

St. John's Church

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St. John's Messenger Aug/Sept/Oct 2002

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REFLECTIONS



St. John's has been sent Angels to watch over us

*May we always have an angel by our side
Watching out for us in all the things we do
Reminding us to keep believing in brighter days
Finding ways for our wishes and dreams to take us to beautiful places
Giving us hope that is as certain as the sun
Giving us the strength of serenity as our guide
May we always have love and comfort and courage
And may we always have an angel by our side*

*May we always have an angel by our side
Someone there to catch us if we fall
Encouraging our dreams Inspiring our happiness
Holding our hand and helping us through it all
In all of our days, our lives are always changing
Tears come along as well as smiles
Along the roads we travel, may the miles be
a thousand times more lovely than lonely
May they give us the kind of gifts that never, ever end:
Someone wonderful to love and a dear friend in whom we can confide
May we have rainbows after every storm
May we have hopes to keep us warm
And may we always have an angel by our side.*

by Emilia Larson

Submitted by Brenda Garoutte and LeaEtte Peters

REFLECTIONS, *continued*

Love

*Love is patient, love is kind.
Does not have a jealous mind.
Doesn't boast and doesn't brag.
Isn't angry, doesn't nag.*

*Evil thoughts are put aside.
Love is not puffed-up with pride.
It endures and suffers long.
Never does delight in wrong.*

*Love's not selfish - always shares.
Thinks of others, really cares.
Does not always claim it's right.
Doesn't quarrel, doesn't fight.*

*Love is glad when truth prevails.
Never falters, never fails.
On faith and hope, love relies;
Lives forever, never dies.*

*Gifts of prophesy will end,
We cannot on them depend.
Other things, too, will pass away.
Love endures, it's here to stay!*

*Though I have knowledge from above,
I am nothing without love.*

by Erna Piotter Anderson - (Based on I Corinthians 13)

Submitted by Bernetta Swift



MEETING NOTES

WOMEN'S GUILD REPORT:

May: Irene donated the afghan and Dick Swift made a garden bench and some stools for raffling off at the Ice Cream Social.

LeaEtte purchased gifts for honoring the graduates.

June: Communion cups were ordered for Pastor Paul to do home communion.

We received parts that were ordered for the 100 cup coffee pot.

July: Placemats that had been ordered with the picture of the church on them were received. There are 500 of them and they are ready to use.

Lillian purchased hot-pads from Target for when needed to set hot foods on them. The Guild is in the process of looking for entertainment for the Advent-Christmas Family night.

Submitted by Betty Sanken, Secretary

COUNCIL REPORT:

Summarized for May, June and July.

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

April 22, 2002 (after last newsletter)

- Council was to meet with Pastor Ron, but he called to say he would not be coming.
- Council emailed Pastor Ron some of our concerns.

April 26, 2002 (after last newsletter)

- Council discussed the urgency of meeting with Pastor Ron and drafted an email that was sent to him.
- A proposal was made to schedule a congregational meeting to make members aware of the past and current situation as well as efforts that were made to correct the situation with Pastor Paul. It was decided to wait and see if we could meet with Pastor Ron this week.

May 2, 2002

- Council met with Pastor Ron Stewart, CCCC area representative.

May 7, 2002 (*regular council meeting*)

- Pastor Paul absent.
- April secretary, building fund, and treasurer's reports read and approved.
- Andrea Wigern donated a new floral arrangement by the brochure rack. Thank you Andrea!
- Pastor study area – Randy talked to the women's guild and they do not want the extra refrigerator moved so that area could be used for a study. Council will continue to consider other options.
- Council minutes were discussed and will be done as Pastor Ron suggested in the future.

May 17, 2002

- Council met to discuss issues with Pastor Paul.
- Jerome updated council on phone conversation with Pastor Ron.

May 29, 2002

- Council met to prepare for meeting with Pastor Ron, Pastor Cliff and Pastor Paul.
- Discussed congregational meeting should it be necessary to have one.

