

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



**St. John's Messenger**  
*May, June & July 2026*

*Reflections* ..... 2  
*Pastors Notes* ..... 3  
*Council Meetings* ..... 4-6  
*Sunday School* ..... 6-7  
*Church Happenings Palm Sunday Breakfast & Scholarship, Installation* ..... 8  
*Remember the Shut-Ins* ..... 9  
*Who's Who* ..... 10  
*Job Sign Up* ..... 11  
*Calendar of Events* ..... 12-13



## ***Notes from the Desk of Pastor Bjorn***

Over the past couple of months, I've been reaching out to the households of the congregation via telephone. If you've not yet received a phone call from me, don't worry, you will be getting a call soon. The reason I'm calling is simply to check in on the families of the church. I want to get to know you better, see how you are doing, and how I can be praying for you. Ideally, I'd like to call each household a few times throughout the year. With that being said, you don't have to wait for me to call. You can call or text me at any time. Similarly, if you'd like a visit, please let me know. In my years in ministry, I've heard repeatedly from people that the reason they didn't call or arrange a visit was that "I didn't want to bother you" or "I know you're busy." Yes, I'm busy, but we're all busy. Besides, I set aside time during the week to make visits. Additionally, I'm not only a preacher, I'm also your pastor, or shepherd. A shepherd is not bothered by the sheep; it is the responsibility of the shepherd to tend the sheep. All that to say, please do not hesitate to call, text, or email. I'm here for you.

Since the beginning of the school year, I have had the pleasure of leading a few different small groups. In each of these groups, we've been reading and discussing books that are available in our church library. The youth group has been studying *What the Gospel?* by Greg Gilbert. The Wednesday night men's group has worked through *Disciple Making: Raising Another Up Toward Maturity in Christ* by the CCCC's own John Kimball, *The Gospel: How the Church Portrays the Beauty of Christ* by Ray Ortlund, and *Conversion: How God Creates A People* by Michael Lawrence. Finally, I have been meeting with two groups of men on alternating Tuesdays, one at the church and one in my home. These two groups have been studying *Am I Really A Christian?* by Mike McKinley. All of these groups have been such a blessing. It has been a blessing to read, study, discuss, share, ask questions, and brainstorm. I encourage you to check these books out from the library. Better yet, read it with someone and talk about what you read. The summer is a perfect time to catch up on some reading.

Speaking of the summer, I know many of you will be heading to the lake, campground, park, or on vacation. We have so few nice days in Minnesota to enjoy, so I pray that you can make the most of what the Lord blesses us with this summer. I also pray that wherever you are this summer on a Sunday morning, you will find a church in which to worship. Of course, we'd love to have you here at St. John's. However, if you are away from St. John's, bless a local congregation with your attendance and be blessed by another congregation. If you'd like help finding a church near your cabin or campground, let me know. I'm more than happy to assist. You never know the connections you will make. You just might make a connection that will bring someone to St. John's. Regardless, as you are enjoying God's good creation this summer, take time to corporately worship the Creator wherever you are.

In Christ,

Pastor Bjorn Bakke

## **. Council Minutes:**

**February 12, 2026**

**Council Members Present:** Council members present were Adam, Dave, Dawn, Deb, Jerome, and Pastor Bjorn. Barb was absent.

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

The secretary's minutes were approved by unanimous consent for the January 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Dawn gave the treasurer's report. The beginning balance was \$47,493.96 and the ending balance was \$47,297.50.

Designated Funds - \$9,584.96 Technology Improvements - 2,520.00

Missions - 217.00

Memorial - 4,987.60

Benevolence - 431.65

Building - 15.00

Choir - 472.71

Cemetery - 770.00

SS-VBS - 121.00

Youth - 25.00

Pastoral - 25.00

General Fund - \$37,712.54

Jerome reported that the building fund Citizens Bank checking balance is \$14,140.93 and the Vanguard account balance is \$175,373.08. All financial reports were approved by unanimous consent.

Pastor Bjorn reported he has made several visitations. Bible studies include every other Tuesday night at church and another study in his home in addition to Wednesday night bible study.

### **Old Business:**

- Council positions were retained by all, and Adam Garoutte was welcomed to the council and agreed to take on the open position of Vice President.
- Annual meeting was assessed.
- Faith Center lighting, unanimous consent to order 23 more lights to match the current sample.
- M/S/C to accept the recommended Faith Center flooring & base by Fashion Interiors. Dave will schedule.
- A/V system power project has an electrician planned, a wiring plan and bench design. Discussed how to prepare for the next steps.
- Bibles and holders were discussed and decision to proceed based on holder sample to be crafted by Brian Vacek.
- Endowment Committee ex-officio member, Jerome Karl, was appointed.
- M/S/C to release Joe & Susie Blackbird and Jessica Maiers from membership per their requests.
- Discussed the cleaner custodial position and drafting of a contract for preview.

