

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



St. John's Messenger
Nov., Dec, 2025 & Jan. 2026

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REFLECTIONS

Someone has written these beautiful words. Do read and try to understand the deep meaning of it. They are like the ten commandments to follow in life all the time.

1. Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout.
2. So why is a car's windshield so large and the rear view mirror so small? Because our past is not as important as our future. So, look ahead and move on.
3. Friendship is like a book. It takes few seconds to burn, but it takes years to write.
4. All things in life are temporary. If it's going well, enjoy it, that won't last long. If it's going badly, don't worry, that won't last long either.
5. Old friends are gold! New friends are diamonds! If you get a diamond, don't forget the gold! Because to hold a diamond, you always need a base of gold!
6. Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, God smiles from above and says, "Relax, sweetheart, it's just a bend, not the end!"
7. When God solves your problems, you have faith in His abilities; when God doesn't solve your problems, He has faith in your abilities.
8. A blind person asked St. Anthony, "Can there be anything worse than losing eyesight?" He replied, "Yes, losing your vision!"
9. When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them; sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.
10. Worrying does not take away tomorrow's troubles, it takes away today's peace.

Mark Your Calendar

Nov. 1st, Turn your clocks back before you go to bed!!

Nov 27th, Thanksgiving Worship 9:30 a.m.

Nov. 30th 1st Sunday of Advent

Dec. 6th 9:00 a.m. Decorate for Christmas

Sunday, Dec. 21st, Sunday School Christmas program 10:30 a.m.

Dec. 24th, Christmas Eve, Service 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Day NO Service 2026

Jan. 11th Take decorations down following Morning Worship

Jan. 25th, ANNUAL MEETING after Worship. Potluck lunch after meeting.

Pastor's Notes:

Soli Deo Gloria

This past Sunday (October 26) was Reformation Sunday. It is the day in the church year when we remember the beginning of the Protestant Reformation initiated by Martin Luther. Luther may have launched the Reformation, but he was not the sole reformer. Other reformers include Ulrich Zwingli, John Calvin, John Knox, William Tyndale, and several others. The Reformation movement recovered five important truths commonly known as the Five Solas. The Five Solas are: Sola Scriptura, Sola Fide, Sola Gratia, Solus Christus, and Soli Deo Gloria.

- Sola Scriptura (Scripture Alone) maintains that the Bible is the infallible Word of God and that all ecclesiastical traditions and interpretations are subject to correction by the Scriptures and Scripture alone. The Scriptures alone being the final authority in faith and practice.
- Sola Fide (Faith Alone) asserts that people receive justification on the basis of their faith alone and not on the basis of their good works.
- Sola Gratia (Grace Alone) reminds us that our personal salvation is entirely a gift of grace from God. This concept of unmerited favor stands in stark contrast to any notion that we can earn salvation (in part or in whole) by our own works.
- Solus Christus (Christ Alone) holds that salvation is by the atoning work of Christ alone and that Christ is the only mediator between humanity and God. Without a faith based in Christ and Christ alone, there can be no salvation.
- Soli Deo Gloria (Glory to God Alone) teaches that all glory is due to God alone and no other. This glory is due Him because from Him and through Him and to Him are all things, including our salvation.
 - God created us for His glory and saved us for His glory. We, of course, do not add to His Glory, but participate in its fullness, for who could add to an already perfect glory?

The fifth Sola, Soli Deo Gloria, serves as a nice bookend to the other four Solas, since God brings salvation to His people through the work of Christ alone, given to us by grace alone, received by us by faith alone, and promised to us by Scripture alone.

To God be the glory!

Council Minutes

August 13, 2025 Council Members Present: Council members present were Dave, Dawn, Barb, Deb, Jerome, Elmer. Pastor Bjorn was also at the meeting.

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

The secretary's minutes were approved for the July 16th meeting.

Dawn gave the treasurer's report. The beginning balance was \$74,688.68 and the ending balance was \$79,832.08.

