

# November 2023 Issue 313

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## NOVEMBER 2023

The photos on this page are from Joe's and my side by side trip to Hill City, Minnesota the end of September. The trees were incredible.

God's Blessing to all: Linda



## November Birthdays

|                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| Ruby Dammann      | Nov 04 |
| Eric Ingersoil    | Nov 05 |
| Kyle Mages        | Nov 07 |
| Grant Mages       | Nov 07 |
| AJ Zimiga         | Nov 07 |
| Jordan Miller     | Nov 07 |
| Sandy Sheffer     | Nov 10 |
| Alexandra Mages   | Nov 11 |
| Paul Mages        | Nov 12 |
| Cooper Mages      | Nov 15 |
| John Mages        | Nov 18 |
| Ravi Plath        | Nov 18 |
| Roger Mages       | Nov 19 |
| Michelle Strate   | Nov 22 |
| Stacie Roiger     | Nov 24 |
| Madeline Ibberson | Nov 30 |
| Trista Mages      | Nov 30 |
| Diana Mages       | Nov 30 |

## Coming Events

**October 28, 2023** – 5:30 pm Mass for Dad and Mom on their anniversary at St. Mary's Sleepy Eye.

**November 21, 2023** – Mages Family Mass

**November 25, 2023** – Mages Annual Christmas Party at St. Margaret's Catholic Church, Lake Henry, Minn.

**November, 2023** – New Baby due for Ethan and Becca Scharmer

**December 12, 2023** – Mages Family Mass

## 2024

**March 31, 2024** – Easter Sunday Mass 9:30 am for Dad and Mom at St. Mary's in Sleepy Eye.

**May 12, 2024** – Mass for Mom 9:30 am at St. Mary's in Sleepy Eye.

## November Anniversaries



|                              |        |          |
|------------------------------|--------|----------|
| Joe and Linda Gall           | Nov 11 | 56 years |
| Randy and Theresa Wagner     | Nov 08 | 26 years |
| Josh and Chrissy Vander Hook | Nov 12 | 07 years |
| Doug and Suzanne Pfaum       | Nov 19 | 07 years |
| Cody and Alissa Groen        | Nov 23 | 04 years |
| Larry and Debra Mages        | Nov 05 | 01 year  |

A special Hello to our German cousins, Helmut, Birgit, Andi, Elena, Rosalie and Tobi

[www.magesonline.com](http://www.magesonline.com)

## News Deadline

20th of each month

Send articles and photos to Linda at

[lindagall@rocketmail.com](mailto:lindagall@rocketmail.com)

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# Mages Annual Christmas Party November 25, 2023

## The Mages Family Christmas 2023 Potluck

St Margaret's Catholic Church Social Hall

Lake Henry, Minnesota

November 25, 2023

At 12 Noon

Fun for everyone

Planned for you by this years committee

John and Cindy – Jeff and LeAnn

Duke and Jermayne – Dean and Donna

And families

# Kodet Sister Day 2023

Saturday, Sept 30, 2023 the Kodet Sisters and Cousins gathered together in The Senior Citizens Center of Morton, MN. 23 were in attendance for sharing of stories and laughter. We went around the room telling of our relationship to the Kodet Reunion of members. We met Alois Jrs new girlfriend- Pam. She was very friendly. Some shared family photos, some craft projects and many bringing garden produce to swap. Of course Mom-Barbara Mages was missed by many. We took along our Photo stick of Mom, and her sisters loved showing her off and talking to her as her spirit was certainly present in the room. Barb Plath brought along a number of items to auction off to help pay for the room rental. Everyone brought many bingo prizes, so after a delicious Kodet style luncheon we played many rounds of BINGO. Everyone won many times. Aunt Adella was the "quick" BINGO caller, so you had to be listening, or had a good partner beside you to watch along with your card. This is serious stuff. Oh how we laughed and laughed. Aunt Mary Lou shared copies of her story and married life with Jim Butzer who was the spearhead recipient of the Cochlear hearing implant invention. God was so involved in their lives through the trials and tribulations of his hearing journey. She also shared many photos of our relatives. Aunt Martha was so strong, healthy and witty. She got up everytime to pick out her own bingo prize. She was happy to say she had all her garden produce in for the season and garden cleaned up already to be ready for next year again. Put it on your calendar for next year, same weekend, same place. Hugs, Deb



# Kodet Day in Photo



The photo to the top left is L-R: Laurie Kodet, Martha Serbus, Julie and Carol Mages, Adella Mages and Mary Lou Butzer.

Top right photo is Barbara Mages Plath sharing with the group



Above photo is Barbara displaying her Diamond Dot work.

The photo to the right is many attendees with the tables pushed together to visit easier.



