

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



St. John's Messenger *Aug., Sept., & Oct. 2021*

<i>Reflections</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Pastor's Notes</i>	<i>2-3</i>
<i>Council Meetings</i>	<i>4-8</i>
<i>Sunday School Happenings</i>	<i>9-16</i>
<i>Youth Group</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Church Happenings</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Mark Your Calendars</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Remember the Shut-Ins</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Who's Who</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Job Sign Up</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	<i>22-23</i>

REFLECTIONS

His name was Fleming, and he was a poor Scottish farmer. One day, while trying to make a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog. There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death.

The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse surroundings. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved. 'I want to repay you,' said the nobleman. 'You saved my son's life.'

'No, I can't accept payment for what I did,' the Scottish farmer replied waving off the offer. At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family hovel.

'Is that your son?' the nobleman asked. 'Yes,' the farmer replied proudly.

'I'll make you a deal. Let me provide him with the level of education my own son will enjoy. If the lad is anything like his father, he'll no doubt grow to be a man we both will be proud of.' And that he did.

Farmer Fleming's son attended the very best schools and in time, graduated from St. Mary's Hospital Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of Penicillin.

Years afterward, the same nobleman's son who was saved from the bog was stricken with pneumonia. What saved his life this time? Penicillin.

The name of the nobleman? Lord Randolph Churchill, his son's name? Sir Winston Churchill.

Someone once said: What goes around comes around.

Work like you don't need the money.

Love like you've never been hurt.

Dance like nobody's watching.

Sing like nobody's listening.

Live like it's Heaven on Earth.

Pastor's Report



²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24,25

As your pastor, it has been wonderful to be able to see and talk to many of you in person. These past months have been difficult. Mary and I love each of you deeply and it has been very difficult to not have the opportunity to "fellowship" with you.

So, what is "Christian fellowship" any way?

In the first chapter of his first letter, John makes it clear that Christian fellowship is more than just enjoying "hanging out" with one another.

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ² The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ³ We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ We write this to make our joy complete.

Christian fellowship is about the bond that we share in knowing and loving and serving Christ. Our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. Genuine Christian fellowship begins with the bond we share because of the reality of Christ in our lives. And through Him, the fellowship we have with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Because of what Christ has done for us, by faith, we are adopted into the family of God and are introduced into that marvelous fellowship that God the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit have enjoyed for all eternity; fellowship that Adam and Eve also enjoyed before sin entered the world through them.

And so, Mary and I loved you, the members and friends of St. John's Church, not primarily because you are such wonderful people but because of the bond we share in Christ. Christ, living in each of us is what attracts us to one another. And not only that but also

with many we come in contact with along the way, who also know and love and serve the Savior. You meet someone you haven't seen in decades, but because of the love of Christ that you share, that intimacy, the bond reignites that closeness, that fellowship that you share because of Christ.

Another dimension of Christian fellowship that makes it so special is the fact that it benefits everyone involved. The verses from Hebrews chapter 10 that I referenced earlier certainly drive home that point.

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One of the reasons that Christian fellowship is so important is because it spurs us on towards love and good deeds; it encourages us in our walk with Christ; it refocuses our eyes and hearts on Christ and the love that we share in Him; it allows us to encourage one another to even greater love and faithfulness as we see the Day approaching; the day of Christ's Second Coming when all of His promises to those who love Him will find their fulfillment. And genuine Christian fellowship not only is about the here and now, it about what will be for all eternity if we remain faithful to Him. It certainly is a wonderful bond that we share with Him and with the Father and with the Holy Spirit.

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Pastor Bob

Council Minutes: **May 12, 2021**

Council Members Present: All council members were present.

Joe Blackbird called the meeting to order. Pastor Bob opened the meeting with prayer and a devotional based on Psalm 115:1 “Not to us, Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory.” Giving glory to God alone is a good theme for everyday life.

Pastor’s Report:

- Visitation: Dick Swift, Maynard Rannow. I continue to go through our call list each week.
- 5 students were confirmed on May 2, 2021 – Hailey Martin, Marley Senske, Jayden Schaefer, Braden Wigern, Carter Knick
- High school graduate recognition date for Eli Sladek will be June 6th.
- We do have other students graduating from college or technical school programs: Taylor Mielke, University of MN; Adam Garoutte, Alexandria Technical and Community College
- Recommendation for Jeff Brandel for membership at St. John’s.

Secretary’s minutes from last month’s meeting were approved.

Karen Konerza gave the treasurer’s report. She reported that prices are going up for telephone and snow removal.

