St. John's Church 13372 Nature Avenue Hutchinson, MN 55350 (320) 587-5104



St. John's Messenger February, March, April 2025

"101st Newsletter!!!"

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Reflections

If you don't know GOD, don't make stupid remarks!

A United States soldier was taking some college courses between assignments. He had completed 20 missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

One of the courses had a professor who was an avowed atheist.

One day the professor shocked the class when he came in. He looked to the ceiling and flatly stated, "GOD, if you are real, then I want you to knock me off this platform...

I'll give you exactly 15 min."

The lecture room fell silent. You could hear a pin drop. Ten minutes went by and the professor proclaimed, "Here I am GOD, I'm still waiting."

It got down to the last couple of minutes when the soldier got out of his chair, went up to the professor, and cold-cocked him; knocking him off the platform. The professor was out cold.

The soldier went back to his seat and sat there, silently.

The other students were shocked and stunned, and sat there looking on in silence. The professor eventually came to, noticeably shaken, looked at the soldier and asked, "What in the world is the matter with you? Why did you do that?"

The soldier calmly replied, "GOD was busy today protecting America's soldiers who are protecting your right to say stupid remarks and act like an idiot. So He sent me."

The classroom erupted in cheers!

Pastor's Notes:

Proverbs 16:9 states, "The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps." I am beyond thankful for the LORD guiding my steps to St. John's. You have welcomed me and my family with open arms. You have blessed us more than you know. Thank you to everyone for such a smooth transition. I am excited to see what the Lord will do in and among us in the many years to come.

The Lord has already been at work in the short time I've been at St. John's. We hit the ground running in the fall with the resumption of Sunday school and confirmation. So far, in Sunday school, we've studied the books of Ruth, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. This has been a great time of learning not only more about one another but also more about who God is and what He's done. On Wednesday nights, I have the privilege of teaching confirmation class. The class is working through the New City Catechism curriculum. Together, we discuss the doctrines of the faith and commit them to memory along with the Scripture that supports the doctrine. Lord wiling, we will celebrate the accomplishments of this class in the spring of 2026.

Additionally, the Women's Guild blessed me with an opportunity to purchase new books for the library. It was such a joy to be able to purchase books for children, teens, and adults covering multiple topics. Crystal and I have been busy cataloging the new books, and they will soon be on the shelves. On a side note, when donating books, please place them in the donation box (coming soon) so they can be recorded and placed on the shelf with similar books. Thank you for your help with this ongoing project.

Finally, I pray that you have been blessed by the preaching of God's word on Sunday mornings as I have been preparing and delivering the sermons. Since the end of August, we have studied the books of 1 John, 2 John, and 3 John. In these three epistles from John, we learned the importance of faith, love, and obedience. My prayer for us as a body of believers is the same that Jesus prayed for his disciples and those who would come to faith through their teaching, "Sanctify them in the truth, your word is truth" (John 17:17).

I have enjoyed getting to know you on Sunday mornings before and after the service, in Sunday school, and during times of visitation. If you desire a pastoral visit, please reach out to me at any time.

"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen" (Ephesians 3:20).

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Bjorn Bakke

Council:

Special Meeting St. John's Church October 20, 2024

Dave Swift called the meeting to order after the church service. All council members were present except for Deb.

Dave informed the council that the two-year land rent contract was up this year. He was in contact with Jeff Kosek, the current renter, and Jeff needed to know if he could sign another two-year contract.

The current rent is \$250/acre. Because of lower commodity rates, M/S/A to approve the two-year contract at a rate of \$230/acre with Jeff Kosek.

There was also a M/S/A to add two more names to the list on the background checklist as their paper work came back with no issues.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Martin/Secretary

November 6^h, 2024

Council Members Present: Council members present were Dave, Pam, Dawn, and Debbie. Missing were Elmer and Barb. Pastor Bjorn was also at the meeting.

Dave called the meeting to order and Pastor Bjorn opened with a devotional and prayer.

The secretary's minutes were approved from the October 9th meeting and the special meeting on October 20th. Dawn gave the treasurer's report. The beginning balance was \$57,943.35 and the ending balance is \$68,311.93.

