonders and spiritual gifts all have their place, but worship is more than just getting excited. On Sundays, I look forward to coming, not only because I enjoy my work, but because the Presence of God is in this place. I believe it is for this reason that others are drawn here too.

God Bless You,



REFLECTIONS

This interpretation from Life Application Bible is especially appropriate for the upcoming holiday season....

"A Holiday Hymn"

Taken from Psalms 81, verses 1-5.

"Israel's holidays reminded the nation of God's great miracles. It was a time of rejoicing and a time to renew one's strength for life's daily struggles. At Christmas, do your thoughts revolve around presents for the most part? Is Easter only a warm anticipation of spring, and Thanksgiving only a good meal? Remember the spiritual origins of these special days and use them as opportunities to worship God for his goodness to you, your family, and your nation.

Submitted by Bernetta Swift

BIBLE BITS

The Center of the Bible

What is the shortest chapter in the Bible?

Answer - Psalms 117

What is the longest chapter in the Bible?

Answer - Psalms 119

Which chapter is in the center of the Bible?

Answer - Psalms 118

Fact: There are 594 chapters before Psalms 118

Fact: There are 594 chapters after Psalms 118

Add these numbers up and you get 1188



What is the center verse in the Bible?

Answer - Psalms 118:8

Does this verse say something significant about God's perfect will for our lives? The next time someone says they would like to find God's perfect will for their lives and that they want to be in the center of His will, just send them to the center of His Word!

Psalms 118:8 (NKJV) "It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man."

Now isn't that odd how this worked out (or was God in the center of it)?

Answer to Last Newsletter's "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.

MEETING NOTES

WOMEN'S GUILD REPORT:

- Ice Cream Social made \$1,329.50, Brat Stand netted \$464.25, and Mark's Economart brought in \$50.00.
- Basement floor was cleaned and waxed on August 13th.
- The Cagley Sisters have been reserved to sing at our Advent Christmas Family night, which will be on December 2nd.
- A percentage of Bible Camp was paid out for Rachel and Laura Senske.
- Baptism Markers were purchased and the cross was polished.
- \$100.00 was sent to the Relief effort for New York.
- Church decorating for Christmas will be done on Saturday, December 1 at 9am.
- Food shelf will be set up for November.
- The Secretary and President terms were up this year. Lillian will move up to President and LeaEtte will be Vice President. Betty volunteered for Secretary.

Respectfully submitted, Betty Sanken, Secretary

COUNCIL REPORT:

(summarized) for August, September, and October.
Council members: Tom Senske, Mark Wigern, Celine, Swift, Randy Blake, Jerome Karl & Roxanne Sladek

Aug. 1, 2001

- Tom Senske absent.
- Pastor Paul has made Prayer request slips to be filled out prior to service and an usher should bring them up at the beginning of the service. There will still be the option to give prayer requests verbally during the service.
- Mark has carpeted the large platform. There is not enough carpeting for the small platform.
- Voted to accept Andrea Filk, Dick and Bernetta Swift, Gene and Karen Konerza, Allan and Sonja Borg, Pastor Paul and Holli as new members.

Sept. 5, 2001

- Jerome Karl absent.
- New Member Sunday – Tom will represent the council and give out certificates.
- 3rd grade Bibles will be distributed next Sunday.
- Oct. 7th Gideons will be here.
- Bernetta is planning an adult Bible study. Informational meeting will be held at Dick and

Bernetta's home. Post cards will be sent to all members and those attending church regularly.

- Brochure box – Pastor Paul has created a temporary box for us to try. He will bring more wood to fill the gap between the brochure box and the planter.
- Memorial Plaque: some have been printed and some are still missing. Celine is continuing to gather information for the book.
- Celine made a motion and Mark second to update policy for memorial plaque to include contributions for cemetery fund. This needs to be approved by the congregation at the annual meeting.
- Fuel – both tanks have been filled for \$1 per gallon and Celine is checking on contracting for the season.
- Fuses & lights – Tom will check it and see what needs to be done.

