

St. John's Church

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St. John's Messenger May/June/July 2002

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Pastor's Notes: "*Members in Particular*"

As the parish program nears its end, and we return to "Ordinary Time," I look back over the past nine months thanking God for doing all He has done for us ~ and through us. Soon we will have Confirmation and First Communion: A privilege for me and an honor for my students who have learned well.

The Confirmands will partake of Christ's Holy Meal for the first time, receiving it at the altar. As they do, they will understand its significance as I have taught them, tracing it through the Old Testament. On that day, they will become "*Members in Particular*" of THE CHURCH* which is the visible Body of Christ on Earth.

**I Corinthians 12:27*



Sometimes folks both in the church and in the community have complimented me on the surge of growth at St. John's Church. I know they mean well, and I respond with something polite like, "That's a nice thought." *But it's not me... it's HE!*

What has happened is that I developed a method for pastoral ministry, learning from past mistakes and certain men of God, which has proven effective ~ in this setting anyway: A rural church with a rich history full of hard workers who are faithful to attend worship. There is a difference between a "Spirit-filled" church, and a church full of Spirit! I personally prefer the latter. I don't believe worship needs to always be electrifying, nor do I feel affected by a small turnout. "If two or three are gathered, according to Christ, There I AM!"

Our motive for assembling isn't to get something. We come to give. Worship is a response. Our flock *should* come expecting to receive, but not get. God's Word must first be received, and then signs and gifts will follow. At the same time, God desires to grant our wishes and meet our needs. I am thrilled to see our church learning to believe the familiar words:

"Our Father... give to us this day..."

As pastors, we are "Stewards of the mysteries of God," but have no power to make anything grow! We plant, we water, feed and fertilize with the scriptures. We patiently watch, and cultivate with love and mercy. We protect our flock with vigilance, not as "hirelings."

Seven Principles have helped me greatly:

1. Have the heart of a shepherd, and the mind of a fool. *I Corinthians 1:25.*
2. The way to increase membership is found in Acts 2:41-47.
3. Follow the Rule of St. Benedict:
All guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ.
4. It is not my church.
5. Know when to stay out of the way, and know when to stand in the way. Mostly, know the Way.
6. When I am criticized, I am grateful that someone is paying attention.
7. The most difficult of all: I do not have the luxury of complaining of a bad day.

Pastor Paul

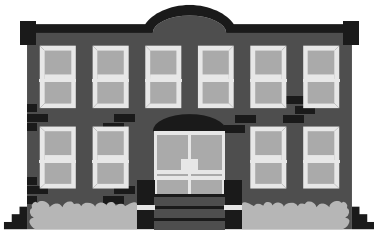
Give Satan an inch & he'll be a ruler!

REFLECTIONS

Since the Pledge of Allegiance and The Lord's Prayer are not allowed in most public schools anymore because the word "God" is mentioned.... a kid in Arizona wrote the following NEW School prayer.

Now I sit me down in school
Where praying is against the rule
For this great nation under God
Finds mention of Him very odd.

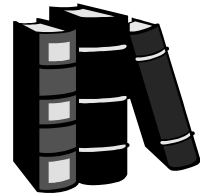
If Scripture now the class recites,
It violates the Bill of Rights.
And anytime my head I bow
Becomes a Federal matter now.



Our hair can be purple, orange or green,
That's no offense; it's a freedom scene.
The law is specific, the law is precise.
Prayers spoken aloud are a serious vice.

For praying in a public hall
Might offend someone with no faith at all.
In silence alone we must meditate,
God's name is prohibited by the state.

We're allowed to cuss and dress like freaks,
And pierce our noses, tongues and cheeks.
They've outlawed guns, but FIRST the Bible.
To quote the Good Book makes me liable.



We can elect a pregnant Senior Queen,
And the 'unwed daddy,' our Senior King.
It's "inappropriate" to teach right from wrong,
We're taught that such "judgments" do not belong.



