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## 4-H Sunday : Extension Circular 0-49-2

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# 4-H SUNDAY

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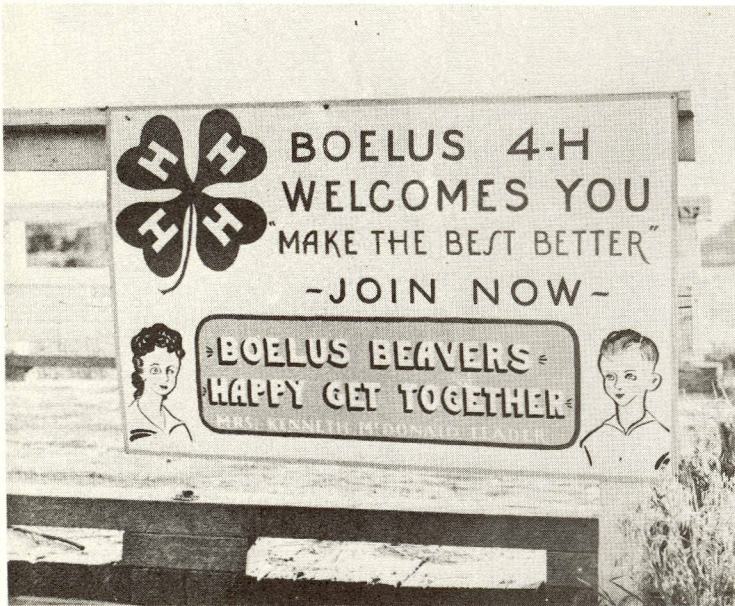
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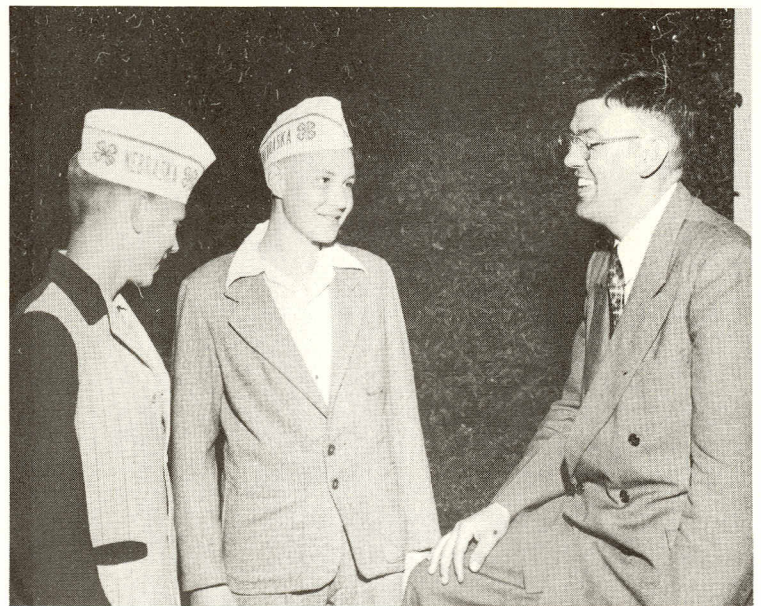
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This circular was compiled by Dorothea F. Holstein, Ass't. State 4-H Leader.



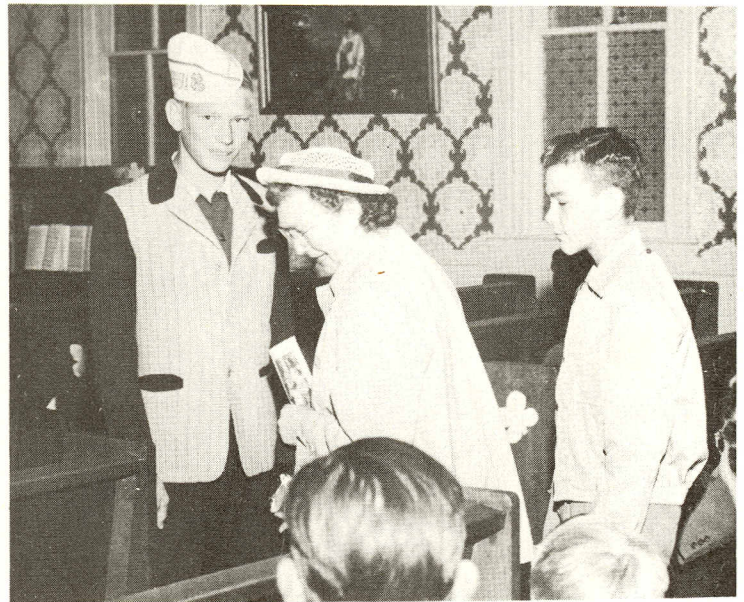
This sign painted and designed by the 4-H members in the two 4-H clubs led by Mrs. Kenneth McDonald, greeted people at the edge of town as they came to this 4-H Sunday service.



4-H members chat outside the church with the visiting minister, Rev. Irwin E. Mindt who arrived early.



4-H members hand out programs as the people arrive.



4-H member ushers a mother and her son into a pew. (Notice the clovers decorating the ends of the pews.)



Mrs. McDonald gives the instructions to the 4 members who are to light the candles which stand for Head, Heart, Hands and Health.



