

St. John's Church

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St. John's Messenger February, March and April 2003

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REFLECTIONS

Easter Story Cookies (a.k.a. Forgotten Cookies)

Ingredients:

1 c. whole pecans or choc chips
3 egg whites
1 tsp. Vinegar
Zipper baggie, wooden spoon, tape, Bible

1 c. sugar
Pinch salt

1. Preheat oven to 300° now; don't wait until you are half done with recipe.

2. Place pecans in zipper baggie and let children beat them with wooden spoon to break into small pieces. Explain that after Jesus was arrested, He was beaten by the Roman soldiers. Read John 19:1-3.

3. Let each child smell the vinegar. Put vinegar into bowl. Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross, He was given vinegar to drink. Read John 19:28-30.

4. Add egg whites to vinegar. Eggs represent life. Explain that Jesus gave His life to give us life. Read John 10:10-11.

5. Sprinkle a little salt into each child's hand. Let them taste it and brush the rest into the bowl. Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers, and the bitterness of our own sin. Read Luke 23:27.

6. So far, the ingredients are not very appetizing. Add sugar. Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because He loves us. He wants us to know and belong to Him. Read Psalm 34:8 and John 3:16.

7. Beat with mixer on high speed for 12-15 minutes until stiff peaks are formed. Explain that the color white represents the purity in God's eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus. Read Isaiah 1:18 and 1 John 3:1-2.

8. Fold in broken nuts. Drop by teaspoons onto waxed paper covered cookie sheet. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid. Read Matthew 27:57-60.

9. Put the cookie sheet in the oven, close the door, and turn the oven off. Give each child a piece of tape and seal the oven door. Explain that Jesus' tomb was sealed. Read Matthew 27:65-66

10. Go to bed! Explain that they may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight. Jesus' followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed. Read John 16:20,22.

11. On Easter morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are hollow! On the first Easter, Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty. Read Matthew 28:1-9.

From the 2001 Lutheran Brotherhood Commemorative Cookbook

Submitted by Marge Block

I Asked God...

Author Unknown

I asked God to take away my pain. God said, No. It is not for me to take away, but for you to give it up.

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole. God said, No. His spirit is whole, his body is only temporary.

I asked God to grant me patience. God said, No. Patience is a byproduct of tribulations; it is not granted, it is learned.

I asked God to give me happiness. God said, No. I give you blessings. Happiness is up to you.

I asked God to spare me pain. God said, No. Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me.

I asked God to make my spirit grow. God said, No. You must grow on your own,
but I will prune you to make you fruitful.

I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life. God said, No. I will give you life, so that you may enjoy all things.

I ask God to help me love others, as much as He loves me.

God said... Ahhhh, finally you have the idea.

Submitted by Brenda Garoutte

REFLECTIONS, *continued*

Legend of the Dogwood

There is a legend that at the time of the Crucifixion, the dogwood had been the size of the oak and other forest

trees. So firm and strong was the tree that it was chosen as the timber for the cross. To be used thus for such a cruel purpose greatly distressed the tree, and Jesus, nailed upon it, sensed this, and in His gentle pity for all sorrow and suffering said to it: "Because of your regret and pity for My suffering, never again shall the dogwood tree grow large enough to be used for a cross.

Henceforth it shall be slender and bent and twisted, and its blossoms shall be in the form of a cross... two long and two short petals. And in the center of the outer edge of each petal there will be nail prints, brown with rust and stained with red, and in the center of the flower will be a crown of thorns, and all who see it will remember."

Submitted By Marge Block

PASTOR'S NOTES

All I Want!

All of us sometimes think about the things that we want during this lifetime. It does not matter how old or how young we are. The following story demonstrates a young girl's declaration of what she really wanted.

One day an 11 year old girl was trying to memorize the twenty-third Psalm in her Sunday School class. Instead of the right words, she said: "The Lord is my shepherd, That's all I want." Although she got the words wrong, she did catch the real meaning.