- Designated Funds \$24,936.18
 - Memorial \$8,000.49
 - o Benevolence \$2,796.65
 - o Choir \$581.04
 - o Missions \$1,800.00
 - o Building \$1,610.00
 - o Cemetery Fund \$6,280.00
 - o SS-VBS \$998.00
 - o Pastoral Fund \$250.00
 - o Youth Fund \$25.00
 - o Cemetery Spraying \$25.00
 - o Technology Improvements \$2,520.00
 - o Casey Blackbird fund \$50.00
- General Fund \$43,375.75

Deb reported that the building fund checking balance is \$12,146.62 and the Vanguard account balance is \$152,473.89.

All financial reports were approved as given.

Pastor Bjorn expressed how wonderful the installation service was on November 3rd. The council agreed that the name tag use went well. We will continue to use name tags the 3rd Sunday of each month and discuss future use at the annual meeting. He also attended a CCCC conference in Avon on the 4th which was very informative.

Old Business:

- -- The confirmation certificate is still in process.
- -- A 2nd bid is on the way for the A/V system. Dave will look into getting a 3rd.
- -- We will revisit plans for the 160th anniversary at the annual meeting.
- -- Celine is working on getting pens for the pews as well as thinking of ideas for holders.
- -- Roof is fixed thanks to Travis Brecht. Pam will send out a thank-you.
- -- Deb paid the 2nd half property taxes.
- -- Pam called Foster Mechanical for furnace tune-up. Michael Sanken will check it.

New Business:

➤ Upcoming Events:

December 8th – Dress rehearsal for Christmas program/Birthday party for Jesus **December 15**th – Christmas program @ the 10:30 service.

- > Dave will try putting in different lights to improve the sanctuary lighting.
- > The Church was informed that we need to keep records regarding the Paid Leave Law. Dave will contact our tax advisors to see if this is something they could do for us.
- ➤ M/S/A to approve another volunteer background check to add to the list.

November Task List:

- o Draft Pastor contract/get reviews Pam volunteered to hand out review forms to several members.
- Check sidewalk salt supply Dave will do.
- o Land rent bid *Verbal done, papers to be signed.* (**Moved this task to Sept. for the future)
- Consider council member candidates One position needed. Council reviewed membership and will seek volunteers.
- o Schedule decorating/undecorating Saturday November 30th @ 9:00/Jan. 12th after Church.
- Review membership list Council reviewed list. Pastor Bjorn to review current letters and make suggestions. Pam will follow up.
- o Change batteries in various devices Dave will do.
- Pay building insurance Deb will take care of.
- o Review usher/altar/custodian duty list. Spots are open for December.
- o Test elevator/phone.

Our next council meeting will be held Wednesday, December 4th, @ 7:00. M/S/C to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Martin/Secretary

Special Meeting St. John's Church November 24, 2024

Dave Swift called the meeting to order after the church service. All council members were present except for Elmer.

Dave called the meeting to order to change a resolution regarding our Vanguard account. M/S/A to remove Robyn Field from the account and to add Deb Froemming and David Swift as authorized signatories.

Also confirmed at this meeting was that Barb and Dawn volunteered to serve their second term on the council.

Meeting adjourned. Respectfully submitted, Pam Martin/Secretary

December 4^h, 2024

Council Members Present: Council members present were Dave, Pam, Dawn, and Barb. Missing were Elmer and Deb. Pastor Bjorn was also at the meeting.

Dave called the meeting to order and Pastor Bjorn opened with a devotional and prayer.

The secretary's minutes were approved from the November 6th meeting and the special meeting on November 24th.

Dawn gave the treasurer's report. The beginning balance was \$68,311.93 and the ending balance is \$68,988.33.

- Designated Funds \$25,546.18
 - o Memorial \$8,000.49
 - o Benevolence \$3,021.65
 - o Choir \$581.04
 - o Missions \$1,800.00
 - o Building \$1,760.00
 - o Cemetery Fund \$6,350.00
 - o SS-VBS \$1,088.00
 - o Pastoral Fund \$325.00
 - Youth Fund \$25.00
 - o Cemetery Spraying \$25.00
 - o Technology Improvements \$2,520.00
 - Casey Blackbird fund \$50.00
- General Fund \$43,442.15

With Deb's absence, Dave reported that the building fund checking balance is \$3,394.50 (This reflects the building insurance being paid) and the Vanguard account balance is \$156,027.44.