Candle bearers light the candles which stand for Head, Heart, Hands and Health.



Mrs. McDonald helps the girls tie on their aprons as they prepare to serve the lunch.



4-H member serves refreshments after the 4-H service

## ORIGIN OF 4-H SUNDAY

4-H Club Sunday, the fifth Sunday after Easter, is closely linked with Rogation Days, celebrated for centuries in the Christian Church during the three days preceding Ascension Day. Originally, they had several emphases, but gradually that of prayer for God's blessing upon the fruits of the earth predominated. Rogation Days were first observed by St. Mamertus, Bishop of Vienne, in Gaul, sometime prior to 475 A. D. In 511 A. D., they were ordered observed throughout France; and in 747 A. D. were established in England by Church action. Alfred the Great held them in deep reverence and included them among the most important of holy days. They were established in Rome by Leo III about the end of the eighth century.

The idea is of far more ancient origin, however. In the earliest days of Egypt, the ceremony of blessing the land and the seed at the time of planting was widely observed. Ancient people sought the favor of the gods at that time.

When 4-H members today assemble to worship God on 4-H Club Sunday, they join a long succession which comes out of the dim past of history. They join with those of many generations in seeking the blessing of God upon the land, the seed, the cultivation of the earth, and the enrichment of home and community life.

It should be noted that 4-H Club Sunday is an outgrowth of Rural Life Sunday, which was first observed in 1929 at the suggestion of the International Association of Agricultural Missions, and soon adopted by the Home Missions Council of North America, by the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, and by numerous other religious bodies.

### "ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE"

In the observance of 4-H Club Sunday, 4-H members are always encouraged to attend the church of their own choice. At that time, in keeping with the Heart H, their attention can well be directed to the development of their own spiritual lives and thus help them "to stand firm under the pressures of life" (Children's Charter). Today, more than ever before, people of all lands are in need of that spiritual development which will enable them, if put to the test, to meet triumphantly the threatening crises that seem to overhand the world today.

It is encouraging to note that many church organizations are increasingly cooperative with leaders of the 4-H Clubs to the end that more young people may be reached and guided to identify themselves with those institutions, such as the church and the school, which stand for the high ideals that should govern the activities of every community.

## SUGGESTIVE WAYS OF PARTICIPATION IN CHURCH SERVICES BY 4-H CLUB MEMBERS

### MAKE CAREFUL PLANS

Each county will determine how 4-H Club Sunday will be observed. This usually is done by the county 4-H Club council, by a special committee of leaders and sponsors, or by a county extension agent.

Those in charge will get in touch as soon as possible with ministers, priests, and Sunday school superintendents and make mutual arrangements, satisfactory to all, for conducting the services. This should be done well in advance of the Sunday selected for the observance of this special day. The following procedures are listed for consideration:

Plan county-wide observance of 4-H Club Sunday, if possible.

If the 5th Sunday after Easter proves inconvenient, select a Sunday in May or June when there is the least conflict with other events.

Make careful plans to suit local conditions.

Explain fully the meaning of 4-H Club Sunday and plans for the day to all local ministers, priests, or other church authorities well in advance and try to adjust plans to their convenience.

Furnish information about 4-H Club work to ministers for inclusion in the sermon. Give them a copy of this circular.

Highlight what 4-H Clubs are doing in improving their own communities and in sharing with the destitute people of other lands.

Encourage 4-H members of each church of the community to discuss plans for 4-H participation in the observance of 4-H Club Sunday with the minister or priest of the church of their choice.

Make arrangements for a combined service in a central church or hall, provided all churches of the community are in the habit of combining for special services.

Enlist the help of 4-H members in decorating the church with plants and flowers.

Have a 4-H Club committee, perhaps in uniform or 4-H caps if it seem appropriate, to welcome people at the door of the church, if approved by church authorities.

Encourage 4-H members to assist in ushering or in taking up the morning offering, if this meets with the approval of church authorities.

Encourage 4-H members to invite parents, neighbors, and friends to attend.

Ask churches to announce 4-H Sunday in church bulletin or to use insert sheet.

If there is only one church in the community and church authorities approve, suggest to 4-H members that they might attend church as a group and wear membership pins, uniforms, or some special emblem made for the occasion.

As a part of a program, dramatize certain features that highlight this year's theme such as the 4-H song "Dreaming".

Other ways of 4-H participation may include singing in the choir; giving talks; reading poems, creeds, pledges, prayers, scriptures; and contributing special musical numbers, or ceremonies.

Other forms of observance may include a 4-H sunrise or 4-H sunset service in some scenic setting; a 10- to 15-minute church period given over to the 4-H community club for special contributions of members; a similar period during the Sunday school hour; or a special service featuring the plow in keeping with the ancient English ceremony. On such occasions, appropriate hymns may be used--hymns that are great and have done much to develop the spiritual ideals and stamina of this Nation. Young people might well be encouraged to become familiar with such hymns and to appreciate their worth and significance.

Encourage 4-H members to do something special to improve the home community or to help those in need. A special contribution to needy people in other parts of the world would be most appropriate.

The cover picture of this circular was taken at a 4-H Sunday Service at Boelus, Nebraska.