### **New Business:**

- Membership contact list discussed, i.e. what it should look like, who to maintain, who has access, etc.
- Dave will craft a pencil tray for the bulletin board in hallway.
- Pastor Bjorn and Karen will work together on newsletter submissions.
- Consider the Pastor to maintain membership status discussed.
- Task list Deb will complete and email to the council the snow cancellation call list with updates from the annual meeting.
- Pastor contract is enacted.
- Adam has volunteered to set thermostats for the Good Friday service.
- 
- No suggestions were found in the Suggestion Box.
- Upcoming events – “Snow-much” gathering on Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>
- Lent begins on Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> with service at 7 pm
- 
- No other new business.
- Next meeting – March 19 @ 6:00 to do offerings, then meeting at 6:30

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

Respectfully submitted,

**D March 19, 2026**

**Council Members Present:** Council members present were Adam, Dave (via Zoom), Dawn, Deb, Jerome, and Pastor Bjorn. Barb was absent.

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

The secretary's minutes were approved by unanimous consent for the February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Dawn gave the treasurer's report. The beginning balance was \$47,297.50 and the ending balance was \$46,580.44.

Designated Funds - \$10,127.96 Technology Improvements - 2,520.00

Missions - 217.00

Memorial - 4,987.60

Benevolence - 451.65

Building - 45.00

Choir - 497.71

Cemetery - 1,095.00

SS-VBS - 204.00

Youth - 50.00

Pastoral - 60.00

General Fund - \$36,452.48

Jerome reported that the building fund Citizens Bank checking balance is \$22,234.93 and the Vanguard account balance is \$171,708.17. All financial reports were approved by unanimous consent.

Pastor Bjorn reported he has been busy with confirmation, youth group, bible studies, phone calls to members and attended the Hutchinson ministerial group meeting.

**Old Business:**

- Faith Center flooring – Great help made things go quickly. Final work expected to be done on Friday, 3/20 (doors trimmed and door stops installed).
- Faith Center lighting – lights have arrived. Adam and Dave will install the lights with the medium setting by month end in John 3:16 room only, for now.
- Cleaner plan – reviewed draft and will ask for the cleaner's input. Sandy Vaughn has accepted this position.
- A/V system power – we're on the electricians list, no date yet
- Bibles/holders
- Installed on 3/12/26.
- Thanks Brian V, Dave H & Zach Z!
- 6 additional Bibles were ordered (91 total)
- Bibles delivered to Love Packages in Kimball for donation by Zach Z and Dave H.
- Membership contact list – discussion about the survey and how to use it.

**New Business:**

- Elevator annual service has been performed.
- Roof leaks in Faith Center discovered during flooring project. Caught early before significant damage. Travis B has a short- and long-term plan to remedy.
- Internet/phone change – M/S/C to add T-Mobile internet in April and phone lines to follow this summer.
- Recurring cost was/will be: \$55/\$50+\$10=\$60.
- Some additional one-time hardware costs: ATA <\$50,UPS (Unlimited Power Supply) ~\$150.
- Will require a shelf in basement furnace room.
- Task list:
- Dawn will update the Memorial plaque/book.
- Celine will update visitor brochure. Website is ongoing.
- Adam verified clocks time change.
- Suggestion Box – Request for praise reports, will decide how to do this.
- Upcoming events – March 29, Palm Sunday with breakfast from 9-10 followed by service; Good Friday Service on April 3; Easter service on April 5.

- Other new business - Installation of council TBD

Next meeting – April 9, beginning count at 5:45 followed by meeting at 6:30. Adam will lead in Dave’s absence, and minute notes will be taken in Deb’s absence.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Deb Froemming/Secretary

**April 9, 2026**

**Council Members Present:** Council members present were Adam, Barb, Dawn, Jerome, and Pastor Bjorn. Dave and Deb were absent.

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

The secretary’s minutes were approved by unanimous consent for the March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Dawn gave the treasurer’s report. The beginning balance was \$46,580.44 and the ending balance was \$51,460.15.

Designated Funds - \$14,168.96 Technology Improvements - 3,770.00

Missions - 1,101.00

Memorial - 4,987.60

Benevolence - 1021.65

Building - 525.00

Choir - 522.71

Cemetery - 1,430.00

SS-VBS - 341.00

Youth - 75.00

Pastoral - 395.00

General Fund - \$37,291.19

Jerome reported that the building fund Citizens Bank checking balance is \$13,693.93 and no Vanguard update given.

