

St. John's Church

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St. John's Messenger

November & December 2002, January 2003

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REFLECTIONS



The Pumpkin Prayer

Dear God,
As I carve my pumpkin help me say this prayer:

Open my mind so I can learn about You;
(Cut the top of the pumpkin)

Take away all my sin and forgive me for the wrong things I do.
(Clean out the inside)

Open my eyes so Your love I will see;
(Cut eyes shaped like hearts)

I'm sorry for turning up my nose to all You've given me.
(Cut a nose in the shape of the cross)

Open my ears so Your word I will hear;
(Cut ears shaped like the Bible)

Open my mouth so I can tell others You're near.
(Cut the mouth in the shape of a fish)

Let Your light shine in all I say and do! Amen.
(Place a candle inside and light it)

God has called us to be light in the world so we can shine for Him and give glory to our Father in Heaven!
Make carving every pumpkin with your family a prayer.

← "Set your mind on things above." Colossians 3:2

← "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive..." 1 John 1:9

← "Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good..." Psalms 34:8

← "It is good to give thanks to the LORD..." Psalms 92:1

← "Incline your ear, and come to me..." Isaiah 55:3

← "I shall... declare the works of the LORD." Psalms 118:17

← "Let your light so shine before men..." Matthew 5:16

Ask God to fill you up so He can shine brightly through you. Share your faith with your friends and neighbors as they see your special pumpkin!

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:16 (NKJV)

Submitted by Mavis Mielke



Be Thankful

Author Unknown



Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire.
If you did, what would there be to look forward to?

Be thankful when you don't know something, for it gives you the opportunity to learn.

Be thankful for the difficult times.
During those times you grow.

Be thankful for your limitations, because they give you opportunities for improvement.

Be thankful for each new challenge, because it will build your strength and character.

Be thankful for your mistakes.
They will teach you valuable lessons.

Be thankful when you're tired and weary, because it means you've made an effort.

It's easy to be thankful for the good things. A life of rich fulfillment comes to those who are also thankful for the setbacks.

Gratitude can turn a negative into a positive. Find a way to be thankful for your troubles, and they can become your blessings.

Submitted by Brenda Garoutte

PASTOR'S NOTES

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom.” Colossians 3:16

A short time ago I had the wonderful privilege of meeting with a small group of people who were gathered for the express purpose of exploring how they could enrich their lives. No, Carlton Sheets was not there to share his secrets on accumulating wealth through buying and selling real estate. Chuck Norris and Christy Brinkley were not there to impart their knowledge of how to build the perfect body by faithfully using the life-changing “Total Gym.” George Zimmer, founder and CEO of Men’s Warehouse was not in attendance to share his wisdom on how each of us could look like a million bucks in a \$300 suit.

No, we were just a few men and women gathered together to open the Word of God. We were humbly depending on the Holy Spirit to teach us as we read from the Bible and shared with one another, knowing that these simple truths could enrich our lives in such a way that we might more closely resemble our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, “..in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge”, and that our faith, “...of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire...” might be strengthened and proved genuine.

If you too would like to take advantage of this enriching and potentially life-changing weekly gathering please come to Dick and Bernetta Swift’s home each Sunday morning from 9:15-10:00 am. It will make your day. In the words of George Zimmer, founder and CEO of Men’s Warehouse, “I guarantee it!”

Pastor Bob

MEETING NOTES

CONSTITUTION REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT

The Constitution review committee has been meeting weekly since the middle of September. They are working to make our constitution reflect our beliefs and tradition to help eliminate potential problems in the future. In addition to the constitution, they are looking at adding to the list of policies that the council has begun, to provide additional guidance and consistency for many of the activities carried out as normal function of the church.

The task is larger than originally expected, so the committee expects to continue its work through the end of the year. Congregational review and approval will be sought either at the annual meeting or in late winter. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact a committee member - they are: Julie Karl 587-7702, Mary Paulsen 587-4684, LeaEtte Peters 864-3282, Dave Sanken 328-4164, & David Swift 864-6188.

