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



# St. John's Messenger

## *Nov., Dec., 2026 & Jan. 2027*

***Reflections & Mark Your Calendar*** ..... ***2***
***Pastors Notes*** ..... ***3***
***Council Meeting,Endowment Fund*** ..... ***4-6***
***Sunday School*** ..... ***6-9***
***Church Happenings –New Member*** ..... ***9***
***Remember the Shut-Ins*** ..... ***10***
***Who's Who*** ..... ***11***
***Job Sign Up*** ..... ***12***
***Calendar of Events*** ..... *13-14*

# *REFLECTIONS*

## *BROKEN DREAMS*

***As children bring their broken toys with tears for us to mend,***
***I brought my broken dreams to God because he was my friend.***
***But then instead of leaving him in peace to work alone,***
***I hung around and tried to help with ways that were my own.***
***At last I grabbed them back and cried "How can you be so slow?"***
***"My child," he said, "What could I do? You never let go."***
***Let go and Let God!***

***Thank you Julie Karl. I was looking through our St. John's Cookbook***
***And came across this and reminded of the many times we all do this.***
***Karen***

**November is Food Shelf month.** Food or monetary gifts are much appreciated. Those in need will appreciate your loving and giving heart!

**Church Christmas decorating Sat., Dec. 5, 9:00 a.m.** Please lending a helping hand! All ages welcome! Enjoy the comradery!
**Christmas decoration take-down Sunday, Jan. 10th after church**. Many helping hands make it happen quickly. Hope
to see u there!

**Sunday School Christmas Program Sunday, December 20th 10:30 a.m.**

***ANNUAL MEETING, Sunday, January 24th FOLLOWING WORSHIP,***

***With Potluck following!***

***TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK ON SATURDAY NIGHT, OCTOBER 31st***

***SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15 A.M.***

***MORNING WORSHIP 10:30 A.M.***



## *Notes from the Desk of Pastor Bjorn*

**Time flies when you're having fun. It's hard to believe that November is right around the corner. Over the past couple of months, the church has been a busy place. Sunday school has resumed, and the congregation has been treated to the talents of our children twice. Another sign that time is flying by: Christmas program plans are already being made. The adult Sunday school class has been doing things a little differently this year. During Sunday school time, we watch theology-based videos from Ligonier Ministries. We have completed the series titled "The God We Worship" and are currently in the series titled "The Majesty of Christ."**

**Following choir on Wednesday nights is another video study. The material for this class is from 9Marks and is titled "The Doctrine of the Church." The sessions so far have been challenging and have generated good discussion. Please consider attending either Sunday morning or Wednesday night.**

**A men's study will begin on Tuesday, November 3. Vote early and plan to attend. This year we'll start by taking a break from reading. Instead, we will watch and discuss videos from Man in the Mirror Ministries.**

**As was shared in the last newsletter, a missions committee has been formed. The committee members are Grace Garoutte, Mary Huebert, June Knick, Zachary Zeleke, and me. I have been so impressed with this committee and how they have jumped into the task of learning what it means to be a missions committee. The team has developed a schedule for communicating with our missionary families each month. We also brainstormed ways of communicating that information with the congregation. We are still relatively new in the role, but we are excited to be partnering with the Andersons and the Solheims and growing alongside them. If you have any questions or suggestions, please reach out to one of the committee members.**

**Likewise, please call, text, email, or arrange to meet with me if you have something you would like to discuss. I am here for you; just let me know how I can serve you.**

**In Christ,**

**Pastor Bjorn Bakke**

# Council Minutes

**August 12, 2026**

**Council Members Present:** Council members present were Adam, Dave, Dawn Deb, and Jerome. Pastor Bjorn was also at the meeting. Barb was absent.
Dave called the meeting to order, and Pastor Bjorn opened with a devotional and prayer.
The secretary's minutes were approved by unanimous consent for the July 15th meeting.
Dawn gave the treasurer's report. The beginning balance was $68,164.59 and the ending balance was $72,147.39.

- Designated Funds - $17,220.96
    - Technology Improvements - 3,770.00
    - Missions - 820.00
    - Cemetery Spraying - 300.00
    - Memorial - 4,087.60
    - Benevolence - 1,826.65
    - Building - 1,225.00
    - Choir - 622.71
    - Cemetery - 2,705.00
    - SS-VBS - 754.00
    - Youth - 175.00
    - Pastoral - 935.00
- General Fund - $54,926.43

Jerome reported that the building fund Citizens Bank checking balance is $9,083.80 and the Vanguard account balance is $182,241.58. All financial reports were approved by unanimous consent.

- Pastor Bjorn reported he will be helping with officiating Jack Rettman's funeral service in Stewart at St. Paul's church. Visits were made to members, one that finished chemo and another was having a garage sale. He shared the upcoming planning for confirmation, Sunday School and Wednesday night bible study schedules. The Missions Team will be meeting via Zoom.

