

St. John's Church

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St. John's Messenger February/March/April 2001

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PASTOR'S NOTES

And he said to his disciples, "Come ye apart to a desert place, and rest awhile." And so they departed, privately. Mark 6:31,32

On a cold wet night in 1975, a young minister visited me in the hospital. We had never met, but someone had asked him to come. He drove over a hundred miles on the Pennsylvania Turnpike to see me. I was tired of my life. I was restless and reckless. I had no peace. I suppose it was a turning point for me, I was ready to listen. Rev. John Kolle was on an errand that night: To share the Gospel with a stranger. Under his arm was a Living Bible, a gift for me. I had heard it all before, but it had never been *explained* to me. That night I prayed with him, asking Christ to come into my heart and change my life.

Nothing dramatic happened, really. My problems did not magically disappear. In fact, they got worse. Only now there was a difference: I was no longer afraid! The realization that I was spirit, and that nothing I would ever pass through in this life could hurt me permanently. I would always live eternally. Calmness and gladness filled my soul.

As the Lenten Season nears, the parish program becomes even more meaningful to our lives. Emerging from the leaden Winter, we need refreshment and renewal: Maintenance for the soul. So come! I invite you to join me for midweek services, beginning February 28, at 7pm. I look forward to seeing you.

Pastor Paul Gould



REFLECTIONS

A Blessing

The man whispered, "God, speak to me" and a meadowlark sang. But, the man did not hear.

So the man yelled "God, speak to me" And, the thunder rolled across the sky. But, the man did not listen.

The man looked around and said, "God, let me see you." And a star shined brightly. But the man did not notice.

And, the man shouted, "God, show me a miracle" And a life was born. But the man did not know.

So, the man cried out in despair, "Touch me God, and let me know you are here" Whereupon God reached down and touched the man. But, the man brushed the butterfly away and walked on.

Don't miss out on a blessing because it isn't packaged the way that you expect.

Daily Prayer - By John T. Baker

Dear Lord --

I'm proud to say, so far today
I've got along all right;
I have not gossiped, whined or bragged,
Or had a single fight.

I haven't lost my temper once,
Or criticized my mate,
I have not lied, I have not cried,
Or loudly cursed my fate.

So far today I've not one time
Been grumpy or morose,
I've not been spiteful, cold or vain,
Self-centered or verbose.

But, Lord, I'm going to need Your help
Throughout the hours ahead,
So give me strength, Dear Lord, for now
I'm getting out of bed.

MEETING NOTES

WOMEN'S GUILD REPORT:

Year End Summary:

At the first meeting of January 2000, we took down the Christmas decorations and put them away.

On January 16th we helped the council with readings, songs and scripture as Pastor Bob wasn't going to be there.

In February we made up 13 Valentine cookie plates and delivered them.

We met after Lenten Services in March and April. This year being our 135th Anniversary, we began planning for a Polka Service and a catered Dinner.

Easter Lilies were bought for Palm Sunday and Easter.

We sent \$50 to the Steve Dobie Family where the mother and child both died, leaving the Dad and 4 little children.

Flowers were planted in front of the Church. A graduation gift was given to our two graduates. A new baptismal cloth was purchased.

Irene donated an afghan and pillow for the Ice Cream Social raffle. A Check of \$25 was sent to Ron Kraemer for music played at the Social.

The guild worked with the Polka Fest and catered meal with lots of other church help. The guild helped with the Brat Stand at Econo Foods.

We also arranged to have "Earth Angels" for our Family Night on December 3rd. Ham was purchased for the dinner.

52 new chairs were bought for the basement.

Respectfully submitted, Betty Sanken, Secretary

COUNCIL REPORT:

(summarized) for Nov, Dec and Jan.

Council members: Tom Senske, Duane Wigern, Celine, Swift, Sue Rose, Jerome Karl & Roxanne Sladek

Nov. 1, 2000

- Jerome Karl absent.
- Speaker system is greatly improved. Lapel mike is helping. Council has asked the Women's Guild to survey hearing impaired members about use of headsets if we were to purchase them.
- Tom has gotten the culvert aprons put in.
- Glen has put new weather stripping along the bottom of the doors and replaced the center strip. He will check into additional caulking, etc. in the spring.
- Celine has taken the bylaws to the lawyer.
- Coffeepot and table have not been found.
- Evergreens have been trimmed and feedback has been good. (*editor's note: Thanks, Sladek's!*)
- \$100 given to choir for Christmas music.
- Member visitations from Pastor Paul to both active and inactive members are needed.
- Celine will send Holiday greeting (gifts) to Lawyer and Accountant who have done work for us very reasonably.

