

St. John's Church

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St. John's Messenger August/September/October 2000

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REFLECTIONS

Divine Voice Mail

We have all learned to live with voice mail as a "necessary" part of modern life. But have you wondered, what if God decided to install voice mail?" Imagine praying and hearing this:

"Thank you for calling God's Place. Please select one of the following options:

- Press 1 for Requests*
- Press 2 for Thanksgiving*
- Press 3 for Complaints*
- Press 4 for All Other Inquiries.*

I'm sorry, all of our angels are busy helping other sinners right now. However, your prayer is important to us and will be answered in the order it was received, so please stay on the line.

If calling God in prayer, you might get one of the following responses:

If you would like to speak to:

God: Press 1

Jesus: Press 2

Holy Spirit: Press 3

If you would like to hear King David sing a Psalm while you are holding, please Press 4.

To find out if a loved one has been assigned to Heaven, Press 5, enter his or her Social Security number, then press the pound key. If you get a negative response, try area code (666).

For reservations at "God's Place" please enter J-O-H-N followed by 3-1-6.

For answers to nagging questions about dinosaurs, the age of the earth and where Noah's Ark is, please wait until you arrive here.

Our computers show that you have already prayed once today. Please hang up and try again tomorrow.

God's office is closed for the weekend in observance of a religious holiday. Please pray again Monday after 9:30 AM. If you need emergency assistance when this office is closed, contact your local pastor. Thank you for calling.



*Submitted by Lillian Nemitz
Cartoon submitted by LeaEtte Peters*

MEETING NOTES

WOMEN'S GUILD REPORT:

St. John's Women's Guild met on July 5 at the home of Betty Sanken in Hutchinson. There were six members present.

The Secretary's minutes were read and approved. The treasurer's report was read and accepted. Proceeds were read from the Ice Cream Social.

LeaEtte informed us that she had sent the letters of invitation to some of the former pastors and had a few replies. She also read off a list of the couples that have been married 50 years and over, members age 80 and over, the oldest member and the youngest.

We are going to ask the council for help with the service on August 6th. We need help for the Welcome, call to worship, offertory, announcing of former pastors, the Scripture, the list of honored guests, and for a brief history of St. John's. Lillian will read a story of the Ladies Aid.

After putting together a rough draft of the bulletin our meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Betty Sanken, Secretary

COUNCIL REPORT

May 3, 2000

- Celine has received formal notification from the UCC about our separation.
- Confirmation. LaDon has purchased books as gifts for those being confirmed. Celine will reimburse him for the cost. Celine will also ask LaDon about certificates.

On May 24, 2000 the council held a special meeting to work on the by laws.

June 14, 2000

- Mavis has given the church records that need updating to Roxanne and Sue. We will be contacting members to get the needed information.
- Think about updating the task calendar

- Talked about the 135th Anniversary. May change the service time. Ladies guild will do most of the plans.
- Celine suggested giving Sunday School kids money for the service they did on May 7th. Sue made motion, Jerome second to give the \$100 for job well done. Council approved.
- CCCC annual meeting is Aug 14-17 in Green Lake Wisc. We will look for people to attend it. Duane made a motion to pay for mileage and motel rooms. Sue second. Approved. Celine will put a note in the bulletin.
- Council meeting next month will be July 12, instead of the 5th.

July 12, 2000

- Pews have been fixed by Dick Swift. He has offered to monitor and maintain them as necessary.
- Celine and Roxanne will attend the CCCC annual meeting.
- Aug. 6th Anniversary service. Council will do readings, etc.
- Jerome presented a bid form Quality home improvements - Larry Murphy for window replacement, repair and gutters. Total for windows will be \$13730. Total for gutters \$893. Sue made a motion to accept the bid, Roxanne second, council approved. Celine will put information in the bulletin so the congregation is aware of our plans and Jerome will get them ordered after it has been in the bulletin.
- Communion will be July 30th instead of the first Sunday in Aug due the anniversary service. Celine will note it in the bulletin.
- Shingles on steeple lift up when windy. Sue will check with Ryan Voss to see what can be done about it.
- Soffit and Fascia will need to be done in the future. We should look at this in a couple of years. Our new gutters will be able to be removed and reused at that time.

All meetings closed with the Lords Prayer.

Submitted by Roxanne Sladek

COMMITTEE UPDATES

PASTOR SEARCH UPDATE

The committee has been researching two paths for finding a permanent pastor: sharing a pastor with another small church, and finding a part time pastor. After looking into some possibilities in Brownton and Norwood, it was found that there are no sharing opportunities at this time. Pastor Ron Hamilton from the CCCC's was also exploring possible options with seminary students. This would more likely be a situation where new pastors gain experience with us and then move on. Pastor Ron made contact with Bethel College, but they have not yet responded with interest.