June 4, 2002 (*regular council meeting*)

- Pastor Paul absent from regular council meeting.
- May secretaries, building fund and treasurer's report read and approved.
- One larger rug was ordered for the entry area to help with the mud in the spring. It is here.

June 4, 2002 (*meeting with Pastor Ron, Pastor Cliff*)

- All council members present.
- Before the conclusion of the meeting council considered 4 options that were presented by Pastor Cliff.
 - Continue as we have been (not really an option)
 - Work through this – reconciliation could be a wonderful experience, but there are no guarantees that it won't just delay the outcome, would take mentoring, etc.)

- Pastor Paul could resign
- Or council could let Pastor Paul go.
- A motion was made to ask Pastor Paul for his resignation.
- A congregational meeting was scheduled for Tue. June 11th.

June 6, 2002

- Council received Pastor Paul's letter of resignation.
- Letter was sent to the congregation announcing Pastor Paul's resignation and congregational meeting June 11.

June 9, 2002

- Jerome and Randy updated council on visit with Pastor Paul when they got the letter of resignation.
- Council worked on the opening statement for the congregational meeting.
- A motion was made and approved to pay Pastor Paul the balance of the growth fund (approx. \$45.) to cover costs of books and materials purchased at the Spousal Retreat even though Pastor Paul has not yet found the receipts.
- Council discussed and made a plan for covering visitations.
- Scheduled a meeting for June 17th to answer additional questions the congregation may have after the congregational meeting.
- Roxanne will line up supply for a while.

June 11, 2002 (*also see Congregational Meeting notes next page*)

- Council met with Pastor Cliff briefly to discuss the congregational meeting.
- Also discussed supply pastor and interim pastor options.

June 17, 2002

- Celine was absent.
- 8 members of the congregation attended the meeting.
- Council answered more questions about Pastor Paul's resignation.
- Copies of the constitution were made for those in attendance.

July 2, 2002

- June secretaries, building fund and treasurer's reports were read and approved.

- Discussed visitations.
- Discussed supply pastors.
- By-laws and constitution committee sign up sheet will be posted asking for 5 volunteers to bring recommended changes to council by Oct. meeting.
- Concerns of lawn mowers leaving rain gutters off and running them over will be expressed by sending a letter to Glencoe Garden Center to make them aware of this.
- Sump pump was replaced.

July 7, 2002

- Council met to read a letter from Pastor Paul and the attached petition for another congregational meeting. These had been handed to Gene at today's service.
- Council contacted Pastor Cliff and set a date for the congregational meeting.
- Council responded to Pastor Paul that afternoon (within 24 hours as he had requested).
- Drafted a letter to the congregation that was sent Monday to give people as much time as possible to make plans to attend the meeting.

July 12, 2002

- Council prepared a draft of chronological events that may be read as the council's statement if needed at the congregational meeting.

All meetings closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Roxanne Sladek

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

Congregational Meeting Notes

Congregational Meeting 6/11/02

RE: Pastor Paul's Resignation

Council members present: Jerome Karl, Celine Swift, Randy Blake, Gene Konerza, Roxanne Sladek, Mark Wigern.

Pastor Cliff Christensen, CCCC representative attended.

52 people in attendance. 48 members of the congregation were present.

Jerome opened the meeting. Celine read part of today's Upper Room Devotion and scripture.

Pastor Cliff Christensen said opening prayer and read Pastor Paul's letter of resignation.

Jerome read an opening statement.

Pastor Cliff added a few words.

The floor was opened to questions. There were a lot of comments and questions. Many of the questions were not answered completely due to numerous interruptions. Much of the discussion focused on disappointment with the council having made this decision without involving the congregation earlier in the process. There was also a great deal of discussion regarding the Constitution of our Church. It was suggested that maybe someone should look into that before our next annual meeting.

Mary Garoutte made a motion to accept Pastor Paul's resignation. Kari Eichens seconded the motion. A written vote was taken with Alan Borg, Troy Uecker, Sandy Senske, and Sue Rose counting the ballots with Cliff Christensen overseeing the process. There were 29 yes and 15 no votes.