# The Kodet Sisters



## The Jim Butzer Story

Written by Mary Lou  
Butzer

July 30, 2001



7-28-54

# The Jim Butzer Story

After eighth grade graduation from a one-room country school, I was enrolled in ninth grade at Morton High School, Morton, Minnesota and that is where I met Jim Butzer. We were in the same class and, as a matter of fact, we ended up being high school sweethearts. After high school graduation in May, 1952, Jim joined the U.S. Air Force and I continued my education at Mankato Teachers College.

In July of 1954, we were married; Jim was stationed in Lincoln, Nebraska, where I taught third grade, my first teaching job. We spent the following year in Charleston, South Carolina, where Susie, our first child, was born and then Jim's Air Force hitch was over.

Back home in Morton, Jim spent a year working for the Cold Springs Granite Quarry, which was located in our town. Most of the time, his job was running a jackhammer, which we always attributed to his hearing loss. In those days we had never even heard of earplugs.

The fall of 1957, Jim enrolled in college. Toward the end of his schooling, he was in a physics class and during an experiment could not hear the tuning forks. That was the first indication of hearing loss. He went to the college nurse and had his hearing checked. He found out he had a hearing problem with high frequencies and would not be recommended for teaching unless he used a hearing aid.

Jim received his first hearing aid in 1960. He was twenty-five years old. It was about this time, he was completing his college degree that he went to Fort Snelling for a physical examination to reenlist in the U.S. Air Force as a "Commissioned Officer" but was rejected because he didn't pass the hearing part of the physical. So Jim decided to seek employment on the field of teaching school.

Jim taught high school science and math classes at Good Thunder, Minnesota for three years. He was having difficulty with hearing high frequencies, hearing the girl's voices, so he felt he needed to pursue a different field of employment. Consequently, Jim became a systems analyst with Univac (now known as Unisys). He worked for this large company for over twenty-eight years and retired from this company in September of 1991.

During Jim's employment as a systems analyst he kept losing more of his hearing. Technology improved hearing aids were better, they kept up with his hearing problems. Every three years he'd need a new hearing aid. Finally, the day came when he was fitted with the pocket aid, his last hearing aid. The changes in his hearing affected everything at work and at home.

When Jim began his career with computers, he often worked as a "trouble shooter" where he solved computer problems on site. He traveled all over the world and was able to use the phone to keep in touch with the homefront. The last ten years his hearing was so severe he could no longer use the telephone (no internet yet) so he would not travel unless absolutely necessary. Then he changed to development where he would read all the specs, plan the project, and assign the work. Group business meetings were stressful as someone would always have to take notes for him and it would limit his input. He had a huge blackboard in his office where fellow

# The Jim Butzer Store Continued

employees could communicate with him.

The day came when his hearing aid needed replacing again. We traveled all over the twin cities area trying to find an aid to help. One dealer recommended the University of Minnesota. We met Barbara Friedman, an audiologist at the University of Minnesota; for the first time. Jim was fitted for his final hearing aid (the pocket aid). Within a year, this aid did not work and we returned to the University of Minnesota. Jim had completely lost his hearing, he was totally deaf. He was about forty-five years old.

The next five years were spent going to lip-reading and sign language classes. We had our first introduction to S-H-H-H, Self Help for the Hard of Hearing. Even with all the classes we took, we seem to communicate the quickest and best with gestures and notes. Jim was always withdrawing from people, friends, or relatives as he wouldn't be able to understand them. This was a period of time that many of our nieces and nephews were getting married. We'd go to church wedding and later the receptions. Jim would always move off into a corner by himself and we always left early. All the way home I would write notes to him telling him all the latest family news. When Jim would withdraw from the group I would try to be happy but I felt sad. It reminded me of the song, "Laughing on the outside, but crying on the inside." I wanted so much for him to be able to enjoy hearing family and friends as I did.

Jim did very well, but it was stressful at work. He used the blackboard all the time now. He also, always carried paper with him, in case, he couldn't understand what a fellow worker needed.

Then one day in the spring of 1986, the phone rang. It was Barbara Friedman from the University of Minnesota. She told me about the new program they were starting at the University. She wondered if Jim would be interested. It took all of "two seconds" for him to decide to be a candidate for the multichannel cochlear implant.

The following weeks, Jim was scheduled for tests and all the preparations to receive the implant. Finally in June, Jim had surgery. Dr Adams was the surgeon and Dr. Levine assisted. There were complications, dense bone around the cochlea needed to be drilled away in order for the electrode array to be threaded into the cochlea. After eight hours of surgery, Jim did not receive the implant.

I have thanked God many times that the cochlear implant team did not give up on Jim and after studying additional x-rays, they agreed that a second surgery would be worthwhile. On September 24, 1986, Jim underwent surgery again and this time the doctors were able to insert the electrodes in the cochlea. Three weeks later, on October 15, 1986, Jim finally was hooked up to the speech processor.