All financial reports were approved as given.

Pastor Bjorn informed the council that he helped the Youth Group pack Christmas boxes. He also has been doing some visitations as well as picking out books for the Church's library with funds that were donated by the Women's Guild. Pastor Bjorn also reported that he is hopeful that his office space at home will get framed in before the end of the year with completion into next year.

Old Business:

- -- M/S/A to use the Confirmation Certificate as presented. Thanks Pastor Bjorn and the Swifts!!
- -- Dave is waiting to hear back on a 3rd quote on the A/V system.
- -- Dave reported that Julie is exploring the idea of having the Basics perform for our 160th Anniversary.
- -- Pens are here for the pews! Thanks Celine!!
- -- Dave and Cory designed pen holders for the pews which turned out great! Thanks to both!!
- -- The improved lighting that Dave tried in the sanctuary did not make a difference. Will be sending bulbs back.
- -- Dave contacted our accountant regarding the Paid Leave Law. He was advised that they will stay on top of it but it could be a while before we need to be concerned about it. The state needs to get rules sorted out first.
- -- Pastor Bjorn was asked to leave the room for a bit and discussion was made on the Pastor's reviews that Pam got back. The council drafted a proposed contract.
- -- Members are still being contacted to fill the council position needed next year.
- -- Membership letters were reviewed by Pastor Bjorn. At this time, we will wait on sending any letters out to those who have not attended in a while.
- -- Dave has taken care of replacing all the batteries in various devices. Thanks Dave!!

New Business:

> Upcoming Events:

December 8th – Dress rehearsal for Christmas program/Birthday party for Jesus/Kidz JAM

December 15th – Christmas program @ the 10:30 service. New member recognition.

January 12th – Undecorate Church after service.

January 26th - Annual Meeting.

- > Dave has submitted the annual church survey to the CCCC.
- Fire extinguishers have been inspected.

- ➤ Pam will send Pastor Barry a thank you as well as a check for his officiating of the baptism on December 1st for Layla Borg.
- ➤ M/S/A to accept Bjorn, Crystal, and Mason Bakke into membership by confession of faith. They will be recognized during the service on December 15th.
- > Pastor Bjorn was approached on doing adult baptisms. He is looking into getting what is needed. Council approved.
- > Pastor Bjorn is also looking into having men's Bible study on Wednesday nights after the first of the year.

December Task List:

- Prep for annual meeting Dave will update service times, budget, etc. for next meeting approval.
- New sign-up sheet for Altar Guild/Custodian/Usher Dave will make sure one is printed.
- o Present Pastor review Dave will meet with Pastor Bjorn next Wednesday at @ 7:00 to discuss.
- Contact staff on pay *Dave will contact Karen and Mary*.
- Update record keeper with membership changes *Pam will contact Karen*.
- o Review usher/altar/custodian duty list. Spots are still open for December.
- Test elevator/phone *Done*

There was no suggestion in the box.

Our next council meeting will be held Wednesday, January 15th, @ 7:00.

M/S/C to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Martin/Secretary

January 15^h, 2025

Council Members Present: Dave, Dawn, Barb, Elmer, Deb, and Pam (via zoom). Pastor Bjorn was also at the meeting.

Dave called the meeting to order and Pastor Bjorn opened with a devotional from Luke 8 vs. 4-15 and a prayer. The secretary's minutes were approved from the December 4th meeting.

Dawn gave the treasurer's report. The beginning balance was \$68,988.33 and the ending balance after restricted funds were paid out at year end is \$57,393.27.