Sue Rose made motion and there was a second to pay Pastor Paul 6 months salary as a severance package and give \$500 towards counseling (payable to the counselor) if Pastor Paul and/or Holli choose to attend counseling. By a show of hands there were a majority of yes votes and 2 no votes with a few people who chose not to vote one way or the other.

Jerome informed the congregation that the council would meet on Monday June 17th at 7:00PM. If anyone has additional questions they are welcome to bring their questions at that time.

Doug Block made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Carol Block seconded that motion and the congregation approved. The meeting was adjourned.

Congregational Meeting 7/17/02

RE: Petition

Council members present: Jerome Karl, Celine Swift, Randy Blake, Gene Konerza, Roxanne Sladek, Mark Wigern

Pastor Cliff Christensen, CCCC representative attended.

Two sheriff deputies were present at Pastor Paul's request.

74 people in attendance. 66 members of the congregation were present.

Pastor Paul handed out some papers to the congregation: 1) Copy of email from council to Pastor Ron. 2) Code of ethics for churches.

Jerome opened the meeting.

Mark led an opening prayer.

Jerome read the Petition.

Minutes from the June 11th congregational meeting were read. Sue Rose made a motion, seconded by Doug Block and minutes were approved.

Dave Sanken made a motion to ask a third party, an unbiased moderator to chair this meeting. Rev. Rodger Prois, of ELCA who is well-versed in parliamentary law and a former missions pastor. The motion was seconded by LeEtte Peters. Dave Swift asked a few questions addressed to Rev. Rodger Prois regarding his expertise in moderating and what information he had regarding the issues of our church. Also asked if he would be willing to meet with council and Pastor Paul or a representative to establish an agenda. Pastor Paul

expressed he didn't feel council should meet with the moderator and said he did not want to meet with him and had never met him. Jerome Karl asked who the information Rev Prois had received came from. Rev. Prois said that he had gotten it from Pastor Paul the night before. Rev. Prois also said he would like to meet with the council to help the meeting run smoother. By show of hands the congregation voted to have Rev. Prois moderate the meeting.

Dave Swift made a motion and Warren Kaufmann seconded having a five-minute recess to allow the moderator to view the agenda. The motion carried and a five-minute recess was taken.

Rodger opened the meeting and gave a brief background of himself and his experience with Robert's Rules of order. He talked about starting churches and churches he has served. He plans to run things tight and keep it fair. He talked about times of conflict, God's house and God's law and also Robert's rules of order.

Rodger suggested that a motion be made to suspend rules for one hour to allow each side, Pastor Gould and Council up to ½ hour to share their views. Dick Swift made a motion and Dennis Schwanke seconded it. By show of hands it was approved. Rodger flipped a coin with Pastor Paul choosing heads and Pastor Paul took the floor.

Pastor Paul said the presence of the deputies is for the safety of those here and went on to share his views of the issues between himself and the council. Tom Senske and Sonja Borg also spoke on Pastor Paul's behalf.

Rodger talked about conflict in church and suggested a moment of silence.

Randy Blake represented the council and read a chronology of some of the events leading to Pastor Paul's resignation. Genise Quast, Jerome Karl and Tom Senske also spoke on Council's behalf.

Mary Garoutte made a motion to nullify the vote of June 11th. LeaEtte Peters seconded the motion. An amendment was made by Mary with LeaEtte seconding to clarify this motion was in regards to the vote accepting Pastor Paul's resignation.

Against the motion: Genise Quast expressed a concern that this would be setting precedence for further votes in our church.

For the motion: Sonja Borg said she couldn't get off work and would like a chance to vote.

For the motion: Brenda Black said she didn't come to the last meeting because she didn't feel it was a choice. She expressed that 6 people should not be able to do that and that absentee votes should be available.

Against the motion: Jerome Karl restated that the constitution changes were voted on by the congregation and that council had followed the rules.

Having no more discussion, 3 people were selected as tellers: Sue Rose, Warren Kaufmann and Alan Borg.