I don't believe I will ever forget "Hook Up Day." All the anxiety of wanting to hear, if God would grant him this miracle. He wanted so badly to be able to hear Rachel, our daughter, and our two grandsons. Liz Crump was the cochlear implant audiologist at this time and Dr. Nelson was the Director of the Implant Program. Everything went perfect. Jim could hear immediately, not only sounds, but speech as well, and we all cried, there were a lot of tears of happiness that day.



# The Jim Butzer Store Continued

Jim did develop the skill of lip-reading with the speech processor helping him. He always said he couldn't read lips because he wanted eye contact instead of watching the lips of the person he was conversing with. Jim often commented on how he had received so much more with the implant than he expected. Jim never had the magnets to hold the receiver in place, instead the headset held the receiver in place to make the connection possible. The magnets came about six months later.

With the implant, Jim came out of his shell, he didn't hesitate to converse with others anymore. He had this incredible sense of humor, which blossomed even more. The blackboard was seldom used at work. I wasn't writing notes anymore. I didn't need to interpret for him anymore. He was completely independent again and so was I. In fact, he went out of his way to talk to others.

There were some humorous times such as on several occasions when the ushers called him out of church service because they thought with the headset he was listening to a "Twins" game and the time he was taking up the collection at church and got his cord tangled in the handle and nearly spilled the whole collection.

Jim used the first speech processor (WSP) for about twelve years. He had it serviced about six times. He always was very careful with it. Once when the speech processor went on the "fritz" he said he had this terrible feeling he would never hear again and that was so frightening. Later, he used the MSP.

Jim began research shortly after he received the implant. Liz Crump and Dr. Nelson did the testing. Later, Lorrie Scheller joined Dr. Nelson's team. The University of Minnesota Research Department must have volumes of research on Jim as he attended weekly when we lived in Eagen and when we moved to Morton at least once a month for a total of eleven and a half years.

We had many Cochlear Implant Support Group meetings in our home in Eagen. Many new candidates and all the folks with implants came. All the implant problems or issues were discussed and ideas were exchanged for improvements. As time passed we began to run out of room and then we met for several years at Mary, Mother of the Church in Burnsville. Often the picnics were held at our homes. Now we need a park to handle our wonderful crowd of implantees and their families. It was after these meetings that Jim would write a newsletter, which was included with information sent out by Lorrie Scheller, and Sharon Smith regarding the Cochlear Implant.

Jim became involved in the late 1980's with tutoring "Laotian" children who immigrated to this country and lived in our neighborhood. They just sort of drifted through our back door each evening and left several hours later with all their homework completed. Jim would attend the teachers conferences with the parents who also had the language barrier. Since then, these young people are all attending college except one and he is still in high school.

During these years following his implant, Jim spoke at the annual "Lions" conventions. We travels to many cities in our state and met a lot of wonderful people. In June of 1993, Jim was honored to be "guest speaker" at the dedication of the new research building in the University of Minnesota campus.

# The Jim Butzer Story Continued

We moved to Morton in March of 1993. We were retired and often we were asked about what we were going to do in this small town. You perhaps all know how Jim loved to read (reading compensated for his hearing loss.) Well! Reading went out the window and I think of all the boxes of Western pocket books we moved here. Jim became so involved in community affairs and socializing and making my life exciting, he could only manage to read about one book every two weeks. And then of course, the internet came into the picture and that he truly enjoyed.

He went to the local cafe for coffee each morning. He began organizing card games at the Senior Center. He offered to teach "Bridge Classes" for our Redwood Valley School Community Education classes. He spent time helping our senior population with tax forms, rebates, insurance, etc. as well as writing grants for the Senior Center. He met with our local politicians and wrote articles regarding their campaigns for the local newspapers. He volunteered at our school district, The Redwood Valley School. He would help the local "Lions" organization with "Farm Fest." Jim was a key figure in the "All School Reunion" team last year. He also worked on "School Memories" book which covered almost 100 years of education and history in Morton, Minnesota. After the reunion, with funds left over, he was selected to go before our city council regarding the repairing of our historical granite lined creek ditch in our city park. He met with many companies regarding this project, took bids, met with other city organizations and county officials to seek more fund to help pay for this project. All went well and this project was completed shortly before the snow started falling last fall. Jim got sick and never got to see what this awesome repair job looked like this spring..

Jim had a massive stroke on February 16, 2001. He suffered left side paralysis and lost sight on the left eye. He continued to use the implant until his final weeks. He died on May 15, 2001.