Submitted by the Constitution Review Committee

FROM THE CEMETERY BOARD:

In past years, any monies received either for perpetual care, plot purchase, church offering or funeral memorials, have been added to the savings account. A small amount of interest is earned.

When the association CD (Certificate of deposit) comes due, usually anywhere from 2-5 years, an amount from savings is then added to this CD balance. The interest from the CD is deposited into the checking account, which pays for the church property lawn mowing and upkeep.

Some members of the congregation have voiced interest in donating monies specifically for lawn mowing. Any amount designated for this purpose would be most welcome. To do so, you may use the church offering envelope “Other” space and write mowing on the line provided.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Submitted by Mary Paulsen,
Cemetery Association*

MEETING NOTES, *continued*

WOMEN'S GUILD REPORT:

Summarized for August, September, and October.

500 placemats were purchased from Franklyn printing. They are imprinted with a picture of our church, and can be used for church functions.

Some suggestions that were discussed after the Ice Cream Social: Try to locate a new tarp to put over the carpet since the old one is dirty. Does anybody have any ideas about a new one to buy/borrow?. Also, the duct tape from around the throw rugs did not stay in place well – needs to be more secure.

The program is planned for the Christmas & Advent Family Fun Night, which is scheduled for Sunday, December 1. Entertainment will be provided by the Hutchinson Clown Club.

Submitted by Betty Sanken, Secretary

COUNCIL REPORT:

Summarized for Aug. Sept. & Oct.

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

Aug. 6, 2002

- Jerome, Celine, Randy, and Roxanne present, 2 vacant positions
- July secretaries, building fund and treasurers reports were read and approved.
- Outdoor carpeting has been installed. Looks great. Thanks!
- Bylaws and constitutions committee – need 2 more volunteers.
- Sent a letter to Glencoe Garden Center expressing lawn-mowing concerns.
- 5 visitations and 1 phone call visit were done.
- Council positions to be filled – Jerome will call a list of people in hopes of filling the remainder of the vacant terms.
- Lawn mowing contributions will be kept separate and put on offering envelopes as “Other”. This was explained in Church on Sunday and will be in the bulletin for a couple of weeks.

Sept 2, 2002

- Jerome Karl, Sue Rose, Celine Swift were present. Roxanne Sladek, Randy Blake were absent, one position vacant.
- August secretaries, building fund and treasurers reports were read and approved.
- 1 visitation and 1 phone call visit done by council. Pastor Bob visited 3 shut-ins with communion.
- Council is pleased to have Pastor Bob Taylor and Pastor Bill Hyndman as our Interim Pastor team and Nancy Hyndman as confirmation instructor.
- The Gideon's are coming Sept 15th. Loose plate will go to them.

Oct. 1, 2002

- Celine, Sue, Jerome and Roxanne attended, Randy was absent and one position is vacant.
- Sept. secretaries, building fund and treasurers reports were read and approved.
- Bylaws and constitution committee – LeaEtte Peters and Mary Paulson presented a draft of constitution changes to the council for input. The committee is also working on policies for the church. A lot of effort has gone into this project. Thanks!
- Council position to be filled – No one that Jerome asked was willing and no one has volunteered. We may have to leave the position vacant until Jan Cong. meeting.
- 3 visitations and 1 phone visit were done this month.
- Inactive members were discussed and the appropriate letters sent.
- Annual meeting was set for Jan 26th with a 9:30 service that day.
- Snow removal bids needed by Oct. 20th

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.)

The Youth Page

What we have been doing:

In July the youth Group went with a KARP fan bus to a Minnesota Twins baseball game. On the way there some members won goofy door prizes. We sat on the upper deck of the Metrodome and the Twins beat the White Sox.



each played a game of croquet, then we went in and ate food. It was really good. We planned for going to a hotel during MEA and other events.