The following service was given:

"4-H SUNDAY PROGRAM"

Invocation	Rev. Irwin E. Mindt
-Program by 4-H Members-	
Welcome	Bruce Clausen
Candle Lighting Service:	
Cross Bearer	Marvin Caspersen
Kneeling at Cross	Jeanette Pauley & Jay Shuck
Candle Lighters: Head	Carolyn Lemburg
Heart	Kenneth Piper
Hands	Richard Tockey
Health	Le Ann Feddersen

Songs

Choir of 4-H Members

"The Old Rugged Cross"

"Sweet Hour of Prayer"

"4-H Candle Lighting Song"

4-H Pledge

By all 4-H Members

The Lord's Prayer

By all 4-H Members

Recitation "4-H & Homemaking"

Barbara A. Pedersen

(Howard County 1952 Jr. Public Speaking Champion)

Offering, Charles Pedersen & Larry Lemburg,

Ushers

Benediction Song

"Happy Get Together" Girls

"May The Good Lord Bless & Keep You"

Introduction of 4-H Leaders

Meditation

Rev. Irwin E. Mindt

(Minister, St. Paul Methodist Church)

Worship Film

"The Templed Hills"

Benediction

Rev. Kennicott

Lunch in Basement ..... Everyone Invited

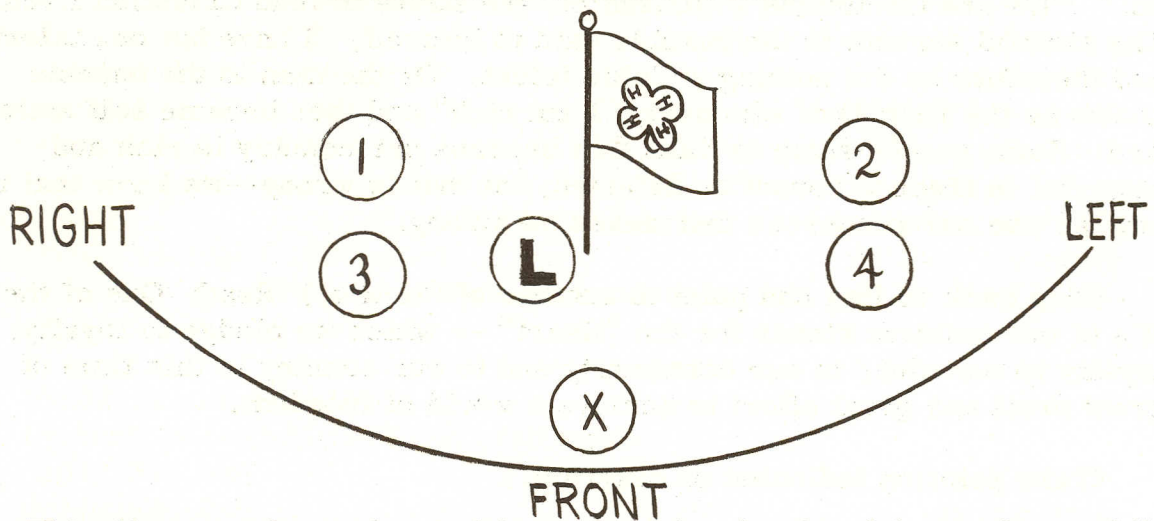
Waitresses: Nancy Seldon, Jeannae Sorensen, Wyvonna Doring,

Barbara Petersen, Nancy Larkowski, Janice Voss, Carolyn

Espersen, Donna Pauly, Shirley Piper, Eileen Feddersen.

## SERVING GOD AND COUNTRY

### THROUGH 4-H CLUB WORK



This diagram shows the position to be taken by the club members while reading their parts and during the rest of the service.

x indicates the position of each in giving the reading.

The leader enters, carrying a 4-H club flag or banner, and goes to the center of the stage.

Leader: Today we of the 4-H club are joining you all in the celebration of Rural Life Sunday. On this day we direct our thoughts to the strong ties that make our club(s) a part of our community; we strive for a clearer understanding of the basic aims of our club work and renew our faith in them; and we strengthen or resolve to carry out these aims in our club program, making them an active contribution to the life of our community.

Indeed the keynote of our club program is that it is active; it is a program for doers. We learn by doing. Doing is the key to our Club Pledge and to the four-leaf clover that is our emblem.

(Take position shown on diagram.)

First Member: (Enter right, take position at center front.) Read: We try never to be content with just being 4-H'ers, for to be a 4-H'er means to do. It is not possible to be a farmer without planting and harvesting crops or breeding livestock or tending a dairy herd: to be a farmer is to farm. Likewise to be a 4-H'er is to learn the arts of farming and homemaking and to grow wise and strong in the ways of country life, by doing these things and living this life.

(Step back to flag and point to one of the H's.) Read: One of the H's of our emblem stands for the "head" -- which we pledge to clearer thinking, and understanding of the way of life that we wish to follow.

Second Member: (Enter left, take position at center front.) Read: There are some people who are content to say "we are" instead of "we do." "We are Christians", instead of "We strive to lead Christian lives." The slothful servant in the parable said to himself, "I have but one talent" and therefore he did nothing with his talent. Or the man in the parable known as the Rich Fool who said, "I am rich" and then became self satisfied. Some people seem to think that because our country is rich and powerful in trade it cannot be defeated; but that is wrong--we know that it is how we use our resources that makes us strong.