In looking for a permanent pastor, the committee advertised in the Christian Chronicle paper in cities and by word of mouth through other local pastors. We received a handful of resumes through those sources. The committee is in the process of interviewing 2 possible candidates. If we get to the point of wanting to offer a job, we will schedule a congregational meeting for a vote. Please watch the bulletins for announcement of such a meeting.

Submitted by Celine Swift

ICE CREAM SOCIAL COMMITTEE

June 8th was a HOT day, with the temperature reaching the mid to upper nineties. Still, the people came. And boy, did we go through the rootbeer! One 16 gallon keg, and about half an 8 gallon keg, too. We had fans blowing wherever we could. Picnic tables were moved regularly to try to take advantage of whatever shade could be found. Fortunately for our customers, the lines were never too long at any one time, though we had a pretty steady flow of people. We forgot to count plates, but we're estimating

we served about 400-450 people. As a special treat, "Polka Lovin' Grampa" Ron Kramer provided music for the occasion.

We took in \$2395.52 in sales and donations, spent \$882.97 for food, supplies, music, and advertisement, for a profit of **\$1512.55**. On top of that, the Social Raffle made **\$296**. That's \$124 more than last year! The winners were: Pillow: Cassie Benjamin, Stool: Lois Weseloh, Stepstool: Alyson Schall, Afghan: Korine Trimbo. This year, the Youth Group decided to have a raffle of their own at the Social, and they made **\$94**. The winner of the sand digger was Scott Paspishel. Thanks to all who sold raffle tickets. Special thanks to Glen Sladek for donating the digger, Irene Nemitz for donating the afghan and pillow, and to Dick Swift for donating the stools.

The committee would like to extend a big "Thank You" to everyone who helped before, during, and after the Social. Each and everyone of you helped make this event another success. This year's committee consisted of Doug and Carol Block, Betty Benjamin, Sue Rose, Elaine Carrigan, and Celine Swift.

Submitted by Celine Swift



↑
Steady flow at the Ice Cream Social serving line



More Ice Cream Social Pictures

Submitted by Roxanne Sladek



THE YOUTH PAGE

St. John's Youth group is going strong. The youth completed a survey to help us as leaders to know what they want from this group. The group meetings will be simply a gathering of Christian friends. We will do a variety of activities and fund-raisers. The youth group plans to meet once a month. We have had a total of 12 youth participate in our first few gatherings.

Look what the youth have been doing. Our first gathering was a campfire at the Sladek's farm on May 17th. We all had a good time checking out the animals, playing games, cooking over the campfire and trying to keep our food from blowing off of our plates (it was a very windy evening). Next the youth group raffled off a sand box digger at the Ice Cream social, we earned \$94. Our second meeting was June 14 in the church basement. We played a few games and planned some upcoming summer events. On July 20th we spent the day at Valley Fair.

Youth group things to look forward to... Aug 24 - 26 (tentative dates) will be our last summer event. We are planning to go camping, fishing, swimming, etc. We are still open to ideas as to where we want to go.

Thank you from the Youth group and Leaders. Thanks to those who have contributed money to our group to help us get started. We really appreciate you help!

Submitted by Roxanne Sladek

St. John's Youth Group Campfire Gathering



May 17, 2000 at the Sladek's Farm



Tyler Quast, Grant Karl, Jared Brecht, Pastor Vern Damm, Jeremy Martin, Laura Senske, Aaron Kaufman, Jenna Trimbo, Blake Carrigan, Rachel Senske, Annie Senske, and Kathy Trimbo

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

- The 135th Anniversary Polka Fest will be on Sunday, August 6th with Erwin Suess playing. The “Country Diner” of Hutchinson will cater our meal. The Caterers are Janet Dolezal and Kathy Graf. Tickets need to be purchased by July 30th. Please call Betty Sanken or Duane Wigern for tickets.
- Vacation Bible School is scheduled for the week of July 30-Aug 3. The theme this year is Outback Expedition, set in Australia.
- The More 4 grocery store (now EconoFoods) has given St. John’s the opportunity to run their “Brat Stand” on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Sept 7-8-9 from 10am to 6pm. The Guild is able to work one day, but will need help for the other 2 days. Interested? Look for a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, or speak with a Guild member.
- There will be no communion in August. It will be celebrated on July 30th instead.
- The National Annual Meeting of the CCCC is scheduled for August 14-17th in Green Lake, Wisconsin. Celine Swift and Roxanne Sladek will be going to represent St. John’s.

RECENT EVENTS

- As of June 19, 2000, St. John’s has been officially accepted into the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- There is still a need for volunteers to do Altar Guild duties for the months of September, November, and January 2001. Please consider volunteering for one *or two* months. It’s easy! Instructions are printed on the bulletin board.

DONATIONS WANTED

- As you know from the Council report, the council is making arrangements to repair/replace windows and install new gutters. The total cost of both projects is approximately \$14,600. Please consider making a donation to the Building Fund at this time. Just drop it in your regular offering envelope and mark how much of your offering you want to go to the building fund.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Reports, ideas, feedback, calendar information, etc. for next Newsletter issue is due to Celine by October 15. The next issue will be mailed by November 1st.