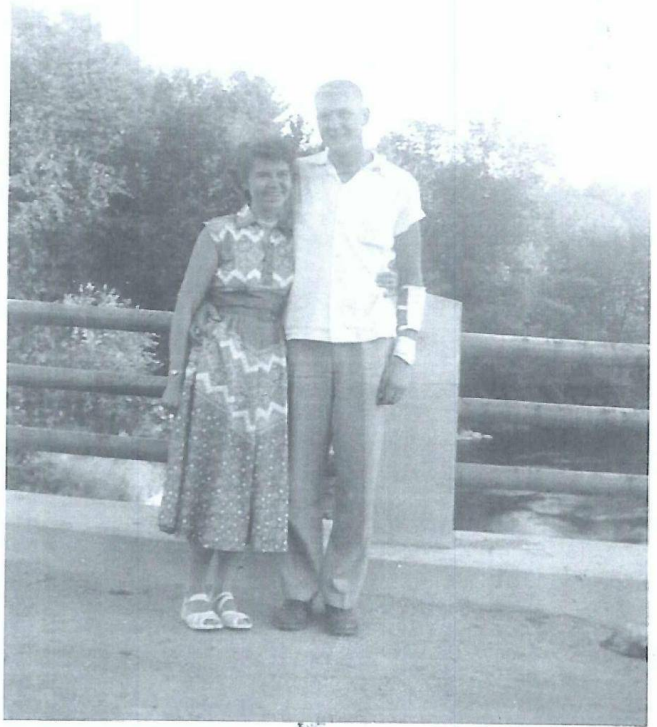
I would like to conclude this story about my beloved husband, Jim, with one more paragraph. This paragraph was the last paragraph in a report our grandson, Ben Veerkomp, wrote about his favorite hero for his seventh grade English class.

There were many first that day, my Grandpa Jim was the first person in the state of Minnesota to receive the multichannel cochlear implant. He was the first person to receive this miracle at the University of Minnesota. It was the first time the surgeon performed the surgery and the first time the assistant surgeon assisted. I think my Grandpa Jim was a brave man. I would consider him a hero, wouldn't you?

# Photos From Mary Lou



Jim and Mary Lou  
Lincoln, Neb. Mary Lou's job interview



Jim & Mary Lou Butzer's Honeymoon  
Park Rapids, Min. 7-54

AUG • 54



Morton High School Graduation 5-1952



Lucie Butzer 4 1/2 months old

# Photos From Mary Lou Continued



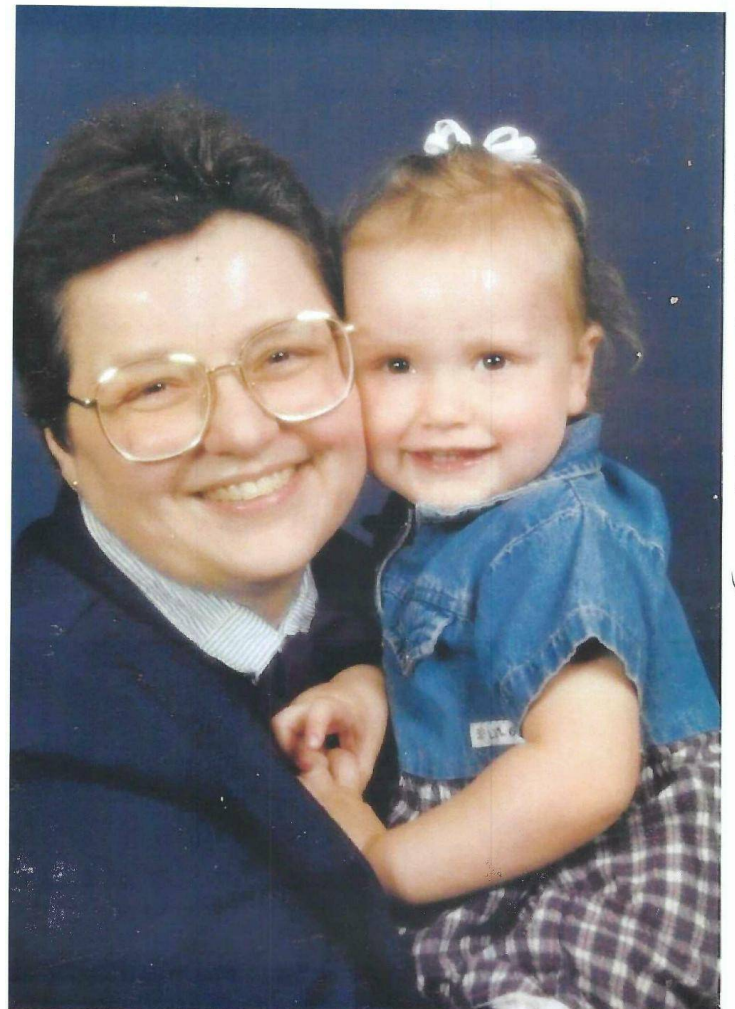
7-54 Mankato State College Degree



Mary Lou Knutson 2007



Barbara Packer Burtz (Sister), First Day Home from Air Force 8-54



Lucille & Bonnie (2 yrs. old)