We can get our condoms and birth controls,
Study witchcraft, vampires and totem poles.
But the Ten Commandments are not allowed,
No word of God must reach this crowd.

It's scary here I must confess,
When chaos reigns the school's a mess.
So, Lord, this silent plea I make:
Should I be shot; My soul please take!
Amen.

MEETING NOTES

WOMEN'S GUILD REPORT:

February: Ten valentine cookie plates were assembled and delivered to various members. A box of candy was sent to James Peters, our serviceman. The Guild coordinated the luncheons for after the Lenten services. (Thanks to all who volunteered to serve).

March: Easter Lilies for purchased for the church. Irene volunteered to make another afghan and Richard Swift will make wood crafts for the Ice Cream Social raffle.

April: The Guild has begun looking for ideas for the Christmas Family Fun Night. (If you have any ideas, see a guild member.) There was discussion about buying new communion wine cups to replace ones that have been broken through the years. There is interest in looking into replacing some of the altar cloths, as the old ones are getting worn. The guild is discussing starting a "Buddy System". Adult members can volunteer to be buddied with a child at St. John's, to acknowledge birthdays, visit with them before church, maybe even offer to sit with them during some services. If you are interested in having a "buddy", please see a guild member.

There is a need for somebody to take care of flower beds in front of the church. See a guild member if you are interested in volunteering.

Submitted by Betty Sanken, Secretary

COUNCIL REPORT:

Summarized for February, March & April.

Council Members: Mark Wigern, Celine Swift, Randy Blake, Jerome Karl, Gene Konerza & Roxanne Sladek

Feb. 6, 2002

- Gene was absent.
- VBS / Sunday School – Ask leaders to share curriculum info with council and Pastor Paul.
- Wedding Policy – Pastor Paul suggested that we set fee for non-member church rental (include use of kitchen), Clergy fee (includes Counseling), custodial responsibilities, Church attendance, etc.
- Pastor Paul would like help from Council on Good Friday (March 29th, 7PM) with serving communion.
- Memorial book – Any member who dies will be listed in the memorial book. Gifts of memorial will also be listed in the book.
- Pastoral contract changes and job description for 2002 were discussed with Pastor Paul and he signed his new contract.
- Roxanne and Jerome discussed the performance review with Pastor Paul before the council meeting.

- Copier has become high maintenance. Roxanne made a motion, seconded by Randy to purchase a Cannon PC 940 Copier from Office Max for \$499. + extra toner.
- Windows need to be fixed. Larry Murphy will check them himself. Jerome will keep after it.
- Spring clean up has been scheduled for April 21. Roxanne will check with Women's guild and we will have a potluck that day.
- Celine will order envelopes for next year.
- Next month we will meet at 6:00 pm

March 5, 2002

- All members present. Pastor Paul called that he would be late.
- High chairs are here.
- Hangers have been purchased.
- New mailbox has been installed.
- Memorial book policy has been changed slightly as discussed at the annual meeting so that congregational vote is not needed to make changes.
- Gene will serve as VP.
- Installation service will be held this Sunday.
- Next month we will meet at 6:00 on Tue April 9th. We will try Tue meeting for a while.

April 9, 2002

- All members present.
- Building Fund has the highest balance it has had in a long time.
- Pastor Paul is doing Pastor's corner in Glencoe newspaper. 16 Pastors rotate.
- Pastor Paul did another funeral at the funeral chapel.
- Friendship dinner in Woodbury is April 19th. Pastor Paul will be presenting and he would like some of us to attend.
- Sunday May 12th is CCCC Sunday – Council decided that the plate offering will be sent to the CCCC.
- Pastor Study area – Ideas were discussed.
- Betty Sanken is filling in the Memorial Book. It will be full. Celine is starting to get back some information for getting a new memorial book and it looks like the cost will be in the \$150. range. Council approved getting a new book.
- June 23 we will plan to have an outdoor service.
- Mary Hubert would like to use the church for a Piano Recital. Council approved.