**Old Business:**

- VBS & Car Cruise-in was well attended, over 20 vehicles were in the Car Cruise-in.
- Heatwole Service had 66 in attendance. Checklist updates were discussed. It was decided to add "Check in with the sound team and the secretary on the bulletin."
- Reviewed the Constitution/Policies. Discussion was held and some items were added to the suggestion list found in front of the Policy book.
- Affirmation of membership will be worked on by Pastor Bjorn and Dave.
- New Phone Service, the proposed answering message, was shared and will be implemented.
- Carpet cleaning scheduled for Sept. 14 with clean out on the 13th, restoring to original on the 16th after choir at 7 pm.
- Lift service status, Service is scheduled to be completed on Friday, August 14th.

**New Business:**

- Task list
    - Review of Vanguard stock options will be next month; Dave will prepare a presentation.
    - The service hours sign will be changed after 9/06 service.
    - A general clean out was decided not needed at this time.
    - Reviewed Heatwole checklist.
    - Replace furnace filters, Barb will pick up more filters from the 3M store.
- Suggestion Box –Is there an answering machine? Yes, your call will be forwarded to the Pastor.
- Upcoming events – Kidz Jam – Aug 18th at Lake Marion
- Dave will contact Fashion Interiors regarding the floor "bubbles".
- Other new business –
    - M/S/C Motion to approve Maddy Garoutte into membership pending meeting with Pastor Bjorn.
    - Transfer of $25,000 will be made from the General Fund to the Building Fund.
- Next meeting – Sept 17th @ 6:00 for counting offerings with meeting at 6:30.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Froemming/Secretary

**September 17, 2026**

**Council Members Present:** Council members present were Adam, Dave, Dawn and Deb. Pastor Bjorn was also at the meeting. Barb and Jerome were absent.
Dave called the meeting to order, and Pastor Bjorn opened with a devotional and prayer.
The secretary's minutes were approved by unanimous consent for the August 12th meeting.
Dawn gave the treasurer's report. The beginning balance was $72,147.39 and the ending balance was $23,152.91. The deposit was made late which affected the ending balances.

- Designated Funds - $17,930.96
    - Technology Improvements - 3,770.00
    - Missions - 920.00
    - Cemetery Spraying - 300.00
    - Memorial - 4,087.60
    - Benevolence - 1,991.65
    - Building - 1,375.00
    - Choir - 647.71
    - Cemetery - 2,790.00
    - SS-VBS - 779.00
    - Youth - 200.00
    - Pastoral - 1,070.00
- General Fund - $23,152.91

Dave gave a report for Jerome. The building fund Citizens Bank checking balance was not known. The Vanguard account balance is $198,428.92. $25,000 was transferred from General Funds to Building Fund/Vanguard this past month. All financial reports were approved by unanimous consent.
Pastor Bjorn reported he attended a Theology symposium with another local Pastor. He plans to make more visits and calls as his schedule will allow more time than in the past few busy months. He met with the Missions Team. Sunday School and Adult study have begun. Wednesday night Bible study will begin and includes men & women together. Tuesday night Men's bible study will begin in November

**Old Business:**

- Kidz JAM was a successful event.
- Affirmation of membership, rewrite underway by the Pastor.
- New Phone Service is in place with new messaging; it has multiple response options.
- Dave gave a thorough presentation as a review of our stock options.
- Carpet cleaning was completed.
- Lift service was completed.
- Changing the hours sign was completed.
- Chair feet replacement will be completed this month.
- Bulletin board pencil tray was completed.
- Storage shelves were completed by Gene Konerza. He did a great job, Thank you Gene!
- Faith Center floor repair was completed; floor will be monitored.
- Pew hymnal holder repair was completed.
- Adjusted storage room door under stairs, it now closes.
- Building funds transfer was completed.

**New Business:**

- Poor WIFI speeds that may need an antenna, working with Mike.
- Wooden ladders in the granary will be given away with an announcement in church.
- SS room white board was installed. Thank you to Elmer & Marcie Baysinger for the donation!
- Karen's PC monitor is not working well and it needs a replacement.
- A gift from Wilson's family was received. It will be decided next month where to Pay it Forward to.
- Names to be added for background checks include children's church helpers.
- Task list
    - Jerome will get snow removal bids/plans.
    - Spraying for Japanese beetles will be done when they appear.
    - Faith center thermostat moved to "Heat", done.
    - Adam stocked bait stations.
    - The land rent bid will be taken care of by Jerome.

- Suggestion Box –none
- Upcoming events – Oct. 10, Ladies Tea
- No other new business.
- Next meeting – October 22 @ 6:00 for counting offerings with meeting at 6:30.