Designated Funds - \$16,974.96

Technology Improvements -	\$2,520.00
Cemetery Spraying -	\$2,000.00
Memorial -	\$4,477.60
Benevolence -	\$2,256.65
Building -	\$1,100.00
Choir -	\$ 692.71
Cemetery Fund -	\$3,350.00
SS-VBS -	\$1,003.00
Youth	\$ 180.00
Pastoral Fund –	\$ 805.00

General Fund - \$61,447.12

Jerome reported that the building fund Citizens Bank checking balance is \$6,138.03 and the Vanguard account balance is \$165,384.87. Toilets were purchased in the amount of \$678.94 and installed by Foster Mechanical. Thank you to Foster Mechanical for donating the labor!

All financial reports were approved as given.

Pastor Bjorn reported to the council that he has been busy with phone calls.

Old Business:

- 68 attended the Heatwole service. Add pens to policy book.
- VBS received positive comments, well received.
- Pastor pulpit fill – Thanks to Jim Crayford, Brian Alsleben, Dawn & Zach Zeleke.
- Cemetery
 - Plots sold: 15 for 12 burials.
 - Flagpoles – cemetery committee working on a proposal.
- Church Directories - sorting through formatting and data collection approach
- Outstanding membership letters – Deb will prepare letter to send out on behalf of the council.
- ESV pew bibles Was this a memorial gift? No.
- Best choice of bibles – Dave will order samples
-
- Nametags – Dave will get more.
- Missions – Endowment Committee proposal for \$1200/yr each, pending council and congregation approval
- 160th Anniversary ~ 65 signed up so far, promo video next Sun, tents/serving help, missions offering
- M/S/A to have Guardian Pressure Washing perform power wash for the bid of \$1500, paid by the building fund.
- New flooring in Faith Center – asked Fashion Interiors for product recommendation. 3 bids

- for the product/material and then 3 bids for the installation will be taken.
- Timing for A/V move trial – Sept/Oct. Mike, Jerome and Dave
- Ushers needed – August 31, November, December
- Task list
 - Review constitution and policies – review in Sept
 - Reviewed supply list by Elmer
 - Changed furnace filters, Barb will pick up more filters

New Business:

Pews have been in storage, Dave will pick up and store from Roxanne Sladek.

Task list

- Review stock options - Dave
- Update newspaper for service hours-Karen
- Change sign for service hours after Labor Day
- Review need for storage cleanout
- Suggestion Box – none

Upcoming events – KidzJam Aug 19th , might be cancelled due to low sign up,

1st day Sunday School Sept 7th,

160th Anniversary Sept 21st

Other new business? none

Next meeting - Sept 9th @ 7:00pm

M/S/A to adjourn the meeting following the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Froemming/Secretary

September 9, 2025 Council Members Present: Council members present were Dave, Dawn, Deb, Jerome, Elmer. Pastor Bjorn was also at the meeting. Barb was absent.

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

The secretary's minutes were approved for the August 13th meeting.

Dawn gave the treasurer's report. The beginning balance was \$79,832.08 and the ending balance was \$79,897.75.

Designated Funds - \$19,720.96

Technology Improvements - \$2,520.00

Cemetery Spraying - \$2,000.00

Memorial - \$4,477.60

Benevolence - \$2,421.65

Building - \$1,295.00

Choir - \$ 717.71

Cemetery Fund - \$3,535.00

SS-VB - \$1,079.00

Youth \$ 205.00

Pastoral Fund – \$1,470.00

General Fund - \$60,176.79

Jerome reported that the building fund Citizens Bank checking balance is \$4,739.09 and the Vanguard account balance is \$166,927.42.

All financial reports were approved as given.

Pastor Bjorn reported to the council that he has been visiting with the Schwanke family, supporting Dennis and family before and after Deb's funeral.