In Aug we went to the Renville County Fair to see Grant and Evan show their steers. Grant got Reserve Champion and he got to go to the State Fair. We walked and saw a lot of different things.

In September we had a spaghetti supper to plan for our next youth group event. We



In October, we stayed at the Residence Inn at Bloomington near the Mall of America. (*See pictures this page.*) On the way there we got a little lost so never get directions off of the Internet. We had our fair share of swimming and a nice breakfast. Thursday, we went shopping at the Mall of America.

Written by: Angela Kaufmann, Jenna Trimbo, Rachel Senske, Laura Senske, Aaron Kaufmann and Alan Kaufmann.

Looking ahead... We don't have any activities scheduled as of this time, but are hoping to go bowling in November.



Recent Events Recorded on Film....

Vacation Bible School

7/23/03 – 8/1/02



Learning New Songs

We enjoyed another week of Vacation Bible School with about 28 children every night. Our theme was Brave Believers: Extreme Faith Stories. The children heard stories about Samuel, Rahab, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, Miriam and Elijah. We sang songs, ate yummy snacks, played games, and made a craft every night. One night we even had a hayride!

Story Time



Thanks again to David Streeter for providing boat rides at Lake Marion for our last night's picnic.



Closing Songs

Thanks also to everyone who taught, helped in any way, brought snacks and thought about us!



Outdoor Fun



Craft Time

Campfire fun at Lake Marion



Hayride



Recent Events *continued...*



Third Graders Receive Their Bibles

Morgan Sanken and
Danielle Strassburg
receiving Bibles
from Pastor Bill Hyndman.
September 29, 2002

Relay for Life

The Garoutte Family coordinated a walking team for the McLeod County *RELAY FOR LIFE* overnight walking event on August 2, 2002. On our very first year, our team raised over \$1,500⁰⁰!! The event, which included 35 teams, brought in a total of nearly \$85,000⁰⁰ (just in McLeod County). The money will go toward research and other programs of the American Cancer Society. Thanks to everyone who contributed.

Submitted by Genise Quast.



First Row: Madrienne Weber (Cancer Survivor), Jim Garoutte (Cancer Survivor), Cory Garoutte, Adam Garoutte, Brenda Garoutte (Cancer Survivor), Grace Garoutte, Roger Brenhaug (Cancer Survivor)
Second Row: Mary Garoutte, Diane Brenhaug, Celine Swift, Lisa Weber, Amy Jenneke
Third Row: Scott Weber, Brad O'Donnell, Jenifer O'Donnell, Genise Quast

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECENT EVENTS:

- Sue Rose accepted one of the open positions on the council. Thank you Sue!
- The Gideon's had a representative speak at our church on September 15th. Our congregation gave \$118⁰⁰ toward their mission of Bible placement.
- Pastor Bob Taylor and Pastor Bill Hyndman have taken on the team role of interim Pastor for St. John's, alternating Sundays for leading worship. Pastor Bill's wife Nancy Hyndman is leading the confirmation classes. Pastor Bob has also taken on the role of shut-in visitations. Thanks to all three of you for your continued support and service to our church.

COMING UP:

- The Council will meet Sunday, Nov.3 at 6:30pm.
- Women's Guild will meet on November 6th at LeaEte's home after choir.
- Thanksgiving Day service will be at 9:30 a.m. Pastor Bill will lead the worship service.
- St. John's Christmas Family Night will be Sunday, December 1st, with a potluck supper at 6 p.m. and a special program at 7 p.m. by the Hutchinson Clown Club. Bring the whole family and invite guests!
- There will be no Guild meeting in December because of the Guild program and potluck on Sunday, December 1st.
- Sunday School: The S.S. Christmas program will be on Monday evening, December 23rd at 7pm. Sunday School will start 15 minutes early (at 9am) each Sunday from December 1 to Dec 22 to practice for the program. There will be no S.S. on Sunday, December 29th or January 26th.
- The Christmas Eve Service will be at 5pm. Pastor Bob will lead the worship service.
- The Annual Congregational meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, January 26th immediately following the service. There will be no Sunday School that day, and the service will be earlier than usual at 9:30am. A potluck will follow the meeting. Please have your reports to Celine by January 5th.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