It was clarified that a *Yes* vote would nullify the decision of the body to accept Pastor Paul's resignation. A *No* vote would allow the previous vote to stand.

Rodger asked for no comments and no applause when the vote was read. There were 28 yes votes and 38 no votes. The decision of June 11th meeting stands to accept Pastor Paul's resignation.

Rodger led a prayer.

The floor was opened to questions and comments. Jerome read Gene Konerza and Mark Wigern's letters of resignation from their positions on the council.

Rodger instructed that the secretary destroy the ballots. Dave Sanken made a motion as such and Warren Kaufmann seconded the motion.

Pastor Cliff Christensen asked to take the floor. He talked about this being a hard meeting for everyone. He stated that he came as a friend to Paul and Holli, to the council, and the members of the church. He talked about a church family and having a disagreement. He said it is not easy and commended us on the manor we conducted ourselves. He suggested that we support one another and encourage one another. He referred to scripture and unity.

Dennis Schwanke made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Elaine Carrigan. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Roxanne Sladek

The Youth Page

What we have been doing:

The first weekend in May the youth group held their annual garage sale at the Kaufmann home. Thanks to the generous contributions of used items and baked goods from the congregation of St. John's the youth earned \$774.30.



Pictures starting at top: Kathy and Aaron pricing items before the sale. Right: Bonnie, Warren and Angela setting out items. Below left: The garage sale Friday afternoon. Below center: Angela and Tyler waiting for the next customer. Below right: Brandon and Tyler heading home on bikes with their purchase, a beanbag chair.



Looking ahead:

July 31st we are going to a Twins game. We are looking forward to that evening!

August 14th we will go to the Renville County Fair where Grant and Evan will be showing livestock.

In June, 7 members of the youth group went camping at Trimbo's cabin. We enjoyed fishing, swimming, canoeing, and the paddleboat. On the way home we played miniature golf, tried go cart racing and bumper carts. After stopping for pizza in St. Cloud we came home exhausted! Pictures right: Alan and Evan washing dishes. Below left: Kathy, Aaron and Roxanne swimming. Below right: Hannah and Laura visiting.



Below: Evan with the smallest fish caught! Below right: Grant, Angela and Aaron fishing at the culvert.



Bottom left: Evan, Alan and Grant by the campfire. Bottom right: Bumper carts on the way home. Aaron, Angela, Hannah, and Evan.



Recent Events Recorded on Film....

Choir

The Sunday School choir joined the adult choir to sing during the service on May 19th.



Brat Stand



Lots of people turned out to help run the Brat Stand at Econo Foods on May 23, 24 and 25. This event raised \$564.14 for St. John's Church! Thanks to all who helped.



Ice Cream Social

Another successful Ice Cream Social was held on June 13th. We served 397 people and made \$1700.13 profit. A big thank-you to the Women's Guild and everyone that helped to make the social possible. And a special thank-you to Dick Swift, Glen Sladek, and Irene Nemitz for contributing the raffle prizes. Your talents are greatly appreciated. The Raffle brought in \$394. The afghan was won by Roxanne Sladek, the garden bench and small stool by Mark Wigern, the large stool by JoAnne Redman, the 2-step stool by Sandy Wozniak, and the plant hanger was won by Marlene Kruze.

Thank you from the Ice Cream Social Committee:
Roxanne Sladek, Brenda Garoutte, Gene and Karen Konerza and Celine Swift

The serving line getting set up.



Mixing the turkey salad the night before....



Raffle prize squatters???



Kitchen Help



The rain held off, so some chose to eat outside.



Thanks to Marge Block for submitting some of the Brat Stand and Ice Cream Social pictures.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECENT EVENTS:

- Confirmation was held on May 5th. Confirmands this year are Tyler Quast, Aaron Kaufmann, and Grant Karl. During the service, they each gave their own sermonette on a topic they selected. Nice job, and congratulations!
- May 12th was recognized as CCCC Sunday. \$40.45 was collected and donated to the CCCC at that service.