(Step back to flag and point to another of the H's.) Read: One of the H's of our emblem stands for the "Heart" -- which we pledge to loyalty: loyalty to our club, to our community and to our country in this time of great peril and great effort to achieve a world of freedom.

(Take position indicated on diagram.)

Third Member: (Enter right, take position at center front.) Read: The Parable of the Talents has a special meaning for us today. God has given us all talents -- each of us in different measure. It has been said, "Fruitful soil, quickening sunlight, favorable rains are Thy good gifts to us." But these are not riches in themselves, they are a challenge to our hands to create the riches of farm produce as well as the riches of fine, Christian homes.

(Step back to flag and point to another of the H's.) Read: That's what another of the H's in our emblem stands for: -- "our hands" -- which we pledge to larger service to our club and our fellowmen.

(Take position indicated on diagram.)

Fourth Member: (Enter left, take position at center front.) Read: In a time when all Americans are lending their hands to win the victory it's not easy for us young people to see how we can help in the cause. But in our 4-H motto, "Make the Best Better", there is certainly a challenge to our best. We are like the servant that was given two talents instead of five. We cannot build ships, but we can prepare ourselves for the large task of carrying on the country life, and if we are like the servant who was "faithful over a few things", we shall some day be given great responsibilities, and we will be found worthy of them.

(Step back to flag and point to another of the H's.) Read: The other "H" of our emblem stands for our "Health" -- which we pledge to better living for our club, our community and our country.

(Take position indicated on diagram.)

Leader: (Step up to center front) Read: We have tried to show you something of what the 4-H emblem means to us. We think of it not as a mere sign, or password, but as a living symbol of action: a flag, a banner "going on before" -- which we follow with a steady step, with pride in our eyes and a song on our lips.

All members: Give 4-H Club Pledge.

Notation: If desired, instead of having the participants give the 4-H Pledge, the congregation might join them in singing "Follow the Gleam" or "Onward Christian Soldiers".

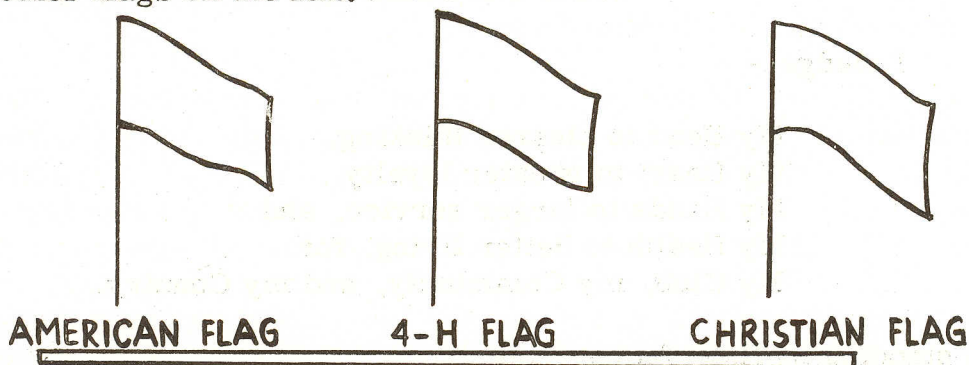
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"Serving God and Country Through 4-H Club Work" is adapted from a service for 4-H club members written by Max V. Exner, Rural Sociologist, New York State College.

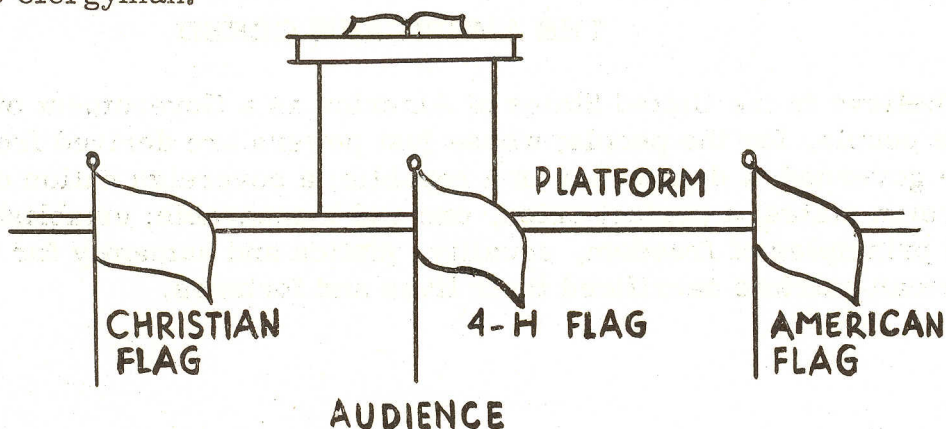
### I PLEDGE MYSELF

I Pledge Myself is an impressive ceremony which can be used for a club, community or church meeting. It consists of the National 4-H Club Creed, The American's Creed, the Apostles' Creed, the 4-H Pledge, the Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge to the Christian flag.