Dec. 5, 2000

- All members present.
- Membership list - Sue marked those who do not attend regularly. Pastor Paul will send a Christmas letter and ask them to attend.
- Installation service for Pastor Paul will be held Feb. 4th at 6 PM. Council will serve coffee, cake and sandwiches.
- Pastor Paul requested an overhead projector. We have a screen. Council approved up to \$300 for a projector.
- Duane asked about an Adult Bible Class. Pastor Paul suggested and in-home Bible study led by lay persons.
- Sue and Celine have updated the newspaper information. Ad will be in the Hutch leader about Christmas services.

- Member visitations from Pastor Paul to both active and inactive members are needed.
- Bylaws - no huge changes by lawyer. Council approved Celine sending the draft out to all members 2 weeks before the annual meeting.
- 4C's do not require dues, but recommend \$400 total (includes both local and greater fund). Council approved sending recommended amount.

Jan. 3, 2001

- All members present.
- Discussed Lenten service dates and times.
- Jerome has completed a draft of the Greeters/Ushers list.
- Council discussed and approved budget for 2001 to be presented at annual meeting. Also set agenda for annual meeting.

All meetings closed with the Lords Prayer.

Submitted by Roxanne Sladek

ANNUAL MEETING:

January 21, 2001

Council members Tom Senske, Celine Swift, and Sue Rose present. Duane Wigern, Jerome Karl, and Roxane Sladek were absent.

- President Tom Senske opened the meeting.
- Pastor Paul gave an opening prayer.
- 2000 Minutes were read by Sue Rose. Dennis Schwanke made motion to approve minutes, seconded by Elaine Carrigan. Motion carried.
- Five months of Pastor Paul's probationary period have passed. Mary Garoutte made a motion to vote to invite Pastor Paul to stay as our permanent pastor, seconded by LeaEtte Peters. The motion passed with 31 yes and 1 no votes.
- The Annual Report was reviewed. Celine Swift gave the financial report and reviewed the 2001 budget. Doug Block made motion to approve, seconded by Dale Peters. Motion carried.
- Benevolence committee report was reviewed by Celine Swift.
- Cemetery report was given by Mary Paulsen. Dave Sanken volunteered for a second term on the board. Celine Swift made motion and Glen Sladek seconded, and Dave was re-elected.
- Bulding Fund report was delivered by Celine Swift in Duane Wigern's absence. Mavis Mielke gave the Women's Guild report, Julie Karl the Sunday School report, and Kathy Trimbo the Youth group report. Doug Block motioned to accept the above reports, seconded by Annie Senske. Motion carried.
- The proposed changes to the By-laws were reviewed. Doug Block motioned and LeaEtte Peters seconded to approve the changes. Motion carried.
- Lenten Services will be every Wednesday night at 7pm, starting with Ash Wednesday. Holy Week service will be on Good Friday at 7pm.
- Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas services will all be at 9:30am.
- Summer Worship hour will be at 9:30am from Memorial Day through Labor Day.
- Land rent: Dave Sanken has contract for 2 more years.
- Lawn mowing: Any interested parties may place bids to council member or Cemetery Board member by 2/15/01.
- New Usher/Greeter duties were reviewed.
- Volunteers for a committee to select a new hymnal are: Pastor Paul, Dave Swift, Genise Quast, Mavis Mielke, Marge Block, with Rosie Ziemer's support.
- The Ice Cream Social is scheduled for 6/14/01. Celine volunteered to do the paperwork. Other volunteers are: Julie Karl, Kathy Trimbo, Sandi Senske, Brenda Garoutte, Roxanne Sladek.
- Volunteers for this year's benevolence committee are: Julie Karl, Dave Swift, and Dennis Schwanke.
- Celine Swift's first term on the council is up. She volunteers for another term. Sue Rose' and Duane Wigern's terms are up and they are not eligible to be re-elected. Sue Rose made a motion to elect Randy Blake and Mark Wigern, and to re-elect Celine Swift. Motion was seconded by Dale Peters. Motion carried.
- Dave Swift made motion to adjourn, seconded by Dennis Schwanke. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Sue Rose

The Youth Page

October, November, and December of 2000 turned out to be a quiet time for the youth group. That's not how we planned it, but how it turned out. In October we had to postpone our plans for bowling. There were too many school activities that conflicted.