Sometimes we get so anxious about praying for the gifts of God that we miss the most important request and that is for God himself! This week as you prepare your list of wants from the Lord remember to request more of Him in your life.

Pastor Bill

MEETING NOTES

Cemetery Association Meeting

January 26, 2003

Cemetery Association Board present: David Sanken, Mary Paulsen, David Swift

Cemetery Association meeting was called to order by Dave Sanken.

Minutes in the Annual Report were presented by Mary Paulsen.

Lawn Mowing Bids were opened and are due to a board member by March 15th.

Suggestion was made to put an ad in the paper for lawn mowing bids.

Mary Paulsen has completed her second term on the Association Board and is not eligible for reelection. Dave Swift resigned from his position on the Association Board and there are two years remaining on his term.

LeaEtte Peters nominated Curt Paulsen to be elected to the 3-year position. Dale Peters offered to complete the 2 year term. A motion was duly made and seconded to accept the nominations. Motion carried.

Burial rates were reviewed. No changes were made at this time.

A request was made to have the congregation designate on the offering envelopes if they want their gifts to be used in a specific manner. A motion was duly made and seconded to "allow the Cemetery Association Board to decide how donations are used unless the giver specifically designates how it should be used". Motion carried.

Mary Paulsen gave an update on mapping progress. A book has been assembled and will be left at the church that shows the status of the cemetery records. A request was made for all congregational members to review the contents of the book for accuracy and omissions. Cards are in the book, which can be used to make any corrections or additions.

The Cemetery Association Board intends to review its constitution for updating over the coming year.

A motion was duly made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Dave Swift

MEETING NOTES, *continued*

Council Report:

Summarized for Nov, Dec, Jan. 2002-03

Council Members: Jerome Karl, Celine Swift, Randy Blake, Sue Rose, Roxanne Sladek and one vacant position

Nov. 3, 2002

- Jerome, Celine, Randy, Sue, and Roxanne present, 1 vacant position
- Oct. secretaries, building fund and treasurers reports were read and approved.
- Bylaws and constitutions committee update. The committee does not think they will have this ready by the annual meeting.
- Visitations, council visited with 3 shut-ins and also did 2 phone call visits. Pastor Bob made 2 visits with communion.
- Snow Removal bids are in. 2 bids were received. Glencoe Garden Center and Randy Rose. Celine made a motion, seconded by Randy and council approved accepting the bid from Randy Rose.
- A member of the congregation called with concerns that the confirmation students are not getting enough time - education is cut in half. Council had discussed those concerns prior to setting up this plan and discussed it again now and with this concern. We reviewed the materials and feel the level of education the students are getting is sufficient though not ideal. However council will monitor to be sure all materials are covered in the allotted time.
- Tom and Cheryl Carrigan and Blake have asked for transfer of membership to First Congregational Church in Hutch.
- The yard light should have been fixed.
- Benevolence Committee will have inserts for the bulletin for World Relief in November. Thanksgiving theme.

Dec. 10, 2002

- Jerome Karl, Sue Rose, Celine Swift, Randy Blake and Roxanne Sladek were present. One position still vacant.
- Secretaries, building fund and treasurers reports were read and approved.
- Visitations are up to date.

- Memorial Book. Council approved having Celine purchase memorial book and cardstock for pages for \$100.
- Land rent bid from Dave Sanken for 3 years at \$117 per acre. No other bids were received. Roxanne made a motion and Sue seconded. Council approved accepting land rent bid.
- License to copy music – Celine sent info saying what we are copying. Eidelweiss tune cannot be used. Celine will make a note in bulletin.
- Updated snow cancellation list.
- Annual meeting and budget were discussed.
- Benevolence - Roxanne made a motion and Sue seconded to approve the recommendations made by the benevolence committee.