Old Business:

- KidzJam took place on Aug 19th and was enjoyed by the kids.
- SS first week and slide show – Congregation enjoyed
- Cemetery
 - Plots sold: 20 for 25 burials
 - Cemetery sign option presented and preliminary proposal for cemetery flags reviewed and will go to the congregation
 -
- Outstanding membership letters – reviewed and Deb will mail out
- ESV pew bibles – Samples were reviewed
- Nametags are here
- 160th Anniversary ~
 - 110 signed up so far
 - Need council for serving line help (4 total) Dawn, Jerome & Julie, Dave will check with Barb
 - Moving show indoors to accommodate act – will move two front pews to back
 - Setup will happen on the morning of the 20th, looking for volunteers
- Extra pews back to church soon from Eli's barn
- Power washing will be completed before 9/21.
- New flooring in Faith Center – pending recommendation
- Timing for A/V move trial – Sept/Oct. Mike, Jerome and Dave
- Ushers/Custodian needed – September, November, December – ideas discussed such as weekly signups
-

Policy/Constitution reviewed

- Dave reviewed the 2 Vanguard stock options for the building fund account with council

New Business

- Shingles missing, Jerome will check into repair
- M/S/C for non-member Niel Karstens to be buried with his parents
- Discussion on Cemetery policy suggestions, clarification needed
- Confirmed Annual meeting date – Jan 25th, 2026
- Concealed Carry offer for church security was discussed and no action taken
- Task list
 - Spray for beetles - Dave
 - Snow removal bid – Curt Bussler approved
 - Faith center T-stat to heat is done.
 - Rodent bait stations completed by Dave
 -
- Suggestion Box – Entry display for missions and items on brochure rack was made to Dave, nothing decided. No other suggestions.
- Upcoming events –160th Anniversary Sept 21st
- Other new business: Jody Sanken's idea to use a wall for missions was accepted, Dave will talk with her.
-

Next meeting – October 22nd @ 7:00

M/S/C to adjourn the meeting following the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Froemming/Secretary

October 22, 2025 Council Members Present: Council members present were Dave, Dawn, Deb, Jerome, Elmer. Pastor Bjorn was also at the meeting. Barb was absent.

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

The secretary's minutes were approved for the September 9th meeting.

Dawn gave the treasurer's report. The beginning balance was \$79,897.75 and the ending balance was \$75,632.06.

Designated Funds - \$19,325.96

Technology Improvements - \$2,520.00

Cemetery Spraying - \$2,000.00

Memorial - \$4,477.60

Benevolence - \$2,596.65

Building - \$1,450.00

Choir - \$ 742.71

Cemetery Fund - \$4,025.00

SS-VBS - \$1,164.00

Youth \$ 230.00

Pastoral Fund – \$ 120.00

General Fund - \$56,306.10

Jerome reported that the building fund Citizens Bank checking balance is \$2,890.98 and the Vanguard account balance is \$170,988.46. Discussion on the upcoming insurance billing, due to significant premium increase. Jerome will check into this.

All financial reports were approved as given.

Pastor Bjorn reported to the council that he attended the Hutchinson Ecumenical Pastoral group meeting. This is a peer group of local Pastors, and he is going to join. Pastor Bjorn was on the local radio with the daily devotion for a week. He also was interviewed by the Glencoe newspaper about Halloween.

Old Business:

160th Anniversary

Leftover food repackaged into 20 frozen meals for those who may benefit from them.

Congregational photo up and available for sale at a cost of \$3.

Thanks to the 160th committee for organizing a special event in the life of St Johns!

Church Directories

Directories are expected to be completed in early December, 50 sittings so far.

- Estimate 75 to be printed at a cost of ~ \$12-\$15 each.
- M/S/C to provide a free church directory to each family/sitting. Additional directory can
- be purchased at cost.
- The committee is working to track down inactive members.
-

-
- Cemetery
- LP Tank was moved in anticipation of Information Board installation.
-
- M/S/C to accept the Cemetery Committees changes to the Cemetery Policy, which include
- the following:
- ▪ Insert before 4F (top of page 4):
- In order for a 2nd burial to happen in a plot after the plot owner is deceased,
- that owner needs to have previously expressed their consent.
- Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis for current members of the Church.
- Remove line 3Hc (top of page 3) since the grandfathering paperwork is now complete:
- Remove "Pricing structure above applies starting 9/1/2025. Those who have already
- purchased burials under the previous pricing structure will be grandfathered in with
- their pricing."
- ESV pew bibles continued discussion.
- Extra pews have been returned to the church.
- Door lock guard in place on west entrance has been modified for better security.
- Thanks to Eli Sladek for his welding!
- Funds transfer to Building fund discussed.
- New flooring in Faith Center, discussion continues.
- Timing for A/V move trial – TBD by Mike, Jerome and Dave as they will be doing this.
- Ushers and Custodians are needed for both November and December. Council has been
- tasked with coming up with ideas for a solution.
- Travis is prepared to repair missing shingles.