For this ceremony, display the three flags, the American, Christian and 4-H Club flag. If in the chancel or on the platform, the American flag should be placed on the clergyman's right as he faces the congregation and the other flags on the left.



When the American flag is displayed in the body of a church, it should be from a staff placed in position of honor at the congregation's right as they face the clergyman.



First Club Member: (Enter and stand beside the 4-H club flag.) Read:

### THE NATIONAL 4-H CLUB CREED

"I believe in boys' and girls' club work for the opportunity it will give me to become a useful citizen.

I believe in the training of my HEAD for the power it will give me to think, to plan, and to reason.

I believe in the training of my HEART for the power it will give me to become kind, sympathetic, and true.

I believe in the training of my HAND for the dignity it will give me to be helpful, useful, and skillful.

I believe in the training of my HEALTH for the strength it will give me to enjoy life, resist disease, and make for efficiency.

I believe in my country, my state, and my community, and in my responsibility for their development.

In all these things that I believe, I am willing to dedicate my service to their fulfillment. "

(Face flag and give:)

### THE 4-H PLEDGE

I pledge--

My Head to clearer thinking,  
My Heart to greater loyalty,  
My Hands to larger service, and  
My Health to better living, for  
My Club, my Community, and my Country.

(Remain standing by flag, facing front.)

Second Club Member: (Enter and stand beside the American flag.) Read:

### THE AMERICAN'S CREED

I believe in the United States of America as a Government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign nation of many sovereign states; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies.

(Face flag and give:)

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands; one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

(Remain standing beside flag, facing front)

Third Club Member: (Enter and stand beside the Christian flag.) Read:

### THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day He arose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic (or Christian) Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(Face and Give:)

### PLEDGE TO THE CHRISTIAN FLAG

I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag, and to the Saviour for whose Kingdom it stands, one brotherhood, uniting all mankind in service and love.

(Remain standing by flag, facing front.)

Entire congregation: Sing "America The Beautiful."

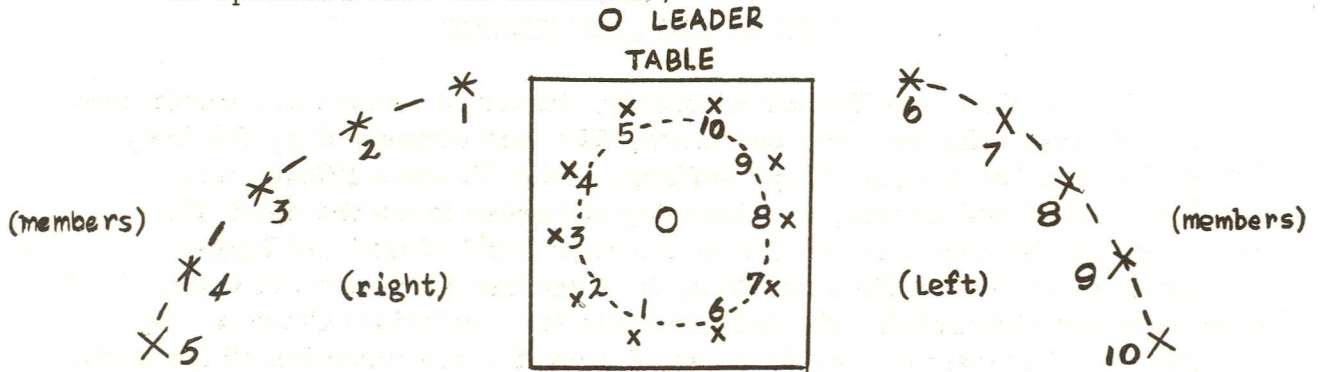
## LET THIS BEACON REMIND US

### Candle- Ceremony

**CAST:** One leader or older club member; ten members (if possible alternate boys and girls). (If ten members are not available, members may give more than one portion each.)

**PROPERTIES:** Table; one large candle and ten smaller ones all in candlesticks; spoons to put out candles (placed on table).

**DIRECTIONS:** The 4-H club leader or an older club member leads the processional of club members. The leader takes a position behind a small table while the club members form a semicircle in line with the table (right and left in the ceremony refers to the scene as speakers face the audience.)



(Numbers on table correspond to place where numbered member will place candle.)

The leader carries a large lighted candle in a candlestick, and the members carry smaller unlighted candles in candlesticks. They are placed on the table at time indicated in ceremony. If desired, the unlighted candles may be on the table, and lighted there at the proper time.

In order to get candles placed in a circle on the table as the ceremony proceeds, it is well to mark some X's on the table with chalk. Also mark the place for the leader's candle in the center of the table. The numbers in the diagram correspond for members and candle placement. Note that the first candles to be set in the circle are placed at the front of the table. This means that members who follow in lighting candles at the sides of the table need not reach over lighted candles (and may thus avoid the danger of burns).

### THE CEREMONY:

**Leader:** It was a colonial custom to place a lighted candle in the window to guide absent loved ones home. Today, let us revive the custom

and place in the windows of our hearts a candle to guide our own thinking in understanding the many bounties God has given us in this world. (Steps to table and places lighted candle in center of table, then steps back to place and continues.)

As we review some of these bounties, we will add ten candles to brighten the beacon and help impress upon our hearts the trust which is placed upon us.