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

Respectfully submitted, Deb Froemming

## Endowment Fund Update

Although October 31st is the planned cutoff for funding requests from the Endowment Fund, we can still accept requests a bit longer. If you have any last minute ideas, please submit your proposal for how we can put our funds to work. Ask a committee member for a proposal form and submit it soon! This year's committee members are Glen Schaefer, Jerome Karl, & David Swift.

If you are working on estate planning, please consider St John's Endowment Fund in your plan so we can broaden the impact of the great gift that the Nemitz's began!

## Sunday School





**These are two of the families that the kids blessed during VBS**

**VBS Cruise IN!**











**Sunday School**

The Sunday School "launched" into a new Sunday School year with a story from the Bible about how the slaves had to start over in a new land and have faith. The kids chased launched ping pong balls with letters on them. Then the kids arranged the letters to spell a message. We enjoyed a snack of waffle sticks, dips, fruit and juice. We are looking forward to the Christmas program and being able to share the story with the congregation!

**Upcoming dates:**
November 15- Christmas program practice begins
November 15- Puppet ministry (oldest Sunday School class)
December 13- Dress Rehearsal (9:15) and Birthday Party for Jesus (9:50-10:20)
December 20- Christmas program
December 27- No Sunday School
January 3- Sunday School begins

**First Sunday of Sunday School:**









**Sunday School Continued**:



## Church Happenings:



**Heatwole Service 8-9-2026**



**Maddy Garoutte was welcomed as a new member 8/26/26**

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

***Marcie Baysinger Birthday 1/03***
***1525 McDonald Dr. #149***
***Hutchinson, MN. 55350***

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

***Glen Bemis Birthdasy 8/28***
***Barb Bemis Birthday 1/31***
***555350 County Rd. 38***
***Buffalo Lake MN. 553114***

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

***Elaine Carrigan Birthday 8/22***
***1319 Greeley Ave. #106***
***Glencoe, MN. 55336***

***Dawn Norrbom Birthday 7/08***
***8509 Woodland Curve***
***St. Bonifacius, MN. 55375***

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

***Roxanne Sladek Birthday 2/22***
***73261 Markville Rd.***
***Sandstone, MN. 55072***

***Dean Froemming Birthday 10/20***
***23957 Lake Hook Rd.***
***Hutchinson, MN. 55350***

***Mrs. Nita von Wald Birthday 6/7***
***1096 Sherwood St.***
***Hutchinson, MN. 55350***

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

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

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

**PASTOR**

Bjorn Bakke ……320-368-0889
21838 CSAH 4
Dassel, MN. 55325
Email pastorbjornb@gmail.com

**COUNCIL**

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

**WOMEN'S GUILD 2025**

President lea Ette Peters 320-864-3282
Vice Pres Julie Karl..... 320-587-7702
Sec. Crystal Bakke ..... 651-675-7878
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 & SUBSTITUTES** 2026

**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

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

January 2027 Sandi & Mavis

## USHER/GREETER

January..... Swift
February...Mason & Jayden
March Alsleben
April .....t
May .....Bakke
June ..... LeaEtte & Michelle
July.....Karl/Kaufmann
August.....Garoutte
September ..... Schaefer
October .....Garoutte
November .....Alsleben
December.....Bakke

January-2027.....

# *November 2026*

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

# *December 2026*

| Sunday | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | **1** | **2 Laura A.** | **3 Erica B.** | **4 Michael S.** | **5`Decorate Church 9:00a.m.** |
| **6 Communion Lin Z.** | **7** | **8** | **9** | **10** | **11 Dave M.** | **12** |
| **13 Jayme S.** | **14 Betty B.** | **15** | **16 Julie K.** | **17** | **18** | **19** |
| **20 Sunday School Program 10:30 a.m.** | **21** | **22 Mason B. .** | **23 Crystal B. Joel B.** | **24 Christmas Eve Service 5:00 p.m.** | **25** | **26** |
| **27 NO Sunday School Worship 10:30 a.m.** | **28** | **29 Mary T.** | **30** | **31** | | |

## *January 2027*

| | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | **1** | **2** |
| **3 Communion** | **4** | **5** | **5** | **7** | **7** | **9** |
| **10 Take down Decorations after Worship!** | **11** | **12** | **13** | **14** | **15** | **16** |
| **17** | **18** | **19** | **20** | **21** | **22** | **23** |
| **24 Annual MTG.** | **25** | **26** | **27** | **28** | **29** | **30** |
| **31** | | | | | | |

**TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31st!!!**

**Sunday School 9:15 a.m.**

**Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.**

## NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

**Information for the next Newsletter will be needed by January 26, you can give to me at church or email me at chubbers67@gmail.com.**