New Business:

- Septic Service – pumped tanks and new filter. Will pay from building fund. Update task list.
- Seeking a glider style rocker to replace standard rocker in nursery which damages the wall.

Task list

Draft new pastor contract & prep for review. Jerome will gather congregant reviews.
 Verify sidewalk salt supply, Dave will do.
 Beginning the search for one Council candidate.
 Scheduled church decoration is scheduled for Dec. 6 at 9 am and the removal of decorations
 will be on Jan. 11 after the church service.
 Reviewed membership list, council has been tasked with coming up with outreach ideas.
 Change batteries throughout church to be done as needed.
 Pay building insurance, due early December.
 No notes found in the Suggestion Box.
 Upcoming events – Thanksgiving morning service.
 No other new business.

Next meeting – Nov 19th @ 7:00pm

M/S/C to adjourn the meeting following the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Froemming/Secretary

Sunday School Happenings

With the closing of another awesome Vacation Bible School, we invited the kids one more time for Kidzjam in August. Everyone enjoyed getting reacquainted and having some free play, snack and reliving those VBS songs and themes.

On the first day of Sunday School, our focus was around our Child sponsorship program. Pastor Bjorn introduced us to "Irene" with a story about missions and giving. We will update the kids throughout the year. We are excited to have a display set up soon in the hallway to the Faith Center. Lucy Barth and Raelyn received their 3rd grade Bibles in September.

As we enter the holiday season, we have been planning for the Christmas program. Please put these dates on your calendar!

November 16 - Puppet Show during the church service

November 16 - Christmas program practice begins

December 14 - Birthday Party for Jesus and Dress Rehearsal after church

December 21 - Christmas program during the church service

December 28 - No Sunday School

VBS













Raelyn Sparby 3rd graders received Bibles Lucy Barth

Kidzjam 8-19-2025



Church Happening:

Heatwole 8-10-2025



160th Anniversary September 21st



Pastor's Bjron Bakke, Robert Taylor, David Martin, & Barry Marchant

Luke Winger, an inspirational speaker and juggler did a show.



Juggling with his 3 sons.



Mary Garoutte, not to sure about this!!



Can you do this???



Want to try this?



Laylah Taylor are you sure it's safe?



Dave Sanken, a juggler!!



I'm not to sure of this!!

Great message was heard from him!



***Good Food, Roast Beef meal and
YUMMY DESSERT !!!***



We are in the process of creating a new picture directory of our St. John's Family. So far, over 50 families/individuals have had their pictures taken. We hope to wrap up picture taking in the next few weeks, so if you haven't signed up to get your picture taken yet, please reach out to Brenda Garoutte or Celine Swift to get scheduled. We have a small "studio" set up in the basement, and you can view your pictures on the TV after they are taken. You also have the option of submitting a family portrait if you prefer. In addition, we have a form of information for each family to complete for the directory.

Pastor Appreciation Basket!



Common Cup Corner:

It was another wonderfully successful Back to School giveaway this fall. Over 560 children received a backpack full of school supplies between the Hutchinson and Glencoe events.

The annual winter coat distribution took place on October 15th in both Hutchinson and Glencoe. Between the two sites over 500 coats were given away, along with mittens, hats and boots. Thank you to everyone who donated to the coat drive.

The Common Cup Ministry office in Hutchinson has moved. Everyone is welcome to the Open House on Thursday, November 13th from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. Tour the new facility, meet the staff and Board of Directors, learn more about CCM programs, and enjoy some light refreshments.

“Coming Together in Song” – Save the date! There will be a fundraising concert on Sunday afternoon, November 16th at 3:00 p.m. at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Hutchinson. Several artists and choirs will be performing. All donations will go to support the many programs of Common Cup Ministry. Check the bulletin board at church for more details.