We did some Christmas Shopping at the Mall of America on Nov. 19. Tyler was the most successful shopper. He got something for everyone on his list. We had a good day with a snowy drive home.

December we had planned to visit the shut-ins and had rescheduled the bowling. This time those activities were canceled due to weather. We will try again.

Thanks to all of you, who have helped us out in one way or another to get this group going. We appreciate your efforts and financial support in the past year and look forward to the upcoming year. ☺

2001

Jan 26th will be our 3rd attempt at bowling. Hopefully as this newsletter goes out in the mail the Youth group will be bowling "Thunder Alley" style at Hutch Bowl.

Feb. 19th (President's Day - no school) Snow Tubing at Powder Ridge.

March Not yet scheduled.

April 14th Pizza and Carman Concert (at the Target Center).

Submitted by Roxanne Sladek

Attention Youth:

Celebrate Life Youth Rally will be held in Hutch on Friday Feb. 9th from 9:30 - 12:30. A parent meeting will also be held the evening before. Students can be excused from school with parent permission and will be bussed to the Rally and back to school after the rally, and will be provided with a free bag lunch. It sounds like they have a really good program planned: "*Reality in Relationships*" through a couple of speakers, videos, and musical entertainment. See Roxanne to get more information and permission slips if anyone is interested.

Editor's note: This was supposed to be in the last issue. Ooops! My fault. Better late than never.

VBS 2000

July 30th - August 3rd



This years VBS had an Australian Theme. Each night began with a walkabout and the kids walked about until they found our special storyteller. Lillian, one of our storytellers, was found out behind the shed near the bean field. Each night the story featured a different animal that was also featured through out the evening at the various stations.

The children rotated between Bible story time, arts and crafts, and games.

We also had a snack break each night with lots of great food thanks to the ladies of our church.



Each night we closed as one large group singing songs and putting motions to them.



The last night of VBS we all went to the Sladek's farm to see, pet and learn about the animals. Dave Sanken took us for hayrides.

Submitted by Roxanne Sladek

Sunday School Christmas Program

December 23, 2000

This year's Sunday School Christmas Program was another big success. 145 people attended. The program involved the whole school, with welcoming poems, prayers, piano solos, the Children's Choir, congregational hymns, a play called "Parties and Plays, Dreams and Visions", and the Nativity Scene as only St. John's can do it.



There was lots of good feedback about how the kids of all ages memorized so many of their lines and did a professional job. They crew even recovered quickly when the leading man became too ill to continue performing. Thanks to Tyler Quast for coming

that evening and starting the play even though he felt poorly. And thanks to Tom Senske for the last minute replacement.

Joke Time:

An exasperated mother, whose son was always getting into mischief, finally asked him, "How do you expect to get into Heaven?"

The boy thought it over and said, Well, I'll just run in and out and in and out and keep slamming the door until St. Peter says, "For Heaven's sake, Jimmy, come in or stay out!"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Pastor Paul's installation ceremony is scheduled for Sunday evening, February 4th, at 6pm. There will be a small reception in the basement following the service. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending this important event for our church, and to show our support for Pastor Paul. This will also be a good opportunity to meet some of the CCCC representatives.
- The Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday on February 28th. Services will be every Wednesday night at 7pm, with lunch and fellowship in the basement following the services. (Please check the bulletin board to sign up to bring lunches.) The Holy Week service will be on Good Friday, April 13th, at 7pm.
- There will be no Sunday School on February 18th or Easter Sunday. The Sunday School Choir will sing on Palm Sunday.
- Valentine plates for shut-ins will be made up on Sunday, February 11th after the service. Please bring 1 dozen cookies to share. Thank you.
- Guild and Council meetings for March and April will need to be rescheduled due to Lenten services. Check with the presidents to find when the meetings will be.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- There are still a few openings for Custodians, Altar Guild, and Ushers. Sign up on the bulletin board.
- The choir is looking for some extra voices for the Lenten season. Interested? Consider a short term commitment from now until Easter. Come join us Wednesday evenings at 6pm.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

- Next newsletter reports are due to Celine Swift by April 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!