Jan. 7, 2003

- Celine, Sue, Jerome, Randy and Roxanne attended, and one position is vacant.
- Sept. secretaries, building fund and treasurers reports were read and approved.
- Distributed funds from offering envelopes and Benevolence committee funds.
- Eidelweiss tune cannot legally be used. Some have expressed disappointment in this. There is nothing we can do about it.
- Visitations are up to date.
- Brenda Black called that they are transferring to a church that is local for them. Celine will send a letter of transfer.
- Annual meeting and budget were discussed and meeting agenda set.
- A transition of council members was discussed. The current council will
 - Ask the new council to meet immediately to decide roles
 - Set a meeting date
 - Offer to have some outgoing members attend the next meeting if the new council thinks it would be helpful.
 - Offer to meet with individual members regarding transferring of the roles.

All meetings closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Roxanne Sladek, Secretary

(Note: Unsummarized versions of council notes are available by request. Contact Roxanne Sladek if you would like the complete official minutes.)

St. John's Church Annual Meeting

January 26, 2003

Council members present: Randy Blake, Jerome Karl, Sue Rose, Celine Swift and Roxanne Sladek.
One position vacant.

39 members of the congregation present.

- Pastor Bob gave an opening prayer.
- President Jerome Karl opened the meeting.
- 2002 annual meeting minutes were read. Dick Swift made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Dave Sanken. Motion carried.
- Pages 1-9 of the Annual report were reviewed. Doug Block made a motion to accept all financial reports, seconded by Elaine Carrigan. Motion carried.
- Julie Karl made a motion to have weekly 7pm Lenten Services from March 5th through April 9th and a 7pm Good Friday service on April 18th. Motion was seconded by Dick Swift. Motion carried.
- Genise Quast made a motion, seconded by Elaine Carrigan, to have holiday services be the same as last year: Thanksgiving and Easter services will be at 9:30am, Christmas Eve service will be 5pm. Motion carried.
- Elaine Carrigan made a motion, seconded by Julie Karl. Summer hours will be 9:30am again this year.
- Jerome reviewed the membership changes. There were no objections, so membership changes stand as read.
- There is an opening for Church Secretary. Labor rate of \$12 per hour was proposed, with expected cost of \$10-\$15 per bulletin and up to \$100 per newsletter. (Position for church records clerk is being held for Mavis Mielke, but may also be included with this position if she chooses not to continue).
- Organist pay was reviewed and stands at \$25 per service.
- 2003 budget was reviewed without questions or comment. Dave Sanken made a motion, seconded by Karen Konerza to approve the budget. Motion carried.
- Council positions: There are 3 2-year terms to be filled, plus 2 openings to complete 1-year vacancies. There were several periods of silence and prayer during the nomination/volunteering time. Julie Karl made a motion, seconded by Dick Swift to accept Cory Garoutte, Dave Swift and Randy Blake for the 2-year terms. Dave Sanken made a motion, seconded by Elaine Carrigan to accept Sue Rose and LeaEtte Peters for the 1-year positions.
- Pastor Search: Since there were no volunteers to serve on the pastor search committee, council will be responsible for the pastor search process. A suggestion was made to post a sign-up sheet.
- Church Secretary: tasks include bulletins, newsletters, annual reports, misc., and perhaps records keeping. Since no one from church offered to serve as church secretary, the new council is responsible for filling the position. It was noted that, if it cannot be filled internally, expenses for the secretary may likely exceed the budget.
- Ice Cream Social is set for June 12th. The Ice Cream Social Committee will be Julie Karl, Elaine Carrigan, Andrea Wigern, and Sandy Senske.
- Benevolence Committee: Julie Karl is willing to continue. Dave Sanken volunteered to serve on the committee. The third position is being held for Dennis Schwanke if he chooses to continue.
- Elaine Carrigan made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Randy Blake. The meeting was adjourned.

Roxanne Sladek
Council secretary

The Youth Page

The month of November slipped by without any activities for the youth group. On December 1st the youth group provided the live Nativity as people arrived to church for the potluck and Christmas program.



Hanna Streeter and Libby



Live Nativity Scene by St. John's Youth Group



Rachel Senske, Danielle Strassburg, Laura Senske and Desiree Strassburg



Grant Karl and Rumors

December 5th we met at church for dinner and baked cookies to deliver to the shut-ins. On December 8th the youth along with other members of the church went caroling and visiting the shut-ins and some of the senior members of our church. We all had a great time!