# Photos From Mary Lou



Mary Horejsi and Wencel J. Kojetin

*Wencel Sr. and Mary Sr. Kojetin*



*Alois E. Kodet Family 8-18-1939*



*Oct. 29, 1918  
Alois E. and Barbara Kodet*



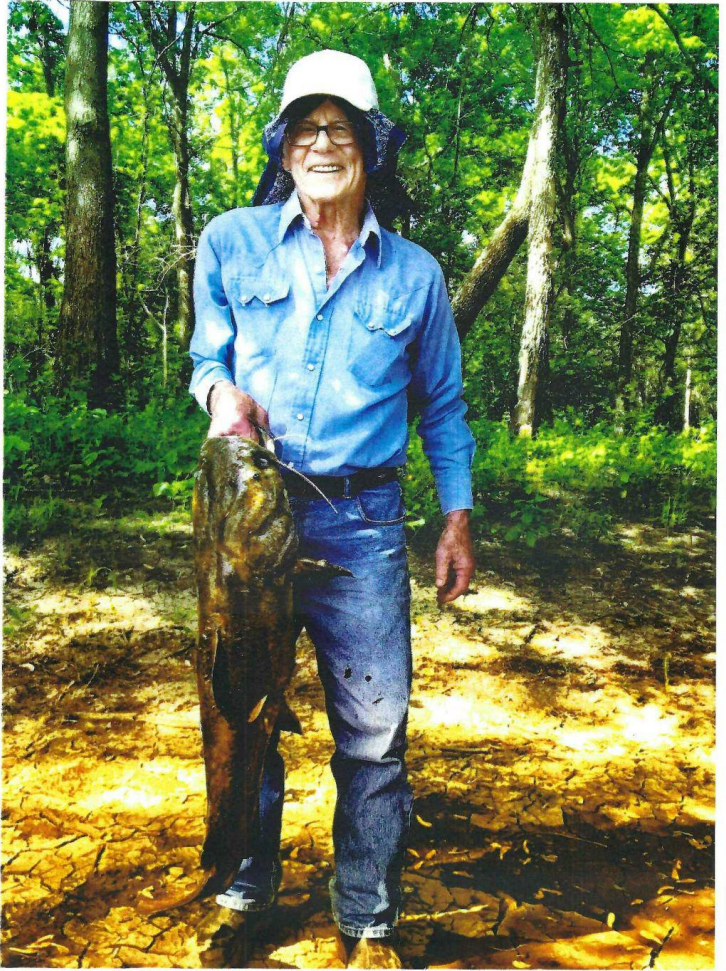
Kodet Children October 29, 1977 Bechyn, Minnesota St. Mary's Church Basement  
Back Row: Mary Lou Butzer, Martha Serbus, Barbara Mages, Lydia Serbus, Adella Mages  
Front Row: Emil, Mother Barbara (Kojetin), Father Alois Edward Kodet, Alois Jr., Johanna

# Photos From Mary Lou



October 29, 1977 Bechyn, Minnesota  
St. Mary's Church Basement 59th Anniversary  
Barbara (Kojetin) & Alois Edward Kodet

Alois Kodet Jr. 5-27-23



Jean Hensley and Edward Kodet  
November 10, 1948



## Hunter Women's Weekend 2023

Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 6:30PM

Deb Fischer home @ 21431 Co Rd 10, Sleepy Eye, MN

Come out the night before hunters hit the woods!

Baked Pretzel Bar/Charcuterie Board grazing – BYOB

Play Card Bingo: bring 3-nickels, 3-dimes, 3-quarters, & 1-\$1 bill

Spend the night if desired- Lots of room in the Inn- Please RSVP

Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>

Early start for breakfast... Bring a breakfast treat to share!



First thing is Coffee, Tea, etc... Mid-morning we'll tour the Fischer Beef Farm followed by a stop in Sleepy Eye at Alissa Groen's home, head up town & shop Serendipity, Randy's Drug and/or others of your choice. Followed by eating lunch at Sleepy Eye Coffee Co at 12:30pm before heading back home again to hopefully hear your hunter's success story.

# New Baby Girl on the Way

Ethan, Becca and big sister, Wren are excited to share they are expecting a baby girl around Thanksgiving





# St. Mary's Homecoming 2023



Photo to the left is Brandon is escorting his classmate Alexa Pelzel, who was one of Lisa's daycare children.

Photo to the right is Alexa and Brandon throwing candy at the football game half time Homecoming parade.