All meetings closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Roxanne Sladek



Brave Believers

Extreme Faith Stories

Vacation Bible School 2002

is planned for:

Sunday, July 28 - Thursday, August 1.

The theme this year is BRAVE
BELIEVERS - Extreme Faith Stories.

This program explores the
courageous acts of Old Testament
believers. BRAVE BELIEVERS is one
exciting event you won't want to miss.

From cheering at pep rallies and waving Believer Bandannas to
competing in games - there's
something for everyone!



Planning is already underway.

Contact Jodi Sanken if you have any questions, or if you would
like to help.

The Youth Page

What we have been doing:

On Feb 9th we headed out to Lake Marion ice fishing. As it turned out not many of the youth were able to attend, but we were joined by several other members of the congregation and enjoyed a beautiful day even though we didn't catch any "keepers".



The guys enjoyed bottle-feeding the lambs and goat.

March 17th we had a St. Patrick's Day party. We created a scrapbook of all

the activities we have done as a group.

If you haven't seen it be sure to take a look at it. It is fun to see, in pictures, everything that the youth group has done over the past couple of years.



Our scrapbooking pros!



Snack time



April 14th we met after church and walked the ditches near church to clean up garbage. The weather was perfect. We ended up with more than 6 bags full of garbage, plus a tailgate, and a few other items too large to fit in our trash bags.



Angela, watch out
for snakes!!!!

Brandon & Kathy dropping
off some trash!

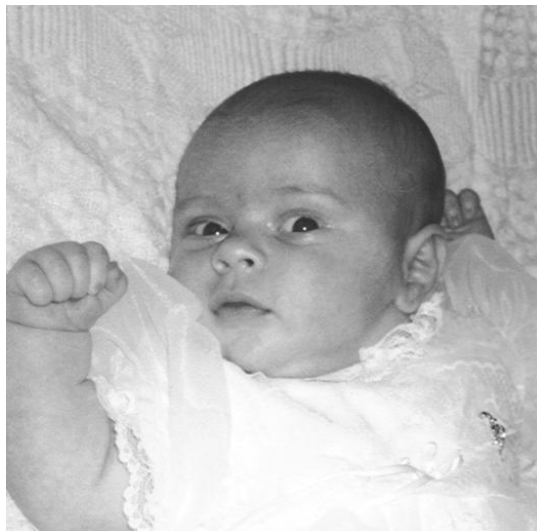


Looking ahead:

A Garage and Bake Sale May 3 & 4 at the Kaufmanns' home is our next event. Set-up will be Monday, April 29th. This was a very worthwhile fund-raiser for our youth group last year, thanks to the numerous donations of used items and baked goods that we received from you all! If you have something to donate this year you may drop it off at church anytime now until April 28th, or if you need something picked up call Roxanne at 587-7394 or 864-4993. Baked goods may be dropped off at Church before 10AM on Friday, May 3rd.

June 19-21 we will go camping at Trimbo's Cabin, and August 14th we plan to go to the Renville County Fair. Grant will be showing livestock.

RECENT EVENTS RECORDED ON FILM....



New Arrival

Madelyn Lee Schuette

Daughter of

Genise Quast and Scott Schuette

Born February 2, 2002, at 11:23 p.m.

8lbs 5½ oz, 21 inches

Baptized at St. John's March 17, 2002

UMCF Friendship Dinner

(Below left) Pastor Paul gave a presentation about St. John's Church to those gathered for the CCCC Upper Midwest Congregational Fellowship's annual "Friendship Dinner". The dinner and program were held at Woodbury Community Church in Woodbury, MN on the evening of Friday, April 19th. Other attendees from St. John's were Holli Gould, Roxanne Sladek, Kathy Trimbo, Celine Swift, and Richard & Bernetta Swift. The program also included presentations from two other CCCC churches, plus lots of music, prayer and worship. *(The UMCF is the regional fellowship of our denomination: the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference, and it includes about 30 churches in Minnesota, Iowa, and western Wisconsin.)*



(Right) The display assembled by Pastor Paul highlights the history and some recent events at St. John's Church. People were excited to hear about the growth in our little country church.