RECENT EVENTS

- The annual meeting was held on January 21st. If you missed it and would like a copy of the annual report, there are some extras at the back of the church.
- Besides the benevolence contributions coordinated by the benevolence committee, there were some other gifts made this past quarter from our church. The Gideons received \$87 from our members when they were here to speak to our church in October. In November, our church donated 74lbs of food and \$66 to the McLeod County Food Shelf. In December the Sunday School donated a large box of school supplies and some cash for area kids in need through Partners in Friendship. Thanks to everyone for your generosity.
- Have you noticed the new offering envelopes? There is room on the front to mark if you want to divide your offering to different accounts: Church Expenses (General fund), Benevolence, Building Fund (capital projects), Cemetery Fund, and Other (which could include Youth Group, Sunday School, etc. Please specify where you want the money to go). Fill in how much of your offering goes to each fund, and you may write one check for the total amount. We'll see to it that the money gets to the right place
- How about that new Sunday School table and stools! Thanks to Dick Swift for donating the labor and the lumber for that project.

TO OUR SHUT-INS

- What a disappointment that weather prevented our Christmas Caroling visit! We think of you often and wish you all well.

POINTS TO PONDER

Quarterly income reported by Sue Rose.

	1998	1999	2000
Oct	\$1787.30	\$2177.65	\$2762.40
Nov	\$3105.25	\$2526.30	\$2482.85
Dec	\$2097.75	\$3237.10	\$3819.25
Quarter	\$6990.30	\$7941.05	\$9064.50

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
 Randy Blake 587-5472
 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

CHURCH SECRETARIES

Records Upkeep: Mavis Mielke 328-5339
 Clerical: Celine Swift 864-6188

CEMETERY BOARD

Mary Paulsen 587-4684
 David Sanken 328-4164
 David Swift 864-6188

BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE

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

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 (open)
 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 (open)
 4th week (open)
 Jan 2002 (open)

USHERS

January D. Wigern & C. Paulsen
 February ... Glen & Roxanne Sladek
 March Roger & Kathy Trimbo
 April (open)
 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

February 2001

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
USHERS: <i>Sladke</i> CUSTODIANS <i>Sladke</i> ALTAR: <i>Sladke</i>				1	2	3
4 Communion Sunday Pastor Paul's Installation Service at 6pm, followed by reception	5	6	7 Women's Guild 7pm Council 7pm	8	9 <i>Celebrate Life Youth Rally</i>	10
11 Valentine Plates - bring cookies.	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 No Sunday School	19 Youth Event: Snow tubing	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Ash Wednesday 7pm service followed by lunch			

March 2001

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
USHERS: <i>Trimbo</i> CUSTOD: <i>Trimbo/Blake</i> ALTAR: <i>Blake</i>				1	2	3
4 Communion Sunday	5	6	7 Lenten Service 7pm followed by lunch	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Lenten Service 7pm followed by lunch	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Lenten Service 7pm followed by lunch	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Lenten Service 7pm followed by lunch	29	30	31

April 2001

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Sunday Daylight Saving Time begins	2	3	4 Lenten Service 7pm followed by lunch	5	6	7
8 Palm Sunday Sunday School Choir Sings	9	10	11	12	13 Good Friday Service 7pm	14 Youth: Carman Concert
15 Easter Sunday 9:30 am Service No Sunday School	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30				USHERS: <i>(open)</i> CUSTOD.: <i>Peters</i> ALTAR: <i>Rose/Benj.</i>	

REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. Sunday
 Worship Hour: 10:30 a.m. Sunday
 Confirmation class: 5 p.m. Wednesday
 Choir Practice: 6 p.m. Wednesday
 Women's Guild: 7 p.m. 1st Wednesday of the month
 Council: 7 p.m. 1st Wednesday of the month