Brandon is making history as a coach's assistant at this years newly formed Sleepy Eye United football team games

The new United colors are green and orange with grey as our neutral. For Homecoming we defeated St. James in a shut out win 27-0 The tradition of the entire St. Mary's Homecoming week was amazing and it was so wonderful to oversee our grandchildren at the game as John and Amanda were busy grilling up and serving pork burgers and sauerkraut for the big tailgating picnic experience. Happy Homecoming 2023! Lisa



## Our October Angels



Dad

Alphonse Lawrence Mages

January 06, 1928

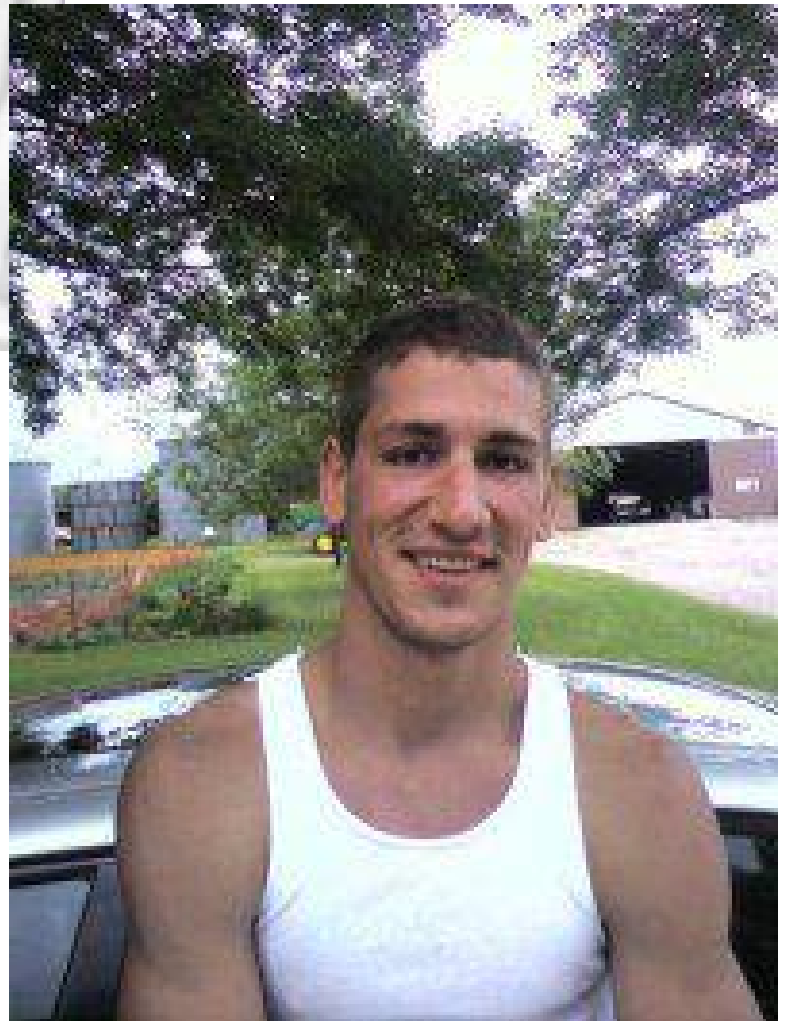
October 30, 2009

Douglas Curtis Mages

November 07, 1985

October 26, 2008

Sorry I forgot to do this last month.



# Stained Glass Windows for St. Mary's Catholic Church in Sleepy Eye, Minnesota in honor of our Parent, Grandparents and Great Grandparents, Alphonse and Barbara Mages