- Beginning balance - \$ 59,060.44
- Ending balance - \$ 65,633.89
- Designated Funds - \$ 12,380.68
 - Cemetery Spraying - \$ (50.00)
 - Memorial - \$ 6149.49
 - Benevolence - \$ 2606.15
 - Building - \$ 1095.00
 - Choir - \$ 731.04
 - Cemetery Fund - \$ 1054.00
 - Sunday School / VBS - \$ 255.00
 - Pastoral Fund - \$ 270.00
- General Fund - \$ 53,253.21

Brian Alsleben gave the Building Fund report: The Citizen’s Bank balance is: \$ 18,843.72. Vanguard balance is \$ 8171.28. First half property taxes \$1531 have been paid.

The financial reports were approved as given.

Old Business:

- Water quality- Tri County will install the new softener system on 5/19. Tom Senske will add a 4-plex outlet. Thanks Tom!
- Replace printer at Karen Konerza’s house – *done*
- Burning permit -*done*. Reminder – anyone planning to burn on church property is to call the number on the burning permit before starting the burn. The burn permit is in the cupboard next to the elevator.
- Shingles blowing off roof - *ongoing*. Joe Blackbird is working with the Jon Hahn to complete the repair.

- Church property ditch/drainage issues- *ongoing*. Nothing new to report today.
- LP leak in 3:16 room was repaired.

New Business:

- The council did a walk-around outdoors and found:
 - Tree trimming of lower branches of the south row of pines is needed to help the mower. Cory Garoutte will take care of it.
 - The handicap ramp will need to be finish-coated. Dave Swift will be asked to lead this project this fall. Joe Blackbird and Dave Martin offered to help.
 - There is a temporary transition plate on the handicap ramp. Dave Swift will take care of installing the permanent one.
 - Should the north row of pines be removed, since the shorter pines growing under them are not growing up straight? Or perhaps remove every other tree or so? The council will bring this up for discussion at the annual meeting.
- Motion/Second/Carried to accept Jeff Brandel as new member. He will be recognized during the service on 5/30.
- Loosening Covid restrictions: The council discussed the new MN guidelines announced last week which includes the upcoming elimination of social distance requirements, and that the mask mandate will end no later than July 1st. M/S/C to remove pew ropes and social distance requirements on 5/27, and to eliminate the mask restrictions at St. John's when the mandate is officially lifted for MN. *Update: The MN indoor mask mandate was lifted on 5/13, so the council met via email on 5/14 and decided to list the mask requirement at St. John's, remove the pew ropes and discontinue social distancing effective immediately. The council used the church call list to inform the congregation of the changes.*
- Pastor Bob will recognize the Sunday School teachers during the service on 5/23. They have worked so hard to keep the children engaged, connected and learning about Jesus during the Covid restrictions. Thank you, teachers!!

Task List for the month:

- Church/Grounds assessment – *done*
- Clean out files – *done*
- Update newspaper/website hours – *Karen K. and Celine S.*
- Change sign for summer hours – *Joe B.*
- Honor graduates – *scheduled for June 6*
- Carpet cleaning – *wait until after VBS*
- Clean septic filter – *Joe B will work with Glen Sladek*
- Faith center thermostat to A/C – *done*
- Review usher/altar/custodian duty lists – *OK for June. Need help in July and August*
- Suggestion box – *Kari Eischens has requested a movie event at church, and she volunteered to organize it. Pastor Bob will connect with Kari to get this arranged.*
- Test elevator/phone – *done*

Next council meeting date Wednesday, Jun 9 at 6pm.

M/S/C to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Celine Swift / Secretary

June 9, 2021

Council Members Present: All council members except Pam Martin were present.

Joe Blackbird called the meeting to order. Pastor Bob opened the meeting with prayer and a devotional based on Psalm 52 “But I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God... I will always praise you in the presence of your faithful people.” We need to remember to praise God for all he has done for us.

Pastor’s Report:

- Visitation: Dick Swift, Maynard Rannow, Betty Benjamin, Margie Block

Secretary’s minutes from last month’s meeting were approved.

Karen Konerza gave the treasurer’s report.

- Beginning balance - \$ 65,633.89
- Ending balance - \$ 68,975.74
- Designated Funds - \$ 14,189.21
 - Cemetery Spraying - \$ (25.00)
 - Memorial - \$ 6819.49
 - Benevolence - \$ 2856.15
 - Building - \$ 1205.00
 - Choir - \$ 731.04
 - Cemetery Fund - \$ 1982.53
 - Sunday School / VBS - \$ 285.00
 - Youth – 20.00
 - Pastoral Fund - \$ 315.00
- General Fund - \$ 54,786.53

Brian Alsleben gave the Building Fund report: The Citizen’s Bank balance is: \$ 18,846.61. Vanguard balance is \$ 8269.77.