COMING UP:

- Everyone is invited to the last night of Vacation Bible School on Thurs., Aug. 1 at 6pm at Lake Marion Park at the shelter by the Playground Equipment. We will be playing games, eating and singing.
- Choir practice starts back up on Sept 4 at 6:30pm. New singers are always appreciated!
- Sunday School begins again on September 8.
- There will be no Sunday School MEA weekend - October 20.
- Remember Daylight savings time change Oct 27.
- Winter hours resume on September 8th. Sunday school will begin at 9:15am. Worship service at 10:30am.
- The next council meeting is Tuesday, Aug 6th at 6pm at Randy Blake's home.

PRAYER REQUEST:

- The Garoutte family has formed a team to walk in the Relay for Life and raise money for the American Cancer Society. The walk will take place overnight Friday, August 2. Things kick off around 5pm. All are welcome to stop by and give some encouragement to the teams and walk the luminary path. Please take some time that evening to pray for and think about all the members of our church family who have been touched by cancer.

A WORD OF THANKS:

- The new outdoor carpeting and rock landscaping at the church entrance was donated and installed by the David Streeter Family and Glen & Roxanne Sladek. Thanks, guys! It looks great!!!

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 are over a third of the way there – the receipts total \$65,850!! It's an easy way to make money for the church. Help us meet that quota!

QUARTERLY INCOME

	2000	2001	2002
Apr	\$2407.89	\$2456.46	\$3225.67
May	\$2490.19	\$2820.96	\$2158.54
Jun	\$2734.96	\$2103.21	\$2304.72
Quarter	\$7633.04	\$7380.63	\$7688.93

Actual clippings from church bulletins and newsletters:

With Choir starting again next month, this seemed like a fun list...

(I wonder how many of these kinds of "oops" has the editor of this newsletter made???)

- ** At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.
- ** Eight new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.
- ** The senior choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoy sinning to join the choir.
- ** Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Our Church Leaders for 2002

COUNCIL

President: Jerome Karl 587-7702
 Vice President: *(Vacant)*
 Secretary: Roxanne Sladek..... 587-7394
 Treasurer: Celine Swift..... 864-6188
 Financial Secretary: Randy Blake 587-5472
 Building Fund Coord: *(Vacant)*

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS (tentative)

Preschool – 1st grade: Julie Karl
 2nd-4th grade: Sandy Senske & Brenda Garoutte
 5th-6th grade: Genise Quast & Jodie Sanken
 7th-8th grade: Mary Garoutte

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

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 Jim & Mary Garoutte
 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.. Jim & Mary Garoutte
 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

August 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
ALTAR: <i>Sanken</i> CUSTODIANS <i>Sanken</i> USHERS: <i>Senske</i>				1 VBS at Lake Marion. All are welcome!	2 Relay for Life	3
4 Communion Sunday	5	6 Council 6pm	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Youth Group – Renville County Fair	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Sunday	2 Labor Day	3 Council 6pm	4 Choir practice resumes.	5	6	7
8 Sunday School Begins Fall Hours Begin	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	28	27	28
29 Remember to pick up the next copy of Upper Room	30					ALTAR: <i>Trimbo</i> CUSTOD: <i>Trimbo</i> USHERS: <i>Trimbo</i>

October 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Council 6pm	2	3	4	5
6 Communion Sunday	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 No Sunday School (MEA) Newsletter Reports due	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Daylight Savings Time ends	28	29	30	31	ALTAR: <i>Swift</i> CUSTODIANS: <i>Swift</i> USHERS: <i>Swift.</i>	

REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. Sunday (begins Sept 8)
 Adult Bible Study: *(Talk to Bernetta Swift about possible Adult Bible Study this Fall.)*
 Worship Hour: 9:30 a.m. Sunday through Sept 1
 10:30 a.m. beginning Sept 8
 Choir Practice: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday (starts Sept 4)
 Women's Guild: 7:30 p.m. 1st Wed. of the month
 Council: 6 p.m. 1st Tuesday of the month

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Next newsletter reports are due to Celine Swift by October 20th. 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!