Spring Clean UP

The Annual Spring Clean-up was held on Sunday, April 21st. Some of the crew were captured on the job (or on break!) in the photos below. Thanks to all who helped, including those who came earlier in the week to clean the kitchen!



Dave Sanken



LeaEtte Peters and Carol Block



(Clockwise): Robin Swift, Doug Block, Dale Peters, LeaEtte Peters, Dave Sanken, and Isaac Swift



Doug Block and Dale Peters

Recent Memorials



(Left) New lighting in the upstairs Sunday School area, in memory of Linda Carrigan Moreman. Thanks to Randy Blake for installing them.

(Below left) Visitors information rack, in memory of Linda Carrigan Moreman. Special Thanks to Dave Swift for the design, Dick Swift for the build, and Gene Konerza for the finishing.

(Below right) Four high chairs (two shown), in memory of William Carrigan.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

A WORD OF THANKS:

- Treat plates were made and delivered to the shut-ins for Valentine's Day again this year. Thanks to everyone who donated cookies, packed the plates, or delivered them. They are always so much appreciated by the shut-ins.
- March was Food Shelf month. St. John's collected \$56 plus 84 lbs of food. Thanks to all who donated.

COMING UP:

- Pictures of the Pastor and Confirmands will be taken on Friday, May 3rd. Please be at the church at 6:45pm.
- The last day of Sunday School is May 19. The "fun and games" celebration will be held during the regular class time. The Sunday School Choir will join the adult Choir for a special music presentation during the service.
- VBS will be held July 28 – Aug 1. See ad page 4.
- Confirmation is scheduled for May 5th. Our Confirmands this year are Tyler Quast, Aaron Kaufmann, and Grant Karl.
- CCCC Conference Sunday will be May 12th. This is a day for us to be reminded of our affiliation to the CCCC's and to pray for the Conference and our sister churches. The plate offering (everything not in envelopes) for that Sunday will be donated to the CCCC's. If you would like to make a special donation to the CCCC's on that day, you may do so by marking the donation on your weekly envelope under "other".
- The CCCC Annual Family Conference will be held July 22-25 in Lansing, Michigan. For more information, see the bulletin board.
- Summer hours begin Memorial day weekend –May 26. The worship service begins at 9:30 am.
- Check the Youth page for information on the upcoming garage/bake sale and other events.
- The Ice Cream Social will be held on Thursday, June 13th. The first planning meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, May 14th at 6:30pm. If you have special requests for your assignments this year, please let a committee member know. This year's committee: Gene and Karen Konerza, Celine Swift and Roxanne Sladek.

- Mark your calendars: We are tentatively planning to have an outdoor service on June 24th.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

- The Guild is always looking for new members. All women of St. John's are invited to come to a Guild meeting anytime at see what we're all about – no obligation!
- St. John's has been approved to run another Brat Stand at Econofoods. It will be held Memorial Day Weekend, May 23,24,25th. Please watch the bulletin board for a sign up sheet to help man the stand.

SPECIAL REQUESTS:

- Does anybody have a picture plate of the church? Jim Chelin's was broken, and he misses it. If you have one you are willing to part with, please call Jim at 587-7661.

PRAYER REQUEST:

- For those who may not have heard, Brenda Garoutte was diagnosed with intestinal cancer. She is currently undergoing a 6-week radiation and chemotherapy treatment which will be complete May 3rd. Surgery will follow after she has regained enough weight and strength. Let's remember to keep Brenda and her family in our prayers.

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 about \$45,000.00!! It's an easy way to make money for the church. Help us meet that quota!