- Designated Funds \$13,144.85
 - o Memorial \$8,000.49
 - o Benevolence \$306.65
 - o Choir \$517.71
 - o Missions \$1,800.00
 - o Building \$0.00
 - o Cemetery Fund \$0.00
 - o SS-VBS \$0.00
 - Pastoral Fund \$0.00
 - Youth Fund \$0.00
 - o Cemetery Spraying \$0.00
 - o Technology Improvements \$2,520.00
- General Fund \$44.248.42

Deb reported that the building fund checking balance is \$4,824.19 and the Vanguard account balance is \$151,886.37.

All financial reports were approved as given.

Pastor Bjorn informed the council that so far 80 books have been purchased for the library, thanks to the Women's Guild. He also said that confirmation has started back up as well as a men's Bible study.

Old Business:

- -- A/V system Sound booth space is a current obstacle. Ideas are being explored and will be brought up at another congregational meeting in the future.
- -- Improved sanctuary lighting Dave is getting a quote on a new approach. (Indirect lighting)

- -- Pastor Bjorn's office buildout Materials are purchased. Waiting on labor. Invoices will be submitted to Dawn and she will keep track of until completion and will let the Women's Guild know what their cost for half will be.
- -- Council position was discussed. Deb volunteered to be secretary. Dave thinks he will be able to find someone to fill the other position of Building Fund Treasurer.
- -- Discussion was made on setting up for the upcoming believer's baptism on February 2nd.

New Business:

➤ Upcoming Events:

January 26th – Annual Meeting

February 2nd – Believer's Baptism

February 16th – Jesus loves you "snow" much event

- > The elevator will be tested and serviced next week.
- ➤ Dave is working on some thermostat issues.
- ➤ Dave received two endowment requests. M/S/A to approve those requests to be brought to the congregation for a vote at the annual meeting.
- > Dave is exploring options for our phone/internet.
- ➤ Quotes will be made for some electrical projects. (Lighting, fans, A/V)
- Pastor Bjorn informed the council of a vacation he would like to take in January 2026.

January Task List:

- o Annual Meeting:
 - 1) Budget/Service times M/S/A to be presented at annual meeting as given.
 - 2) Confirmation Date *There will not be anyone getting confirmed this year.*
- o Review usher/altar/custodian duty list. February is taken care of!
- Test elevator/phone *Done*

There was a suggestion in the box – "Turn off fans during service in winter – it's cold"!) Dave will add a note to the usher responsibilities to turn them off during the service in the winter. He is also getting quotes for different fans that would be bi-directional.

Our next council meeting will be held Wednesday, February 12th, @ 7:00.

M/S/C to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Martin/Secretary

St. John's Cemetery Association Annual Meeting Minutes- January 28, 2024

The annual meeting of St. John's Cemetery Association was called to order by David Huebert following the church's annual meeting.

Minutes from the 2024 annual meeting were read by Celine Swift, hearing no additions or corrections, minutes were approved as read.

Financial report was read by Celine Swift, hearing no additions or corrections, minutes were approved as read.

Old Business:

- Mark Wigern continues to mow our lawn and is doing a great job. Thanks Mark!
- Spraying for 2024 was again done by Allen Raduenz of Top Notch Turf.

New Business:

- Three burials took place in 2024: Margie Block, Richard Swift, and Maynard Rannow.
- We plan to continue with Mark Wigern for mowing in 2025. Mark's rate for mowing is \$260.
- We expect to use Allen Raduenz for spraying again. We will plan to go ahead unless the quote seems unreasonable (\$1210 for 2023 and 2024). This year we plan to have him apply two spray treatments to try to get ahead of the creeping Charlie.
- The Cemetery Committee has been meeting frequently to work on updating the bylaws. The need to update the bylaws was instigated largely because of cremations and all the complications they bring. The new documents should also help with continuity when new members join the Cemetery Committee:
 - We learned from our lawyer that the cemetery should not act as a separate entity from the church, but rather operate under the umbrella of St. John's, like any other organization in the church. (e.g. - Cemetery Committee, instead of Association or Board)
 - We are working to write a policy (or set of policies) to replace the bylaws. Once we have a complete working draft, we will call in a team of experts (previous Cemetery Board members) to review and provide input.
 - Our goal is to have a congregational meeting later this year to adopt the policy/policies.
 - Accordingly, we expect this will be the last year that the Cemetery has its own annual meeting. Going forward the cemetery committee will report during the annual meeting like any other committee.
- The Cemetery Committee is also working to update the Cemetery Map and the Cemetery Book, which should also be in place later this year.
- David Huebert's first term is complete, but he is eligible for reelection. David Swift made the motion to nominate David Huebert, and moved that nominations cease to cast a unanimous ballot for the nominee. Motion carried.