Oct. 3, 2001

- Mark Wigern absent.
- Pastor Paul is hoping to go to the east coast to visit family. Oct. 19th is the tentative date. Supply Pastor will be needed for 1 Sunday.
- Hymnals have been ordered.
- Exterior building maintenance will be done before the snow flies.
- Fuel bids – Celine will take the best bid next week.
- Celine and Roxanne have created drafts for inviting new members and list of criteria for inactive members. Both drafts were approved.
- Roxanne has started a section in the binder for Council responsibilities, monthly calendar, guidelines for inviting new members and dealing with inactive members, etc.
- Council Members terms – Tom has served 2 terms and is not eligible for reelection. Roxanne and Jerome have served 1 term and may be re-elected.
- Council has created lists and will send letters soon to inactive members and those who we do not see often.

All meetings closed with the Lords Prayer.

Submitted by Roxanne Sladek

The Youth Page

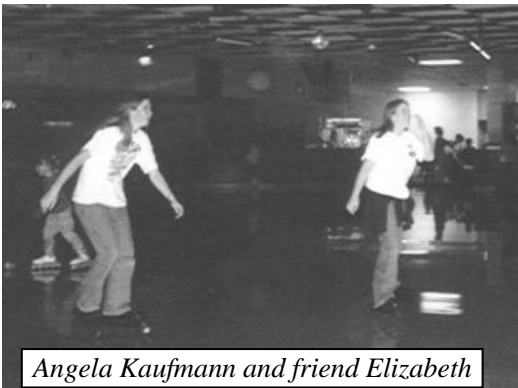
What we have been doing:

Since the last newsletter the youth of St. John's have been busy. In August we had a simple gathering at Church. We brainstormed and came up with lots of ideas for the upcoming school year.

In September we spent a day at Valley Fair in the rain. We went on a few rides in between the



Tyler Quast, Brandon Quast, Grant Karl, Aaron Kaufmann

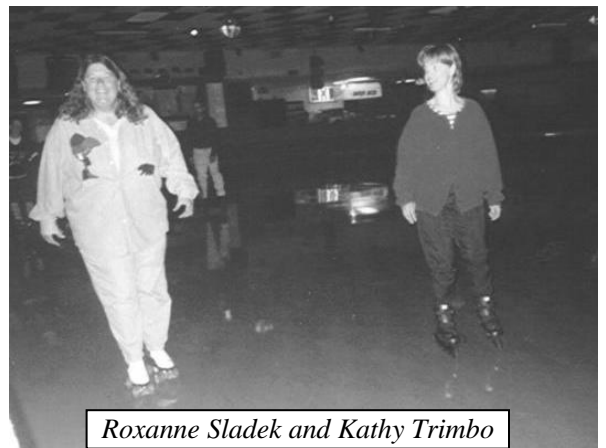


Angela Kaufmann and friend Elizabeth

thunder and lightning. At times the weather was so severe that the rides had to be closed. During the down times we visited the arcade. By mid afternoon we were all soaking wet and decided to call it a day so we came home early.

We have just returned from our most recent trip.

"One of the best things we have ever done!!!" according to the youth who attended. First we went to the Skatin Place. The guys played pool, and laser tag and of course at a skating place you must roller blade / skate. From there we went to the Quality Inn. We spent the evening on the water slide, in the pool and hot tub, and playing games in our rooms. The next morning we made it out of bed in time to go for a swim before checking out. We had lunch at Old Country Buffet and spent a couple of hours shopping before heading home.



Roxanne Sladek and Kathy Trimbo

Looking ahead:

November: The youth group is checking into options as to what we could do that may be helpful, or needed by the Robert Kurth family.

December: If the weather allows it this year we, along with other members of our church, we hope to spend a day doing some Caroling. The Youth group may also have some sort of a Christmas party.