(Each member lights the small candle from the center candle as the speech is given).

Member 1 (coming from right of table)

I light this candle for the community we live in,  
and for the power we have of striving together  
to make it better for all of us.

Member 6 (coming from left of table)

I light this candle for the homes of our community,  
for the homes lived in and loved and for the unafraid  
affection of mothers and fathers for each other and for  
their children.

Member 2 (coming from right of table)

I light this candle for the open doors of schools, for the teachers  
in them, skilled, devoted, kindly, and for the free inner growth  
that we as children and youth find there.

Member 7 (coming from left of table)

I light this candle for the open doors of our churches, and  
the free faith of all who may kneel inside, or stand with an  
uplifting song in their minds and hearts.

Member 3 (coming from right of table)

I light this candle for our 4-H clubs, other youth and farm or-  
ganizations, and for their services to our community and to  
the general welfare of all.

Member 8 (coming from left of table)

I light this candle for the good and holy earth, and for the  
working hands of free men and free women who sew,  
cultivate, and reap the harvest we enjoy.

Member 4 (coming from right of table)

I light this candle for long rows of freely chosen books, old and new, in libraries everywhere and with the hope that their words of wisdom, courage, and delight may be more widely used.

Member 9 (coming from left of table)

I light this candle for the right to free discussion, the right to say what we as loyal Americans believe at our meetings, in country stores, in newspapers, and wherever else we may gather, so long as our words do not endanger the welfare of our community or of our nation.

Member 5 (coming from right of table)

I light this candle for a hope--a hope that some day every man, woman, and child in America and in the rest of the world will have adequate food, clothing, shelter, and the opportunity for creative growth. The hope that all may have music, drama, art, crafts and the right to follow his own heart's desire.

Member 10 (coming from left of table)

I light this candle for a hope--a hope that the time will come when the American dream of respect and justice for all will come true; when we will not hurt one another by word or deed because of differences in race, national origin, color or faith.

Leader: These candles symbolize the many bounties God has given us. There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it. Let us make our candles a light house on the hill--a beacon to guide us in appreciating the many things God has given us and in helping us be worthy trustees of these great bounties.

As we concentrate on these symbols, shall we stand and sing together "I Would Be True."

(At the close of the song, members 1 and 6 may step forward, and using two teaspoons previously placed on table, snuff the candles out by placing spoon over top of candle.)

Marlene Hutchinson gave this talk at the Sunday Evening Club at 1952 National 4-H Club Congress. Perhaps part of her talk can be used as part of the 4-H Sunday service you prepare.

### CHICAGO SUNDAY EVENING CLUB RESPONSE

Thank you Mr. Wilson. 4-H members and leaders, members of the Chicago Sunday Evening Club. The Chicago Sunday Evening Club has greatly influenced my life. Twenty-four years ago my Mother and Dad attended the National 4-H Club Congress. Back home in Nebraska they lived only fifteen miles apart, but they had to come to Chicago to become acquainted.

As they were standing in line waiting to go to the Chicago Sunday Evening Club my Dad politely asked the boy who was walking with my Mother if he would change places with him. So another 4-H Romance began, as my parents walked to the Chicago Sunday Evening Club and sat through the service together.

It is an honor for the 4-Hers attending Club Congress to be guests at the Chicago Sunday Evening Club tonight. It is appropriate that on this first day of Club Congress a major part of our time has been spent at religious services because the Heart H, which symbolizes spiritual values is one of the important aims in the 4-H philosophy of balanced fourfold development.

The 4-H theme this past year has been "Serving as Loyal Citizens Through 4-H". To me part of being a good citizen is also being a good Christian.

A leading Midwest minister who did the research work for his master's degree on the spiritual effectiveness of youth organizations found that 4-H was one of, if not the most, spiritually effective organizations for the building of character. This is because we 4-Hers actually live our religion.

The trouble in the world today is that it is like a kindergarten where a bewildered people are trying to spell God with the wrong blocks. They have forgotten the patience and faith that our Pilgrim forefathers had on that first Thanksgiving Day. Our forefathers put their patience and faith in the Bible, which down through the ages has been the source of all spiritual values.

With the publication of the new Revised Standard Version of the Bible those of you who are Protestants have a new source of spiritual guidance. You could benefit greatly by reading this new version. Those of you of other faith groups could also grow spiritually by reading your Bibles.

Five points to remember in reading your Bible are that it should be read thankfully, intelligently, prayerfully, meditatively, and regularly. It is good to read your Bible at least once thoroughly, and the portions such as the Sermon On the Mount which contains the principles which we need to apply to our daily living repeatedly.

It is important that we as 4-Hers do our part in strengthening the spiritual values of the world. We need to strive to make our faith a seasoned faith instead of a seasonal faith. We need to continue to strive to be a spiritually effective youth organization and continue to deem it the responsibility of each one of us to make the best of our Heart H better in accordance with the 4-H motto. "To Make the Best Better."

My challenge to you 4-H members as your development of the spiritual values of 4-H is to go back home and read the Bible yourself and encourage those of your community and other 4-Hers to seek it for the guidance of the problems of their daily living.