QUARTERLY INCOME

	2000	2001	2002
Jan	\$3369.43	\$3117.96	\$3746.09
Feb	\$2404.93	\$2875.00	\$2666.93
Mar	\$2357.34	\$2086.12	\$2385.16
Quarter	\$8131.70	\$8079.08	\$8798.18

A lot of kneeling will keep you in good

Our Church Leaders for 2002

PASTOR:

Rev. Paul Gould 328-5330

COUNCIL

President: Jerome Karl 587-7702
 Vice President: Gene Konerza.....`864-4554
 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: 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

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 2002

ALTAR GUILD

January Garoutte/Sladek
 February Sladek
 March Peters
 April Swift
 May Sue Rose & Betty Benjamin
 June Elaine, Mavis
 July Block
 August Sanken
 September Trimbo
 October Swift
 November.. Cory&Brenda Garoutte
 December(Open)
 Jan 2003 Senske

CUSTODIANS

January Garoutte/Sladek
 February Sladek
 March Peters
 April Alan Mielke
 May Sue Rose & Betty Benjamin
 June Mavis, Elaine
 July Block
 August Sanken
 September..... Trimbo
 October..... Swift
 November.. Cory&Brenda Garoutte
 December
 1st week Cory Garoutte
 2nd week Trimbo
 3rd week..... Trimbo
 4th week..... Dick Swift
 5th week.....(Open)
 Jan 2003 Senske

USHERS

January Duane & Mark Wigern
 February ... Glen & Roxanne Sladek
 March Peters
 April Karls
 May..... Dick Swift
 June..... Konerza
 July W. Kaufmann & D. Block
 August Senske
 September..... Trimbo
 October..... Swift's
 November Garoutte
 December Konerza
 Jan 2003..... Duane & Mark Wigern

Are you wrinkled with burden? Come to
 the church for a face-lift!

May 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
ALTAR: <i>Rose/Benj.</i> CUSTODIANS <i>Rose/Benj.</i> USHERS: <i>Dick Swift</i>			1	2	3 Youth Garage Sale	4 Youth Garage Sale
5 Communion Sunday Confirmation Sunday	6	7 Council 6pm	8 Women's Guild 7:30	9	10	11
12 CCCC Sunday	13	14 Ice Cream Social planning mtg. 6:30pm	15	16	17	18
19 Last Day of SS SS party SS choir sings	20 Mary Huebert's class piano recital 6:30pm	21	22	23	24	25
				——EconoFoods Brat Stand——→		
26 Summer Hours begin	27 Memorial Day	28	29 Last Choir practice, with year end snack party	30	31	

June 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
ALTAR: <i>Elaine/Mavis</i> CUSTOD: <i>Elaine/Mavis</i> USHERS: <i>Konerza</i>						1
2 Communion Sunday	3	4 Council 6pm	5 Women's Guild 7:30	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Ice Cream Social	14	15
16	17	18	19 Youth Camping →	20	21	22
23 Outdoor worship service	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Remember to pick up the next copy of Upper Room						

July 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Council 6pm	3 Women's Guild 7:30	4	5	6
7 Communion Sunday	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Newsletter Reports due	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	CCCC Annual Family Conference →					
28 VBS →	29	30			ALTAR: <i>Block</i> CUSTODIANS: <i>Block</i> USHERS: <i>D.Block/Kauf.</i>	

REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. Sunday (ends May 19)
 Adult Bible Study: 9:15 a.m. at Richard and Bernetta Swift's home (ends May 19)
 Worship Hour: 10:30 a.m. Sunday
 (9:30 a.m. beginning May 26)
 Choir Practice: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday (ends May 29)
 Women's Guild: 7:30 p.m. 1st Wed. of the month (may change when choir ends)
 Council: 6 p.m. 1st Tuesday of the month (*NOTE New Day and Time*)

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Next newsletter reports are due to Celine Swift by July 14th. You may bring them to the church, or mail them (13902 125th St., Glencoe, 55336) or email to swift@hutchtel.net. Thanks for all the input we've received to date!