Flooring bill was paid with building funds and from the Women’s Guild. All financial reports were approved by unanimous consent.

Pastor Bjorn reported he has been made visits to Myron Martin and Glen Bemis. He continues to make phone calls & texts to members. Pastor gave an attendance report which included that 31 members have not attended at all in the past 12 months. He will prepare a member-in-trust document for members who are sick or can’t attend.

**Old Business:**

- Faith Center flooring – Doors trimmed and door stops installed, key returned and payment made.
- Faith Center lighting – Lights were installed in John 3:16 only for now.
- Cleaner plan – Sandi started at the beginning of the month. Keep your ears/eyes open for feedback from congregation and Sandi. A list of supplies was given to Adam and the first week took 2.5 hours to clean. Thank you to Dawn for getting this kicked off!
- A/V system power – New power circuits were installed on 3/30.  
New internet service: Installed on 3/23  
Network name is: STJOHNS and Password is: 160yrsplus  
John 3:16 TV is connected and ready for use  
Phone line to be switched over to wireless service in May

Bait boxes were filled.

\$544 in donations were received at the Palm Sunday Breakfast for the Solheims and Andersons for Missions.

**New Business:**

- Lawn cleanup is on April 12th
- Door jams need to be corrected. Installed incorrectly due to the doors being fire safe. Currently, the way they are installed, they can’t take the weight of the doors. Checking with a church member and we may need to get a quote if this is a large task to hire out the fix.
- A key for the cleaner is needed.  
Task list Jerome will pay the 1<sup>st</sup> half property taxes

- Adam will set up dehumidifier
- Adam with check with Mike at Foster Mechanical to check air conditioners
- SS teacher recognition will take place on May 17<sup>th</sup>, the last day of Sunday School
- Parking lot reseal is being planned to finish before the Ice Cream Social
- Gifts for graduates will be given on May 17<sup>th</sup>.
- - Suggestion Box – none
  - Upcoming events – April 12 – installation of new council members
  - Other new business: Discussion on requests of the Women’s Guild. They would like a new sink, new countertops, new stove, serving wall opened up, and vanity/sinks in bathrooms.
- M/S/C to have an outdoor service in July at Lake Marion. Adam will get information on booking a site.

Next meeting – May 7<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 pm to count followed by 6:30 meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Froemming/Secretary

## ***Sunday School Happening***

***Sunday School has continued to sponsor Irene and send monthly messages. We have learned that she is in Kindergarten, likes school and about their warm weather.***

***On May 17, we have lots of fun activities planned. We will preview VBS with a story, game, craft, snack and slushies! The kids will share the story about David during the church service.***

***DATES:***

***May 17- Last day of Sunday School***

***June 11 - Ice Cream Social - kids help with cleaning tables***

***July 26 - VBS work night***

***August 2-5 - Vacation Bible School***

***August 5 - VBS program and "Cruise In"***

***VBS News: At Rainforest Falls, kids explore the nature of God! Rainforest Falls is filled with awesome Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear and touch! Hands-on science experiments, games, unforgettable music and tasty treats are just a few of the activities that help faith flow into real life. Register at church or on our website.***

***Palm Sunday, Easter egg Hunt Palms in Church***



Sunday School Happenings cond.



***PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST***



***CHURCH HAPPENING:***



*Erica Bakke receiving her Scholarship from the Women's Guild*



*Installation of new officers, Dawn, Adam, & Jerome*

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

*Glen Bemis Birthday 8/28  
Barb Bemis Birthday 1/31  
55530 County Rd.38  
Buffalo Lake, MN. 55314*

*Elaine Carrigan Birthday 8/22  
220 Front St.  
Glencoe, MN. 55336*

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

*Randy Knick Birthday 11/28  
1388 Bradford St,  
Hutchinson, MN. 55350*

*Myra Martin Birthday 3/18  
%Ken Feltmann  
66 1st St. N.  
Lester Prairie, MN. 55354*

*Douglas Meyer Birthday 10/15  
8983 Lace Ave..  
Glencoe, MN. 55336*

*Loren Mielke Birthday 1/19  
8983 Lace Ave.  
Brownton, MN. 55312*

*Michelle Moyer Birthday 3/27  
736 Maple St. N.E.  
Hutchinson, MN. 55350*

*Mary Taylor Birthday 12/29  
5657 Radford Ave. N.E.  
Ostego, MN. 55374*

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

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

**PASTOR**

Bjorn Bakke .....320-368-0889  
21838 CSAH 4  
Dassel, MN. 55325  
Email [pastorbjornb@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbjornb@gmail.com)