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

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

**Loren Mielke Birthday 1/19
11031 Page Ave.
Brownton, MN. 55312**

**Kari Eischens Birthday 4/21
%Dennis Schwanke
225 Major Ave,
Glencoe, MN. 55336**

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

**Mrs. Lin Ziemer Birthday 12/06
Randy Knick Birthday 11/28
1388 Bradford St.
Hutchinson, MN. 55350**

**Woodstone Sr. Livg. #208
955 Cleveland Ave. S.W.
Hutchinson, MN. 55350**

**Myra Martin Birthday 03/18
% Ken Feltmann
66 1st Ave. N.
Lester Prairie, MN. 55354**

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. Deb Froemming320-583-4876
Treas. Dawn Norrbom ..952-484-1326
Fin Sec. Barb Buckentin320-510-4130
Bldg.Fund:Jerome Karl 320-583-6031

WOMEN'S GUILD 2025

President Julie Karl.....320-587-7702
Vice Pres Lea Ette Peters..... 864-3282
Sec. Michelle Moyer....320-250-7088
Treas. Brenda Schaefer.507-766-7486
Sunshine Cr:Elaine Carrigan864-3330

CEMETERY BOARD

David Huebert.....320-296-9153
David Sanken.....320-583-7777
Celine Swift320-296-9083

BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS & SUBSTITUTES 2024-2025

Preschool- Dawn Norrbom &
Jayme Sparby

Grade 1st -2nd Jodi Sanken &
Michelle Moyer

Grade 4th-8th June Knick-Andrea Wigern

Young Adult Class

Michelle Alsleben

Substitute List:

Brenda Garoutte
Leslie Smith

Children's Church

Totes Youth Group

YOUTH GROUP LEADERS

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

CHURCH SECRETARY & RECORDS UPKEEP

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

Job Sign-Ups 2025

COMMUNION & ALTAR PREP

JanuarySwift
FebruaryBlackbird
March Mavis
April Mavis
May Alsleben
June Lea Ette & Michelle M.
July Karl/ Kaufmann
AugustSanken
September Schaefer
October Garoutte
November
December

January 2026.....

CUSTODIAN

JanuarySwift
February Blackbird
March Knick
April
May Alsleben
June Lea Ette & Michelle M.
July Karl/ Kaufmann
August Sanken
September
October Garoutte
November
December
7th
14th
21st
24th 5 p.m.
28th

January 2026.....

USHER/GREETER

January Swift
February Blackbird
March Knick
April Huebert
May Alsleben
June Lea Ette & Michelle
July Karl/Kaufmann
August
September Schaefer
October Garoutte
November
December
7th
14th
21st
24th
28th

January 2026.....

November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	1
2 Communion	3	4	5	6 Michelle A.	7	8
9 Carter R.	10 Annie B. Raelyn S.	11	12	13	14	15 Jason E.
16 Chase S.	17 Orrie B	18 Warren K.	19	20	21 Carol B. Jayden B.	22 Mandy G.
23	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving Worship 9:30 a.m.	28 Randy K.	29
30 1st Sunday of Advent						

December 2025

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Laura A.	3 Erica B.	4 Michael S.	5	6 Rosalina Z. Decorate for Chrstitmas 9 a.m.
7 Communion	8	9	10	11 Dave M.	12	13 Summer B. Jayme S.
14 Betty B.	15	16 Julie K.	17	18	19.	20
21 Sunday School Christmas program 10:30 a.m.	22 Mason B.	23 Crystal B. Joel B.	24 Christmas Eve Service 5 p.m.	25	26	27
28 NO Sunday School	29 Mary T.	30	31			

January 2026

J

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Marcie B.
4 Communion	5 Susie B. Holly W.	6 James P.	7	8	9 Karson S.	10 Joshua K.
11 Take decorations down following worship	12 Barb B.	13 McKayla W.	14	15	16	17 Doug B.
18	19 Loren M.	20	21	22 Brian A. Kylan B.	23	24
25 Annual Mtg.	26	27	28	29	30 Delaney S.	31 Barb B.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Information for the next **Newsletter will be needed by Jan. 26th** give to me at church or email at chubbers67@gmail.com

BE SURE TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK ON NOVEMBER 1st!!! Or be early to church!