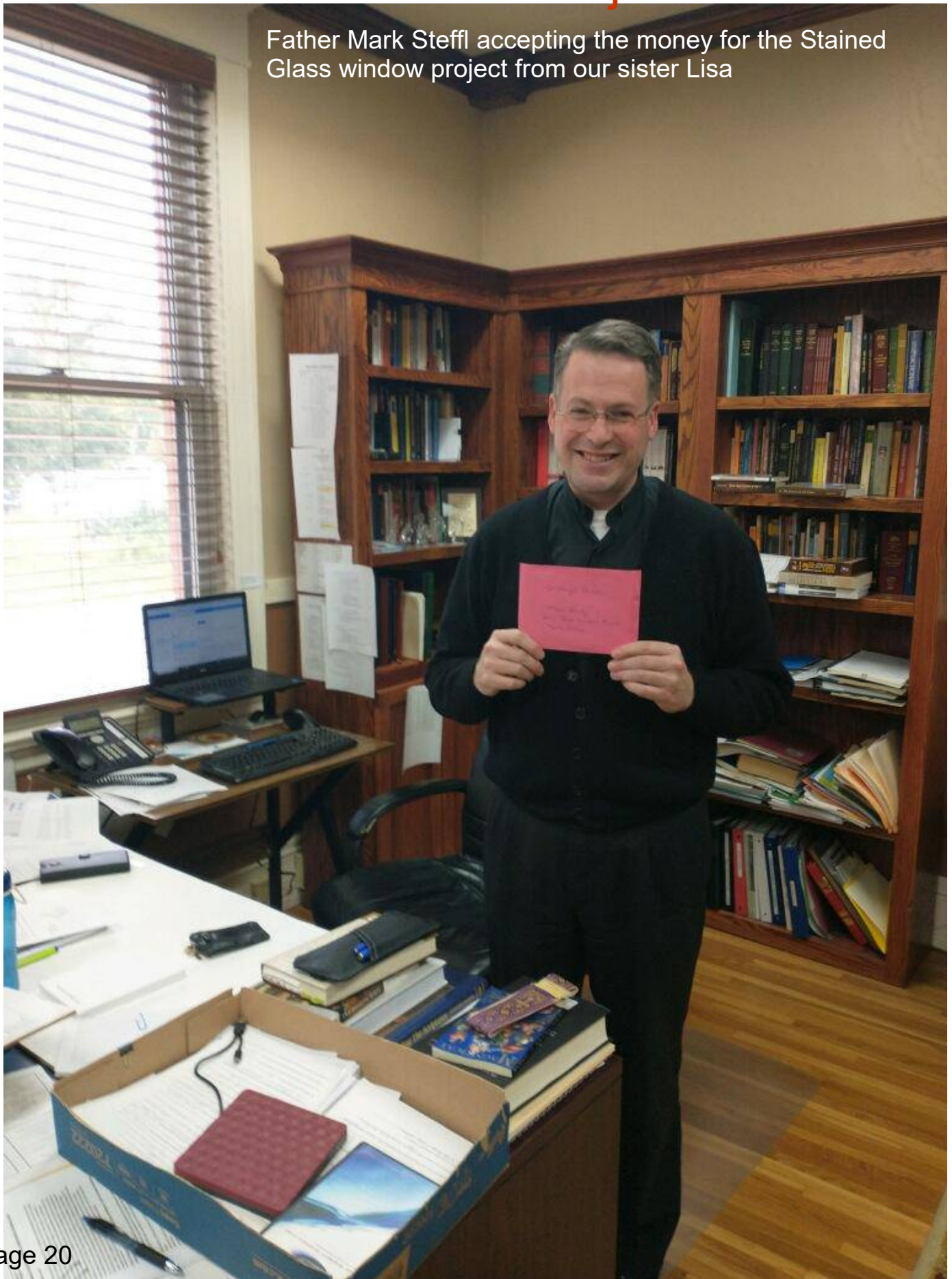
## Mages Family Donates Money For Stain Glass Window Restoration

This past week a monetary gift was donated to St. Mary's Help of Christians Catholic Church in Sleepy Eye, by the family members of Alphonse and Barbara Mages who were active parishioners of the church. The gift of money is being used to restore a series of 10 stained glass windows that will be installed in the current window wells of the new north entrance area of St. Mary's Church. The windows are very brilliant and colorful and beautifully depict the Glorious and the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary. They were originally hung in the St. John's Catholic Church in Hector, Mn, a building that has since been taken down. As a family, we believe this is a most fitting project to do in memory of our parents as Mother and Father lived their lives saying "Yes" to God as Mary did. Also Mother was passionate in her belief in reciting the Rosary and honoring Mary. Barbara Mages crafted and designed thousands of Rosaries in her lifetime many in an array of brilliant colors of glass as are depicted in these windows. The window restoration project should be completed sometime in the near future, hopefully in time to be erected and hung in place over winter. Fr. Mark Steffl has accepted and invitation to lead us in prayer at a dedication prayer service next year, possibly in the Spring. Thank you to the Mages family for contributing to this wonderful stainglass window restoration project in Memory of Alphonse and Barbara Mages Lisa