**COUNCIL**

President David Swift... 320-296-1305  
.V. Pres. Adam Garoutte320-510-5340  
Sec. Deb Froemming.....320-583-4876  
Treas. Dawn Norrbom.. 952-484-1326  
Fin Sec. Barb Buckentin320-510-4130  
Bldg.Fund:Jerome Karl 320-583-0631

**WOMEN’S GUILD 2025**

President lea Ette Peters320-864-3282  
Vice Pres Julie Karl..... 320-587-7702  
Sec. Crystal Bakke ..... 651-675-7878  
Treas. Brenda Schaefer. 507-766-7486  
Sunshine Cr:Elaine Carrigan864-3330

**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 & SUBSTITUTES 2024-2025**

**Preschool-** Dawn Norrbom &  
Jayme Sparby

**Grade 1<sup>st</sup> -2<sup>nd</sup>** Jodi Sanken &  
Michelle Moyer

**Grade 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>** June Knick-Andrea Wigern

**Young Adult Class**

Michelle Alsleben

**Substitute List:**

Brenda Garoutte  
Leslie Smith

**YOUTH GROUP LEADERS**

Pastor & Crystal Bakke

**CHURCH SECRETARY & RECORDS UPKEEP**

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

**Job Sign-  
Ups 2026**

**COMMUNION &  
ALTAR PREP**

January..... Swift  
 February.....  
 March           Alsleben  
 April.....Rose  
 May..... Sandi & Mavis  
 June..... Sandi & Mavis  
 July             Julie Karl  
 August..... Sandi & Mavis  
 September.....Schaefer  
 October .....Garoutte  
 November .....  
 December.....

January 2027.....

**CUSTODIAN**

January ..... Swift  
 February ..... Knick  
 March           Alsleben  
 April.....  
 May.....  
 June.....  
 July ..... Julie Karl  
 August .....  
 September       Schaefer  
 October .....Garoutte  
 November .....  
 December .....  
     7<sup>th</sup> .....  
     14<sup>th</sup>.....Knick  
     21st .....  
     24th 5 p.m.....  
     28th.....

January 2027 .....

**USHER/GREETER**

January ..... Swift  
 February .....  
 March           Alsleben  
 April ..... t  
 May ..... Bakke  
 June ... LeaEtte & Michelle  
 July ..... Karl/Kaufmann  
 August .....Lea Ette  
 September..... Schaefer  
 October ..... Garoutte  
 November .....  
 December .....  
     7<sup>th</sup> .....  
     14<sup>th</sup> .....  
     21st.....  
     24th.....  
     28th .....

January-2027 .....

## *May 2026*

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<b>3 Communion Bridget B.</b>	<b>4 Pastor Bjorn</b>	<b>5 Don P. Holly S.</b>	<b>6 Kim M. Mariyah S.</b>	7	8	9
<b>10 Bonnie K.</b>	11	<b>12 Sue R.</b>	13	14	<b>15 Julia B. Pastor Bob</b>	<b>16 Dave Sanken</b>
<b>17 Eli S.</b>	18	<b>19 Dennis S. Angela B.</b>	<b>20 Judah S.</b>	21	22	23
<b>24 Rachel M.</b>	25	26	27	<b>28 June K. Mary Ann F. Rachel S.</b>	29	30
31						

## *June 2026*

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	<b>3 Cory G.</b>	4	5	6
<b>7 Communion Mary H. Nita vW.</b>	8	9	10	11	12	<b>13 Chandler S. David S.</b>
<b>14 OUTDOOR SERVICE</b>	15	16	17	18	19	20
<b>21 Jeff B.</b>	22	<b>23 Ashley B.</b>	24	<b>25 Jon B.</b>	26	27
<b>28 Charlie B. Dave H. Danielle G.</b>	29	30				

## *July 2026*

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Chase K.	2	3 Kyle W.	4
5 communion	6 Laura S.	7	8 Dawn N.	9	10	11
12 OUTDOOR SERVICE AT LAKE MARION Connor M.	13	14	15	16	17	18 Alan M.
19	20	21 Kyle S.	22 Tom S.	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## *Mark Your Calendar*

**SUMMER HOURS BEGIN MAY 24TH 9:30 a.m.!!!!**  
**LAST SUNDAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL MAY 17TH!**  
**ICE CREAM SOCIAL IS JUNE 11TH!**  
**JULY 26TH IS VBS WORK NIGHT!**

### **NOTES FROM THE EDITOR**

**Information for the next Newsletter will be needed by July 26<sup>th</sup>, you can give to me at church or email me at [chubbers67@gmail.com](mailto:chubbers67@gmail.com).**