Used Stuff Wanted: The youth group is planning to have another garage sale next spring. Please start saving potential items as you clean your closets this winter.

Submitted by Roxanne Sladek

RECENT EVENTS RECORDED ON FILM....

Weddings



Amy (Blake) and Matthew Field
September 8, 2001



Jinny (Block) and Craig Decker
September 15, 2001
(Jinny is Grandchild of Marge &
Lowell Block, Married at St. John's)



Andrea (Filk) & Mark Wigern
October 13, 2001

New Arrival



Grace Kay Garoutte
Daughter of Cory and Brenda Garoutte
Born October 4, 2001

This Issue of St. John's Messenger
is Dedicated
In Loving Memory of Linda



Wilma Lyndall Carrigan Moreman

Born: September 5, 1914
Departed this life: August 27, 2001

New Member Sunday September 9, 2001

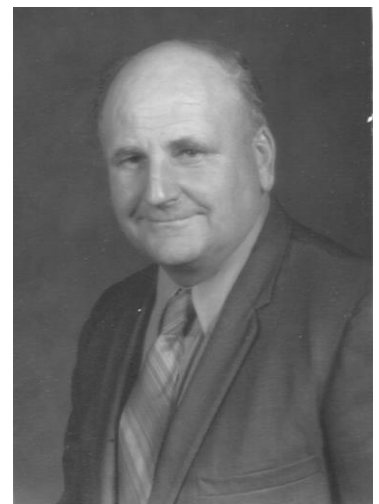
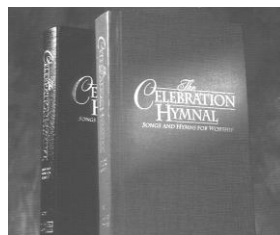


L to R: Richard Swift, Bernetta Swift, Allan Borg, Sonya Borg, Andrea Filk Wigern, (Council President Tom Senske receiving members), Holli Gould, Pastor Paul Gould, Karen Konerza, Gene Konerza.

New Hymnals and Carpet Dedicated October 28, 2001



Rosie Ziemer plays special music for the dedication ceremony during the Sunday service.



New Hymnals in Memory of
Clarence Ziemer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING UP:

- Christmas and Thanksgiving services will both be at 9:30 a.m. each morning.
- St. John's Christmas Family Night will be Sunday, December 2, with a potluck supper at 6p.m. and a special program at 7 p.m. by the Cogley sisters of Hutchinson. Bring the whole family and invite guests!
- Sunday School: The Christmas program will be on Sunday evening, Dec. 23 at 7pm. S.S. will start 15 minutes early each Sunday Nov. 25th – Dec 23rd. There will be no S.S. on Sunday, Dec. 30th.
- The Annual Congregational meeting (and Potluck!) will be held on January 20th. Please have your reports to Celine Swift by January 6th.

RECENT ACTIVITIES:

- The following new members were welcomed into St. John's fold on September 9th: Dick and Bernetta Swift, Gene and Karen Konerza, Pastor Paul and Holli Gould, Allan and Sonya Borg, and Andrea Filk (now Wigern). We are happy to have you with us!
- Vacation Bible School was held the last week of July and into August. It was the hottest week of the summer according to all who attended. Our theme was built around BEACH TREK: Come Meet Jesus. One evening, the children and their families met at the Silver Lake Pool for fun, bible lesson, craft and snacks. Our last night together we went fishing at Lake Marion. Once again, thank you to all who taught, helped, donated and prayed for us! To catch a glimpse of how it went, check out the pictures displayed on the bulletin board at the back of the church.
- The Congregation of St. John's donated \$353.35 to the Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. This included \$8.40 that came from the Sunday School children. Thank you for your generosity.
- What do you think of the new Hymnals? They were dedicated during the service on Sunday, October 28th. Thank you to Rosie Ziemer for being a part of the dedication, and for donating the funds for the hymnals in memory of her husband Clarence. Thank you to the Hymnal Committee for your diligence in researching the options and making such a fine selection.
- Do you know of any groups or organizations that need hymnals? Or, would you like to have one for yourself? Please see a council member with ideas about uses for the old hymnals.