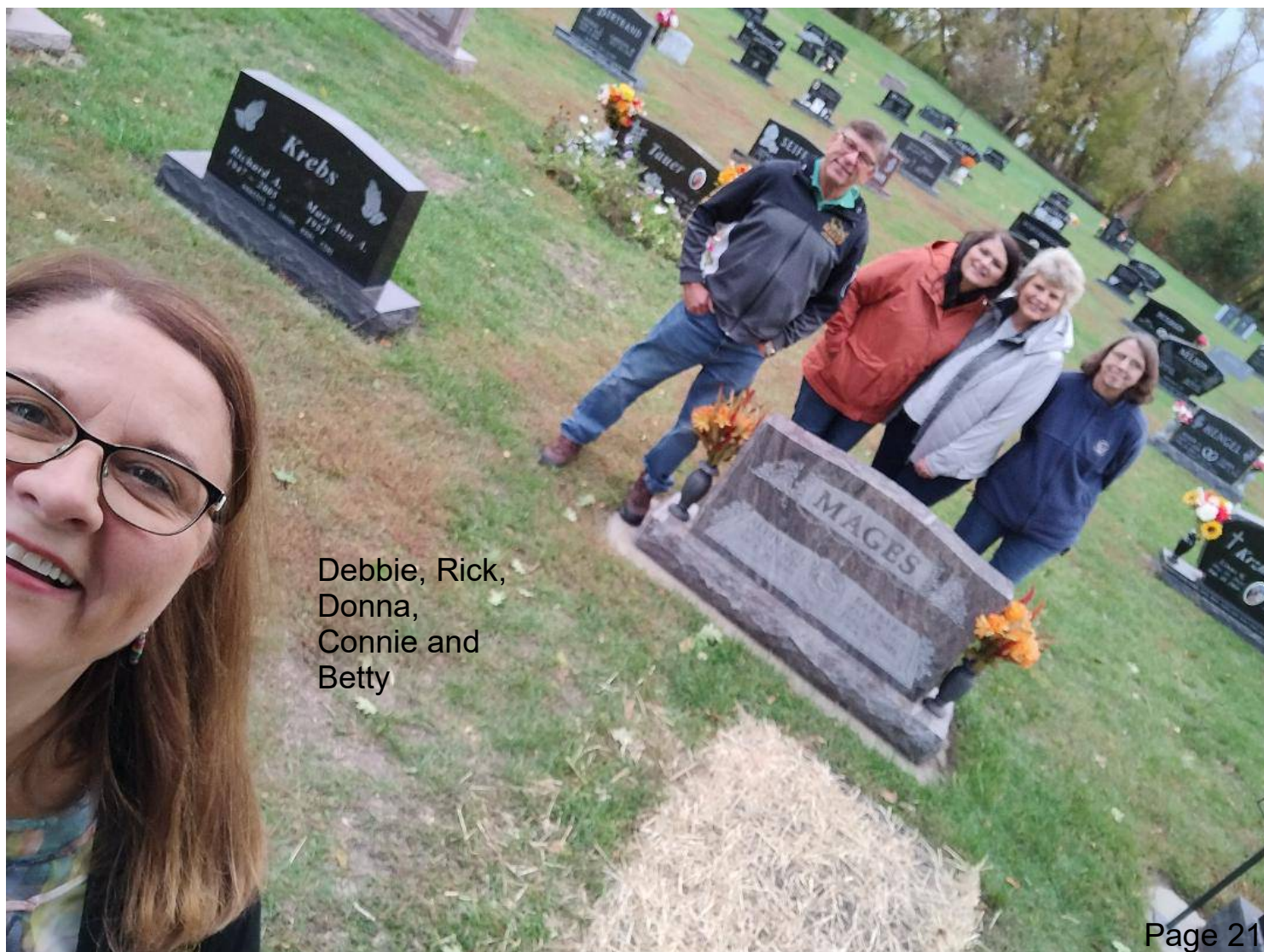
# Stained Glass Window Project Continued

Father Mark Steffl accepting the money for the Stained Glass window project from our sister Lisa



# Family Breakfast – October 18, 2023

On Oct 18, 2023 we had a nice crew attend the Mass for the Deceased Family members of Alphonse & Barbara Mages at St Mary's Church in Sleepy Eye. After Mass we went out to the St Mary's Cemetery to clean up the area, as requested, before cold season sets in for the winter. All items needed to be removed. Flowers in permanent planters can stay as long as secured from cold winds. You will see in the photo the cemetery committee now added more black dirt on top of Mom's grave and planted grass seed to sprout this fall and in spring. We noticed how tall the Oak Tree, we all planted, is getting bigger each year. It will give Dad and Mom shade and beauty for many years to come. We said prayers for unity in our family at Mom & Dad's headstone and Theresa Campbell's headstone. Afterwards we headed to Larry & Deb Fischer's home for breakfast. Attending this month were: Donna Nelson, Connie Goblirsch, Rick & Jane Mages, Betty Jass, Lisa Schmitz, Maxwell Ibberson and myself. With busy harvest going on everyone departed quickly, so no time for cards this round. Donna & I did sneak off to shop at Nex Tu Nu II and walked across the street to visit our old farm neighbor- Vickie Steffl-Kral and niece-Michelle Strate at the Sleepy Eye City office. God's blessing, Deb



Debbie, Rick,  
Donna,  
Connie and  
Betty

# Family Breakfast in Photo



Above photo is Maxwell, Lisa, Betty, Rick, Jane, Connie and Donna.



Above photo is Betty, Debbie, Connie and Donna



Above photo is Betty, Debbie, Connie and Rick.

Photo to the right is by Teresa Campbell grave site. Rick, Donna, Connie and Betty.