While we might not be able to make a written record of this, it is my hope that all two million 4-Hers will read the Bible this next year. The record which is written will be written in our hearts. It will reflect into your own life and into the lives of all with whom you come in contact.

Mr. Wilson, I wonder if you would agree that this would be a good challenge for these 4-Hers attending this Club Congress?

In this way, we as 4-Hers can become known for the principles in which we believe and our faith in God as well as for the products which we produce. Thank you.

Dr. Charles Kemp of the First Christian Church in Lincoln, Nebraska preached a sermon on the five points to remember in reading your Bible that Marlene mentioned. This sermon was delivered the Sunday before the new version of the Bible was available.

Your club would be interested in the film strip "Adventure in Our Town" which gives the story of the "Revised Standard Version of the New Testament".

This film strip, record and script are available on a loan basis from Lincoln City Library.

Here are some quotes taken from the story written after attending the National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago. These show how 4-H members appreciate church services arranged for them.

Beverly Bartz of Scotts Bluff County wrote in her story of the Club Congress:

"The most memorable and challenging experience was that of worshipping under the same roof with people from all over the world and of all races, religions, and creeds. Wouldn't it be a wonderful thing if all the world could be as peaceful and democratic-minded and could all worship in peace 'under one roof' the heavens which God created?

Don Beck of Saunders County wrote in his story--

"I attended another service at the Chicago Sunday Evening Club. Marlene Hutchinson, a very nice girl from Lincoln, gave one of the finest speeches I have ever heard."

### THE CHURCH AND YOUTH UNITED

This is a Public Speaking Talk made by Lola Gaymon, of Adams County.

Rural life is a special concern of our church today! The Bible poet wrote in the 104th Psalm, "The earth is full of Thy riches." No one can realize this more fully than the rural youth who watch the miracle of growth take place in the tiny seed and live with the beauty of nature around them. The boy who cares for animals or the girl who preserves products of the soil cannot but feel that this is all a small part of an infinite plan.

Thirteen million children under twelve years of age in America have never attended Sunday School or a class of religious instruction. Because many rural villages lack ministers for their churches, and because of the fact that it is often a greater distance to the church, over 50% of these youth come from the rural areas. This situation offers a great challenge to the church.

Our rural homes are the life blood of the nation. This makes it doubly important that these homes be godly homes. The church now has a timely opportunity to reach the farm boys and girls through the voluntary rural youth programs.

Let us consider the present relationship between the church and one of these programs, the 4-H clubs. Church leaders generally participate in outstanding events for club members and leaders. Invocations at banquets and luncheons are usual. Ministers are asked to speak, lead in singing, direct recreation, and act as instructors at conference groups. Wives of clergymen perform much these same duties, particularly with the girls' organizations.

The ministers have attended the 4-H achievement day programs in our community for the last three years. They have added to the fun by taking pictures and making recordings which were enjoyed later, and helped everyone to have a good time. It gives us 4-H members a good feeling to know that the leaders in the community are behind us and encourages us to do better work.

Some communities use their churches for special 4-H dinners and events. Also, they are used by some for regular meeting places. The girls' club in our community has used church facilities for achievement days the last two years. One year they used the kitchen and dining room equipment to prepare and serve a breakfast for guests, and last year took advantage of the space in the lounge to hold a style show. This space offered by the church has been appreciated, too, when the club was working on a project that required room not usually found in a home.

Rural churches provide much 4-H leadership. Reports indicate outstanding local leadership is being given by individual clergymen. As illustrations, Nebraska has one minister who has received his 25-year pin, and Connecticut and New York report clergymen as leaders for 20 years. These reports also state that the children of these persons have been or are 4-H members. A large proportion of the 175,000 local leaders in the United States are church members, many active in church work.

We can strengthen this desirable cooperation by recognizing the interest of the church in this work and encouraging more participation. Church leaders in general believe in the objectives and results of 4-H projects. They seem anxious to keep in touch with the clubs and need more information about the work.

One very important way the 4-H clubs can give the church more of this information is by participation in Rural Life Sunday. The pattern of democracy in the United States is rooted deeply in religious values. It seems most fitting that 4-H club members, who are trying to build a better home life and better citizenship for the world of tomorrow, should join in attending church on Rural Life Sunday. If the club members take part in the services they have opportunity to tell the people just what they are accomplishing and what their goals are. On this Sunday, too, the church emphasizes the spiritual implications in farm life activities. Even though most 4-H club members worship regularly at the church of their choice, National 4-H Club Sunday affords the opportunity for these members to set a good example for other youth. We can demonstrate that each 4-H member recognizes the blessings our Maker has bestowed on us. This feature seems to be one of the strong points of contact, at present, between the church and 4-H work.

Just how can the church and 4-H clubs work together? The church can further the 4-H club program by recognizing its value to the

community. It can encourage its members to join clubs and act as leaders. The church members can participate in important 4-H events by attending them, offering facilities available for their use, and, above all, showing interest in what the youth are doing.

4-H work can supplement church activities for youth. Some church leaders think that the 4-H program conflicts with the church youth work. If the club and church leaders can work together on a program that will be satisfactory to both, 4-H work will be an addition to church youth activities. Some churches encourage 4-H project work for Scout merit badges. Such cooperation will prove beneficial to both phases of youth work.