The financial reports were approved as given.

Old Business:

- Water quality- Tri County has installed the new softener system. The smell has greatly improved.
- Shingles blowing off roof - *ongoing*. Joe Blackbird is working with the Jon Hahn to complete the repair. Joe will reach out to other roofers if Hann doesn’t respond.
- Church property ditch/drainage issues- *ongoing*. Nothing new to report today.
- Joe Blackbird is working with the Women’s Guild to schedule getting the carpet cleaned sometime after VBS.

New Business:

- M/S/C to approve Leslie Smith to apply vinyl lettering in the Faith Center, either on the walls or the doors, whichever she thinks will work best. Thank you Leslie!
- Now that all Covid restrictions are lifted and church attendance is back to normal, M/S/C to discontinue livestreaming and video uploading after the 6/13 service. Thank you Mike Norrbom for all your hard work allowing our congregation access to online worship opportunity during Covid!

- M/S/C to accept the Field family's request to be released from membership.
- The Women's Guild will be organizing the upcoming movie event, which is tentatively scheduled for 7/11/21 after the service).

Task List for the month:

- Ice Cream Social Prep – (*cancelled for 2021*)
- Review usher/altar/custodian duty lists – *Pastor Bob will ask for Volunteers on Sunday.*
- Suggestion box – *None*
- Test elevator/phone – *done*

Next council meeting date Wednesday, July 14 at 6pm.

M/S/C to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Celine Swift / Secretary

July 14th, 2021

Council Members Present: All council members and Pastor Bob were present except for Celine.

Joe Blackbird called the meeting to order.

Pastor Bob opened the meeting with prayer a devotional from Psalm 33.

Pastor's Report:

- ** Visitation: Dick Swift, Maynard Rannow, and Adeline Beguhl (Jan Alsleben's mother)
- ** On July 10th, Angela Uecker and Jeff Brandel were united in marriage at St. Johns. As planned when we were in the midst of the pandemic restrictions, those in attendance were only family members. A big thank you to Mike Norrbom who provided the music and Celine Swift who made sure the air conditioning was on for the rehearsal and the wedding.
- ** Discussion was made on having a council person present for weddings as we do for funerals/memorial services.
- ** When searching for the Heatwole Threshing Show dates on the internet I could not find any dates listed for 2021. Therefore, weather permitting, we will meet in the Church parking lot for worship on Sunday, Aug. 8th.
- ** VBS is coming up July 25 – 28. It appears we will have a good number of kids in attendance. The mission project this year is Common Cup, providing personal care products for families in need. Again, our Sunday School teachers have done a great job for preparing for VBS!
- ** There have been some sound system issues. Joe volunteered to look into our current device to see what can be done and will talk to Dave Swift on the sound system.

The secretary's minutes were approved from the June 9th meeting.

Karen gave the treasurer's report. The beginning balance was \$68,975.74 with an ending balance of \$73,598.66.

- Designated Funds - \$15,204.21
 - Benevolence - \$3,066.15
 - Building - \$1,360.00
 - Choir - \$731.04
 - Memorial - \$6,819.49
 - Sunday School/VBS - \$285.00
 - Youth Group - \$20.00
 - Cemetery Fund - \$2,562.53
 - Pastoral Fund - \$360.00
- General Fund - \$58,394.45

Brian Alsleben gave the Building Fund report: The Citizen's Bank balance is: \$16,749.94. Vanguard balance is \$8,399.55. The financial reports were approved as given.

Old Business:

- Shingles blowing off roof – Dave Swift has fixed some of the shingles. Joe is waiting for a call back from Gordy Chmielewski regarding doing the work on the other shingles. Travis Brecht was another name mentioned if Gordy is unavailable.
- Potluck and movie event was held July 11th.
- Lettering by Women's Guild is being done and looks great!

New Business:

- VBS July 25th – 28th. Work day is Wednesday, July 21st.
- Mike Norrbom suggested another outdoor movie event this fall. M/S/A to have this event again.
- Brian will call Dave Trimbo to do the carpet cleaning again after VBS. He will also let him know that we will not need to do the stripping and waxing downstairs this year as the basement didn't get used much.
- Mary Huebert will be gone on August 22nd. Chandler has offered to play organ that Sunday.

Task list for the month:

- Review Constitution/Policies – Celine has been keeping up with this
- Review supply list
- Review who needs background checks – Mary H. and Celine have been checking on list
- Review Heatwole checklist – N/A this year
- Review usher/altar/custodian duty lists – still some openings in August to be filled
- Suggestion Box – None
- Test elevator/phone – Joe did

Our next council meeting will be Wednesday, August 11th @ 6:00.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Martin/ Acting Secretary

Sunday School Happenings:

The Sunday School ended the year with a lesson, flying kites and snacks... "Flying High with Jesus." The participants received their own kites to take home.