Other Business:

• A motion was made and seconded to adjourn and motion carried. Respectfully Submitted by Celine Swift, recording for David Sanken, Secretary.

Sunday School Happenings



On November 10th this youngman, Huntley received his Bible.

Getting set up for the Christmas Program:





The Sunday School was busy practicing for the Christmas program throughout November. The kids told the story about the birth of Jesus through song and nativity. We enjoyed celebrating Jesus' birthday with cupcakes and decorating Gingerbread Houses.

Some very creative Valentines are being made to share with our shut-ins. More recently, the Children's bell choir performed "Jesus Loves Me" in church.

We have an exciting event coming up on February 16... Jesus L♥□ves You Sn\\$□w Much.

The fun takes place during the Sunday School session and includes a children's sermon, playing outside (weather permitting), making a snowglobe, building a snowman, decorating a cookie and having hot chocolate.

NO Sunday School April 13th Palm Sunday Breakfast

NO Sunday School April 20th Easter

Christmas program continued:













1-19-2025 Sunday School Bell Choir

Youth Group Happenings:

Importment dates:

Feb 5: Youth Group Meeting Feb 15: Youth Group Bowling

March 5 & 19: youth group meetings

April 2: Youth Group meeting

April 12: Youth Group Palm Sunday Breakfast setup

April 13: 9-10 Palm Sunday BreakfastChristmas Shoe Box packing





Youth Group continued:



Church Happenings:

Installation Service Nov. 3rd



Erica, Julia, Kylan, Mason, Crystal, and Pastor Bjorn & Pastor Ray Delaurier



Pastor Ray Delaurier prayering over council members and Pastor Bjorn and family

Happening continued:

Lunch after Installation Service





12-1-2024 Baptism of Layla Jean Borg- Born April 5,2024 Parents, Megan Radunz-Nelson & Larz Allan Borg



Pastor Barry Marchant



12-15-2024 New members, Pastor Bjorn, Crystal and Mason Bakke



Special Music for the holiday, Chandler Swift, Zach Zeleke, and Dylan Wigern

Mark your Calendars:

March 2nd <u>Ash Wednesday Service begin</u>, 7 p.m. with lunch following March 9th Daylight Savings begin(set your clocks ahead 1 hour April 13th <u>Palm Sunday Breakfast</u> 9-10 a.m. NO Sunday School April 18th Good Friday Service 7 p.m.

April 20th Easter Sunday Service at 9:30 a.m. NO Sunday School

Remember these friends in Christ with a prayer, card or call

Glen Bemis Birthday 8/28 55530 County RD 38 Buffalo Lake, MN. 55314

Betty Benjamin Birthday 12/14 1015 Century Ave. Apt.115 Hutchinson, MN. 55350

Joel Buckentin Birthday 12/23 Barb Buckentin Birthday 1/12 1097 Blackbird Trail S.W. Hutchinson, MN. 55350

Kari Eischens Birthday 4/11 % Dennis Schwanke 225 Major Ave. Glencoe, MN. 55336

Randy Knick Birthday 11/28 1388 Bradford St. Hutchinson, MN. 55350 Jessica Maiers Bithday 5/25 434 Kay St. S.W. Hutchinson, MN. 55350

David Martin Birthday 12/11 72555 280th St. Dassel, MN. 55325

Nita von Wold Birthday 6/07 1096 Sherwood St. S.E. Hutchinson, MN. 55350

Gloria Wigern Birthday 2/25 425 Grant St. Glencoe, MN. 55336

Mrs. Lin Ziemer Birthday 12/06 Woodstone Sr. Livg. #208 955 Cleveland Ave. S.W. Hutchinson, MN. 55350