Rachel Senske delivering cookie basket to Myrtle Sanken



Rosie Ziemer on piano leading the carolers (L to R: Elaine Carrigan, Laura Senske, Brandon Quast, Rachel Senske, Celine and Chandler Swift, Kathy Trimbo, Pastor Bill Hyndman, Dick Swift and Nancy Hyndman)

Our January gathering is coming up on the 31st. We will go out for pizza and spend the evening bowling. We plan to meet at Godfathers Pizza at 8PM and then go to Hutch

Bowl for 9:30 Thunder Alley bowling.

Submitted by Roxanne Sladek

Recent Events Recorded on Film....

Family Fun Night December 1, 2002



Nice turnout for the potluck before the program.



The Hutchinson Clown Club entertained us with jokes, stories, songs, balloon animals, and more!



Lillian Nemitz (*center*) giving Christmas gifts to Pastor Bill Hyndman (*left*) and Pastor Bob Taylor (*right*).



Sunday School Christmas Program December 23, 2002



Announcements

RECENT EVENTS:

- The annual meeting was held on Sunday, January 26th after the service. If you missed the meeting but would like an Annual Report, extra copies are at the church.
- Most of you have probably noticed that the Edelweiss tune is no longer being used for the Benediction Response. We found out from the company that gives us copying rights for music, that the people who own the rights to this tune have not given permission for churches to use the tune, so that is why we had to stop using it.

COMING UP:

- The Council will meet Tuesday Feb 4 at 7:00pm.
- Women's Guild - Wed., Feb. 5th, at 7:00 p.m. @ the church. Margie Block, hostess.
- The Women's Guild will be packing Valentine Plates for our Shut-ins on Sun., Feb. 9th after church. Please share 1 dozen cookies and leave them in the back of the church after the service on Feb. 9th. If anyone from the congregation is interested in helping deliver the plates and be part of visiting our shut-ins, please contact a Guild member. Thank you.
- Lenten Services will be every Wednesday evening at 7pm beginning Ash Wednesday, March 5th. Watch the bulletin board for sign-up sheet for serving at the luncheons after the services.
- Confirmation will be held during the service on Sunday, April 6th.
- Easter worship service will be at 9:30am.

SPECIAL THANKS:

- Thank you to all who helped with putting up and taking down the Christmas decorations. The church looked lovely (*as always*)!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

- The Women's Guild wants to know if St. John's is interested in working the Econofoods Brat stand again this year. If so, we'll need more volunteers. Watch the bulletin for an announcement.
- Keep your eyes on the bulletin board for sign-ups for next year's Custodians, Altar Guild, and Ushers. Your help is needed. Also, watch the bulletin board for a posting of volunteers for the Pastor Search Committee.

REMINDERS:

- Keep turning in those 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. We are up to the halfway mark! It's an easy way to make money for the church. Help us meet that quota!
- Library books are available in the cupboard in the back of the church. Feel free to use them. A checkout sheet needs to be completed when borrowing them, which is inside the cupboard door.

FYI:

- The Cemetery Association Board requests that any monetary gifts that you would like to be used in a specific way (e.g. "Perpetual" fund) should be clearly stated when making the gift. Otherwise, the Board will determine how the gifts will best be utilized. If you have any questions about this updated policy, please see a board member.

QUARTERLY INCOME

	2000	2001	2002
Oct	\$3293.03	\$2543.54	\$3529.03
Nov	\$2091.01	\$2839.97	\$2309.31
Dec	\$3216.50	\$3052.18	\$3604.63
Quarter	\$8600.54	\$8435.69	\$9442.97

Prayer For Our Service Men & Women

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord & Savior.

Of all the gifts you can give to a soldier, prayer is the very best one.