- Help is needed for decorating the Church on Saturday, November 30th at 9am. Please come!
- Help is needed for undecorating the church on Sunday, January 5th, immediately following the service. Please dress casually, bring fingerfoods and plan to stay and help.
- The council will be needing new members this January. Four positions will be open. Please consider and pray about possible candidates, including volunteering yourself. Please see a council member with nominations.
- Keep your eyes on the bulletin board for sign-ups for next year's Custodians, Altar Guild, and Ushers. Your help is needed.
- Other committees/boards that will need volunteers at the Annual meeting:
 - One Cemetery board position is open.
 - A pastor Search committee will be formed.
 - Ice Cream Social Committee.
 - Benevolence 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 getting close to the halfway mark. It's an easy way to make money for the church. Help us meet that quota!
- The Sunday School leaders are looking for any past pictures from Sunday School or Christmas programs. If you have some, please give them to Brenda Garoutte or Jodi Sanken.
- There is a Bible Study at Bernetta and Dick Swift's house each Sunday morning at 9:15am. Newcomers welcome! Come share in reading God's word, using the Upper Room devotional as a tool to expand our Relationship with God. There is plenty of room around the table. Please come, and bring a friend! Questions? Call Bernetta at 864-6068.

Our Church Leaders for 2002

INTERIM PASTOR TEAM

Rev. Bob Taylor763-420-6800
Rev. Bill Hyndman320-395-9833

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: Sue Rose 864-6862

WOMEN'S GUILD (*Pres./VP roles switch in Jan*)

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS (tentative)

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
Sunday School: Julie Karl

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
MaySue Rose & Betty Benjamin
June Elaine, Mavis
July Block
August Sanken
September Trimbo
October Swift
November.. Cory&Brenda Garoutte
DecemberJim & Mary Garoutte
Jan 2003Senske

CUSTODIANS

JanuaryGaroutte/Sladek
February Sladek
March Peters
April Alan Mielke
MaySue Rose & Betty Benjamin
JuneMavis, 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

JanuaryDuane & Mark Wigern
February ...Glen & Roxanne Sladek
MarchPeters
April Karls
May..... Dick Swift
June..... Konerza
JulyW. Kaufmann & D. Block
August Senske
September..... Trimbo
October Swift
NovemberGaroutte
December Konerza
Jan 2003.....Duane & Mark Wigern

November 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
ALTAR: Cory Garoutte CUSTOD: Cory Garoutte USHERS: Garoutte					1	2
3 Communion Sunday Council 6:30pm.	4	5	6 Guild at LeaEtte's after Choir	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving Service 9:30am	29	30 Decorate Church 9:00am

December 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday School at 9:00am Communion Sunday Family Fun Nite: 6pm potluck, 7pm program	2	3 Council 6:30pm	4	5	6	7
8 Sunday School. at 9am	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 S.S. at 9am	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 S.S. at 9am	23 Sunday Schl Christmas Prog. at 7pm	24 Christmas Eve Service at 5pm	25 	28	27	28
29 No Sunday School Remember to pick up the next copy of Upper Room	30				ALTAR: Jim Garoutte CUSTOD: (mix) USHERS: Konerza	

January 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 Communion Sunday Undecorate Church after service.	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Newsletter Reports due	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 No Sunday School Service at 9:30am Annual Cong. Meeting Potluck	27	28	29	30	ALTAR: <i>Senske</i> CUSTODIANS: <i>Senske</i> USHERS: <i>Wigern</i>	

REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. Sunday (earlier in December)
 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: 6:30 p.m. 1st Tuesday of the month

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Next newsletter reports are due to Celine Swift by January 19th. 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!