PASTOR

Bjorn Bakke320-368-0889 21838 CSAH 4 Dassel, MN. 55325 Email pastorbjornb@gmail.com

COUNCIL

President David Swift... 320-296-1305 V.Pres.Elmer Baysinger 320-583-3713 Sec. Pam Martin...... 320-510-0493 Treas. Dawn Norrbom.. 952-484-1326 Fin Sec. Barb Buckentin320-510-4130 Bldg.Fund:Deb Froemming320-583-4876

WOMEN'S GUILD 2025

President Julie Karl 320-587-7702 Vice Pres Lea Ette Peters864-3282 Sec. Michelle Moyer ... 320-250-7088 Treas. Brenda Schaefer. 507-766-7486 Sunshine Cr:Elaine Carrigan 864-3330

CEMETERY BOARD

David Huebert	320-296-9153
David Sanken	320-583-7777
Celine Swift	320-296-9083

BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE

Elaine Carrigan	320-864-3330
Mavis Mielke	320-328-5339

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS & SUB-STITUTES 2024-2025

Preschool-	_Dawn Norrbom &
	Jayme Sparby
Grade 1st -2nd	Jodi Sanken &
	Michelle Moyer
Grade 4th-8th	une Knick-Andrea Wigern
Michelle Alsleb	en – Joe Blackbird
Substitute List	:
A ablass Duarsan	

Ashley Breyer Jessica Maiers Brenda Garoutte Leslie Smith

Children's Church Totes Michelle Alsleben

YOUTH GROUP LEADERS

Andrea Wigern andreawigern@gmail.com Dawn Norrbom dawnnorrbom@gmail.com

CHURCH SECRETARY & RECORDS UP-KEEP

Karen Konerza...... 320-864-4554 320-510-4859 cell

Job Sign-Ups 2025

COMMUNION & ALTAR PREP

November

December

CUSTIODIAN

January Swift	January
February Blackbird	February
March	March
April	April
MayAlsleben	May
June	June
JulyKarl/ Kaufmann	July
August Sanken	August
September	Septembe
OctoberGaroutte	October
November	Novembe
December	Decembe
$7^{ ext{th}}$	7 th
14 th	14 th
21st	21st
24th 5 p.m	24th
28th	28th

USHER/GREETER

January	Swift
•	Blackbird
March	
April	•••••
	Alsleben
June	
JulyK	arl/Kaufmann
August	
September	Schaefer
October	Garoutte
November	
December	
7 th	
14 th	
24th	
28th	

February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Dave Streeter
2 Communion	3 Isaac S.	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 Mike Norrbom	11	12	13	14 Shelby S.	15
16	17	18 Desiree S.	19	20	21	22
23	24 Jettie M.	25 Gloria W. Mark W.	26	27 Deb F.	28	

March 2025

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Mary G.
2 Communion Hannah W.	3	4 Sharon M.	5 ASH WED. 7 p.m. Serv. Robin S.	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Lenten Serv. 7p.m.	13	14	15
16	17	18 Myra M.	19 Lenten Serv. 7 p.m.	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Lenten Serv. 7 p.m. Randy R.	27 Michelle M.	28 Morgan S.	29 Jerry B.
30	31					

April 2025

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Lenten Serv. 7 p.m.	3	4 Brenda S.	5 Lea Ette P.
7	8	9 Lenten Serv. 7 p.m.	10 Marley S.	11 Kari E.	12
14	15	16	17	18 Good Friday Serv. 7 p.m. Elmer B.	19
21 Adam S. Leslie S.	22	23	24 Mike Martin	25	26
28	29 Mason Martin	30			
	7 14 21 Adam S. Leslie S.	7 8 14 15 21 Adam S. Leslie S. 22 28 29	1 2 Lenten Serv. 7 p.m. 7 8 9 Lenten Serv. 7 p.m. 14 15 16 21 Adam S. Leslie S. 22 23	1 2 Lenten Serv. 7 p.m. 3 7 8 9 Lenten Serv. 7 p.m. Marley S. 14 15 16 17 21 Adam S.	1

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Information for the next <u>Newsletter will be needed by April 24th give to me at church or email at <u>chubbers67@gmail.com</u></u>