Our Church Leaders for 2003

INTERIM PASTOR TEAM

Rev. Bob Taylor763-420-6800
 Rev. Bill Hyndman.....320-395-9833

COUNCIL

President: Randy Blake 587-5472
 Vice President: LeaEtte Peters 864-3282
 Secretary: Roxanne Sladek..... 587-7394
 Treasurer: David Swift 864-6188
 Financial Secretary: Cory Garoutte 864-4646
 Building Fund Coord: Sue Rose..... 864-6862

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

Curt Paulsen 587-4684
 David Sanken 328-4164
 Dale Peters..... 864-6232

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Preschool – 1st grade: Julie Karl & Mandy Mielke
 2nd-4th grade: Sandy Senske & Brenda Garoutte
 5th-6th grade: Genise Quast & Jodie Sanken
 7th-8th grade: Confirmation: Nancy Hyndman
 7th-8th grade: Sunday School: Julie Karl

CHURCH SECRETARIES

Records Upkeep: Mavis Mielke 328-5339
 Clerical:(open)

BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE

Julie Karl.....587-7702
 David Sanken.....328-4164
 Dennis Schwanke 864-4597

YOUTH GROUP LEADERS

Roxanne Sladek 587-7394
 Kathy Trimbo 328-4241

CCCC

Area Rep.: Ron Stewart320-356-9001
 Conf. Minister: Cliff Christenson ..651-739-1474

Job Sign-ups for 2003

ALTAR GUILD

JanuarySenske
 February Sladek
 March(open)
 April.....(open)
 MaySue Rose & Betty Benjamin
 June Elaine, Mavis
 July Peters
 August.....(open)
 September Trimbo
 October..... Swift
 November.. Cory&Brenda Garoutte
 December(open)
 Jan 2004(open)

CUSTODIANS

January Senske
 February Sladek
 MarchAl Mielke
 April (open)
 MaySue Rose
 JuneMavis, Elaine
 July Peters
 August Sanken
 September..... Trimbo
 October..... Swift
 November..... Cory Garoutte
 December
 1st weekR & B Swift
 2nd week (open)
 3rd week..... (open)
 4th week..... (open)
 5th week..... (open)
 Jan 2004 (open)

USHERS

JanuaryDuane & Mark Wigern
 FebruarySladek
 March Kaufmann
 April Senske
 May..... (open)
 June..... Konerza
 July Peters
 August (open)
 September Trimbo
 October Swift
 NovemberGaroutte
 December (open)
 Jan 2004..... (open)

There are many openings to be filled. Please consider volunteering to fill another slot.

February 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Communion Sunday	3	4 Council 7:00pm.	5 Guild 7pm	6	7	8
9 Bring 1 dozen cookies for Valentine plates for shut-ins.	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Remember to pick up the next copy of Upper Room	24	25	26	27	28	

March 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Communion Sunday	3	4	5 Ash Wednesday Service at 7pm, followed by luncheon	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Service at 7pm, followed by luncheon	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 Service at 7pm, followed by luncheon	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Service at 7pm, followed by luncheon	27	28	29
30	31					

April 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Service at 7pm, followed by luncheon	3	4	5
6 Communion Sunday Confirmation	7	8	9 Service at 7pm, followed by luncheon	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Good Friday Service 7pm	19
20 Easter service 9:30am	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Remember to pick up the next copy of Upper Room	28	29	30			

REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. Sunday
 Adult Bible Study: 9:15 a.m. at Dick and Bernetta Swift's home
 Worship Hour: 10:30 a.m. Sunday
 Choir Practice: 6:15 p.m. Wednesday
 Women's Guild: 1st Wed. of the month after choir
 Council: 7:00 p.m. 1st Tuesday of the month

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The time has come for me to turn in my proverbial "pen" and move on. I look forward to seeing what new things might be in the next newsletter with a fresh perspective from a new editor. Thanks to all who have given input and/or feedback on the newsletters over the last 3 years. I appreciated every one!

As of this date, the position of Secretary/Editor has not been filled. Please watch the bulletins for an announcement as to when the next newsletter reports are due and who to turn them in to. (If you are interested in the job, please contact a council member.)

Celine Swift