Please let Celine Swift know if your address is incorrect on this newsletter or if it changes, or if you would like to be added or subtracted from the mailing list. Also, think about others who may want to receive copies of our Newsletter, and let Celine know.

POINTS TO PONDER

Quarterly Income reported by Sue Rose:

April:	2000:	\$3071.00
	1999:	\$2385.30
	1998:	\$2441.70
May:	2000:	\$1654.75
	1999:	\$1800.30
	1998:	\$2675.85
June:	2000:	\$1862.50
	1999:	\$1481.10
	1998:	\$1799.80

Quarter Average:

2000:	\$2196.08
1999:	\$1888.90
1998:	\$2305.78

Our Church Leaders for 2000

SUPPLY PASTORS:

Visitation: Rev. Vern Damm 562-2806
 Confirmation: Rev. LaDon Rydberg ... 275-2917

COUNCIL

President: Tom Senske 864-5924
 Vice President: Jerome Karl 587-7702
 Secretary: Roxanne Sladek 587-7394
 Treasurer: Celine Swift 864-6188
 Finance Secretary: Sue Rose 864-6862
 Building Fund Admin: Duane Wigern . 864-5336

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

PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

Julie Karl 587-7702
 Cory Garoutte 864-4646
 LeaEtte Peters 864-3282
 Dave Sanken 328-4164
 Dennis Schwanke 864-4597
 Celine Swift 864-6188

BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE

Julie Karl 587-7702
 David Swift 864-6188
 Duane Wigern 864-5336

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Preschool & Kindergarten: Angela Kaufmann & Annie Senske
 1st-3rd grades: Sandy Senske & Brenda Garoutte
 4th-5th grades: Genise Quast & Jodie Sanken
 6th-8th grades: Julie Karl
 Subs: Roxanne Sladek, Sue Rose, LeaEtte Peters

Job Sign-ups for 2000

ALTAR GUILD

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

January Sanken
 February Sladek
 March LeaEtte Peters
 April Alan Mielke
 May Sue Rose & Betty Benjamin
 June
 July ... Carol, Doug, & Marge Block
 August Swift
 September
 October Cory & Brenda Garoutte
 November
 December Kathy Trimbo

CUSTODIANS

January Duane Wigern
 February Sladek
 March Sankens
 April Dale & LeaEtte Peters
 May Sue 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 & Jim Garoutte
 2nd week . David & Celine Swift
 3rd week Kathy Trimbo
 4th week Kathy Trimbo

USHERS

JanuaryD. Wigern & C. Paulsen
 February Roger & Kathy Trimbo
 March Tom & Annie Senske
 April Dale & LeaEtte Peters
 May Glen & Roxanne Sladek
 June Cory & Brenda Garoutte
 July W. Kaufmann & D. Block
 August David & Celine Swift
 September Jerome & Julie Karl
 October Troy & Angela Uecker
 November Randy & Molly Blake
 December David & Jodi Sanken

August 2000

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p style="text-align: center;">USHERS: <i>Swift</i> CUSTODIANS: <i>Swift</i> ALTAR: <i>Swift</i></p>		1 VBS <small>(began July 30th)</small>	2 VBS	3 VBS	4	5
<p style="text-align: center;">6 135th Anniversary Celebration</p>	7	8	9 Council 7pm	10	11	12
13	14 CCCC annual meeting in Green Lake, WI ----->	15 ----->	16 ----->	17 ----->	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Remember to pick up the next issue of Upper Room	28	29	30	31		

September 2000

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p style="text-align: center;">USHERS: <i>Karl</i> CUSTODIANS: <i>Senske</i> ALTAR: <i>(OPEN)</i></p>					1	2
<p style="text-align: center;">3 Communion Sunday</p>	4 Labor Day	5	6 Women's Guild 7pm Council 7pm	7 EconoFoods Brat Stand	8 EconoFoods Brat Stand	9 EconoFoods Brat Stand
10 Winter hours begin with 10:30am service. Sunday School begins.	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October 2000

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Sunday	2	3	4 Women's Guild 7pm Council 7pm	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Newsletter reports due.
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

USHERS: *Ueker*
CUSTOD.: *C. Garoutte*
ALTAR: *Garoutte*

LOOKING AHEAD:

January 20: Annual Meeting

REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. Sunday (beginning Sept 10)
 Worship Hour: 10:30 a.m. Sunday (beginning Sept 10)
 (summer hours thru Sept 3 with worship at 9:30 a.m.)
 Choir Practice: 6 p.m. Wednesday (see Genise Quast for start date this fall)
 Women's Guild: 7 p.m. 1st Wednesday of the month
 Council: 7 p.m. 1st Wednesday of the month