As the church has a responsibility to youth, so youth have a responsibility to their church. We should regularly attend services and be willing to do extra jobs asked of us. This will give us the satisfaction of helping achieve the goal of the church.

All of this planning and working together is bound to bring results—good results that will benefit the whole community. First, the success and happiness of rural youth depends on their interest and love for their homes and the good gifts God has given in the form of soil and growing things; second, it offers a good means of helping the non-church youth of the community to be brought under the influence of a Christian way of life and to participate in church work; third, it will bring returns to the church in new leadership and in greater prosperity and happiness of rural people in their community.

Young people need the church today to help them with their problems and tomorrow when the responsibility of leading a nation is placed on their shoulders. Together the church and rural youth can meet the challenge offered by living in these and future times.

4-H Talk given by

Emily Pfister, York Nebraska

### RURAL 4-H SUNDAY

I pledge

my HEAD to clearer thinking,  
my HEART to greater loyalty  
my HANDS to larger service, and  
my HEALTH to better living, for  
my club, my community and my country.

4-H club work is a specialized educational enterprise for rural youth. As such, it shares in the objectives common to all educational institutions and movements in its concern with the development of individual abilities and capacities for learning, and intellectual and moral qualities of effective citizenship. All these have a definite relationship to the development of the "Heart H."

Religion is an important element of American life. The U. S. was founded by a God-fearing people. The Constitution and Bill of Rights clearly recognize the existence of religious ideals, while guaranteeing to each person freedom to worship God according to his own religious convictions.

There are 16 4-H goals and I think three of them deal directly with the "Heart H."

1. To link oneself with those institutions that encourage the finer things of life, such as the church which is the great inspirational force in the development of spiritual values.
2. To make the best better.
3. To render service whenever there is an opportunity.

We are familiar with the 4-H program which includes a variety of special 4-H club days. 4-H Club Sunday or Rural Life Sunday was first observed in 1929 at the suggestion of International Association of Agricultural Missions and was soon adopted by Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America and numerous other religious bodies. It is observed to emphasize the meaning of Christianity in rural life and occurs the fifth Sunday after Easter. Therefore it should be May 10th this year or soon thereafter.

In observance of 4-H Sunday, members are urged to attend the church of their own choice on a special 4-H Union service. Attention should be drawn to the development of our own spiritual lives. Today people of all lands need spiritual development to enable them to meet the threatening crises that overhang the world.

There is a variety of ways in which 4-H members may participate in observing this day, a few of which are; singing in the choir, giving talks, taking part in pageants and special musical numbers.

Participating in 4-H Sunday enables members to think together about home, community and world events in spiritual terms. It emphasizes the character building qualities of 4-H Club work and encourages members to identify themselves with those institutions that stand for the high ideals of a community, such as church and school. It develops a better understanding of the relationship that the people of the soil have with God. It helps 4-H members to demonstrate their loyalty and to realize their own responsibilities to the church of their choice and to associate church activities with their everyday living.

Theodore Roosevelt once said, "A churchless community, a community where men have abandoned and scoffed at or ignored their religious needs, is a community on rapid downgrade."

"The strength of a country is the strength of its religious convictions." This thought was expressed by Calvin Coolidge.

True it is that the future remains uncertain. However, education in moral and spiritual values can furnish a yardstick against which any future problem may be measured.

C. B. Smith gave this beautiful explanation:

"In the further spiritual development of the nation we may well begin with rural people who work close with God in the growing of plants and animals; who hear His voice in the winds, the storm, the song of birds, the rustling of growing corn, the silence of the night; and see Him in the beauty of morning and evening sun, the wild rose, and the spider's web.

"Rural youth who want to build real homes--raise up Godly children, and help build a righteous nation may well be the right hand of the church in carrying forward the spiritual work."

May we as 4-H members then pledge our HEADS to clearer thinking, our HEARTS to greater loyalty, our HANDS to larger service and our HEALTH to better living for our club, our community and our country by answering this challenge:

What is my place as a young person in the church?

Whan can I do to improve the religious or spiritual life of the community?

If I fail to accept my responsibility to the church will other young people do likewise?

Again I would like to quote C. B. Smith as he asks:

May all 4-H club members develop:

Faith in themselves and their destiny;

Faith in their country and its institutions;

Faith in their schools and in religion;  
Strength to go forth boldly to deal justly,  
to love mercy, and to walk humbly; and  
Courage to defend their faiths and their  
institutions to the death.

May each of us resolve to be active in the observance of Rural 4-H  
Sunday with the more than two million other 4-H members.

# PLEASE REPORT

## REPORT ON 4-H SUNDAY OBSERVANCE

Please send a report of your Rural Life Sunday Service to the county extension office at once, giving the information listed below. Attach a copy of the printed program (or hand written program). If possible, take appropriate pictures of the service, or participating group and include with this report. The Extension office will then send this report to Dorothea Holstein Assistant State 4-H Leader.

Name of club \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Local Leader \_\_\_\_\_

State briefly how your club observed Rural Life Sunday \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Did you cooperate with other clubs? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, which clubs? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Where was service held? \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Church or churches participating \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name and address of pastor \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Approximate number present \_\_\_\_\_

Other remarks \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SIGNED. \_\_\_\_\_