- The EconoFoods Brat stand was held on Aug 2nd, 3rd and 4th. St. John's made \$464.25! Thanks to all who helped.
- An Adult Bible study began this past quarter and is going well. The group meets each Sunday at Richard and Bernetta Swift's home at 9:15 a.m. The focus of discussion is the Upper Room devotionals. Each week is a new topic of informal discussion, so it is not necessary to attend every week to gain from the experience of the study. Everyone is welcome to come when they can!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- We need help decorating the Church on Saturday, December 1st at 9am. Please come!
- We need help undecorating the church on Sunday, January 6th immediately following the service. Please dress casually, bring finger foods and plan to stay and help.
- 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 over \$30,000.00!! It's an easy way to make money for the church. Help us meet that quota!
- The Choir is planning to sing some special pieces for Advent and Christmas. We could use some extra voices! Please drop by and practice with us Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm
- The council will be needing new members this January. Tom Senske's second term is complete, and he is not eligible for reelection. Roxanne Sladek and Jerome Karl have completed one term and may be reelected. Please consider and pray about possible candidates, including volunteering yourself. Please see a council member with nominations.
- Keep your eyes on the bulletin board for sign-ups for next year's Custodians, Altar Guild, and Ushers. We need your help.

THANK YOU

- A special "Thank You" to Betty Sanken for donating two gold colored flower vases and a beautiful banner stating, "Lord establish the work of my hands." Psalm 90:17, in loving memory of her mother, Helen Norman.

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 234-6454

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
 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)

*Be thinking of what you can sign
 up for next year...*

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 (Open)

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

November 2001

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
ALTAR: J. Garoutte CUSTODIANS J. Garoutte USHERS: Karl				1	2	3
4 Communion Sunday International Day of Prayer	5	6	7 Council 7pm Women's Guild 7:30	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 Thanksgiving Service 9:30am.	23	24
25 Sunday School begins early (9:00am) to practice for Christmas Program	26	27	28	29	30	

December 2001

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
ALTAR: C. Garoutte CUSTOD: (Mix) USHERS: Sanken						1 Decorate church at 9am
2 1 st Sunday of Advent Communion Sunday Potluck / Family Fun Night Sunday School starts at 9am	3	4	5 Women's Guild 7:30 Council 7pm	6	7	8
9 2 nd Sunday of Advent Sunday School starts at 9am	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 3 rd Sunday of Advent Sunday School starts at 9am	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 4 th Sunday of Advent Sunday School starts at 9am S.S. Christmas Prog. 7pm	24	25 Christmas 9:30am Service	26	27	28	29
30 No Sunday School. Remember to pick up the next copy of Upper Room	31					

January 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Women's Guild 7:30 Council 7pm	3	4	5
6 Communion Sunday Take Down Christmas Dec's after service. Annual Reports Due	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Annual Meeting / Potluck Newsletter Reports due	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	ALTAR: (<i>Open</i>) CUSTODIANS (<i>Open</i>) USHERS: <i>D/M Wigern</i>	

REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. Sunday
 Adult Bible Study: 9:15 a.m. at Richard and Bernetta Swift's home.
 Worship Hour: 10:30 a.m. Sunday
 Confirmation class: 5:30 p.m. Wednesday
 Choir Practice: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
 Women's Guild: 7:30 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 January 20th. 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!

POINTS TO PONDER

Quarterly income.

	1999	2000	2001
Jul	\$2133.46	\$1611.97	\$2315.99
Aug	\$1630.68	\$2073.65	\$1329.07
Sep	\$2081.34	\$1481.42	\$2409.49
Quarter	\$5845.48	\$5167.04	\$6054.55