Rocky Railway Vacation Bible School started on July 25. We had about 25 participants celebrate that Jesus' power pulls us through hard times. The lessons were about Ananias, Paul during a storm, Jesus' death and resurrection. Each night the kids experienced engaging music, the Bible lesson adventure, imagination station, games (hayride) and Choo Choo snacks. Thanks to Grace Bible Church for donating a lot of the decorations!

Upcoming dates: July 28- Last night of VBS

August 11 at 6:00- Sunday School planning meeting

September 12- Sunday School starts

September 26- VBS slideshow and kids sing during church

LAST SUNDAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL, May 23rd.



Mary Taylor, Brenda & Cory Garoutte



Are we listening and what are we hearing?



Good job!



Adam Garoutte getting kites ready to “FLY”!



Leslie Smith and Chase, Hailey, & Leah watching Adam getting ready to send the kite off!!



Way to go Chase!!



Let's show him Brenda!!



Now Cory don't out do Brenda!!



What fun this is!!

Snack Time:



Yummy!!

The "VBS train" is moving to St. John's!!!



Glen, Gene, Karen, Andrea & Hannah are loaded and ready to make the trip to St. John's!

VBS continued: "On the move"



The water tower is up and flowing!!



***First ticket Glen sold to Gene
So he's ready to get aboard!***

Work night!!!





First night of VBS:



***Annie Barth & Jessica Alsleben
doing a skit!!***



Pastor Bob doing his skit!

More to come in next newsletter!

Youth Group Happenings:

Upcoming Youth Group Activities		
 <p>Aug TBD: Swimming</p> <p>Swimming at the Hutchinson Aquatic Center. Watch your email!</p>	 <p>Wed Sept 15: First Meeting</p> <p>We are excited to start meeting in person again and are going to try meeting BEFORE confirmation. Supper will be served. Meet in the John 3:16 room from 5:15 to 6:15. This is <i>YOUR</i> group so lets plan so fun outings!</p>	 <p>Sept 17-18: Annual Lock-in</p> <p>We will plan other activities such as bowling and maybe even an outdoor movie. Let us know what you'd like to do. Bring a friend!</p>

Any questions contact:

Andrea Wigern andreawigern@gmail.com

Dawn Norrbom dawnnorrbom@gmail.com

Church Happenings:

May 30th Jeff Brandel became a member Of St. John's, and on July 10th Jeff and Angela were married at St. John's. Congratulations!! And Welcome Jeff.



June 6th, Eli Sladek was honored for his graduation from Hutchinson High School. Congratulations Eli!



Other graduates from St. John's were Taylor Mielke from the University Of Minnesota and Adam Garoutte from Alexandria Technical and Community College. Congratulations to both of them.

Mark your Calendars:

Wednesday, August 11th 6:00 p.m. Sunday School planning meeting

Sunday, August 15th 9:30 a.m. Worship Service at HEATWOLE

Sunday, Sept 5th, will be the last Sunday of Summer hours!!

Sunday, Sept. 12th, Fall hours begin: Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Worship 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, Sept. 26th VBS slideshow and kids singing in church

Remember these members in prayer or with a card or note;

**Joel Buckentin Birthday 12/23
235 Grant St.
Glencoe, MN. 55336**

**Kari Eischens Birthday 4/11
P.O. Box 36
Silver Lake, MN. 55381**

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

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

**Maynard Rannow Birthday 11/5
Cedar Crest of Silver Lake
1401 Main St. W.
Silver Lake, MN. 55381**

**Dick Swift Birthday 11/01
1420 Prairie Ave. #119
Glencoe, MN. 55336**

**Paul Volker Birthday 9/07
(Brenda Garoutte's Dad)
313 4th Ave S. Apt. 109
Sleepy Eye, MN. 56085**

**Juanita(Nita)von Wald Birthday6/07
1096 Sherwood St. S.E.
Hutchinson, MN. 55350**

**Duane Wigern Birthday 10/30
Gloria Wigern Birthday 2/25
425 Grant St.
Glencoe, MN. 55336**

**Mark Wigern Birthday 2/25
1620 Adams St. S.
Hutchinson, MN. 55350**

CHURCH LEADERS FOR 2021

PASTOR

Rev. Bob Taylor 763-420-6800

Cell: 612-644-0628

COUNCIL

President: Joe Blackbird 325-583-1026

V. Pres. Pam Martin 320-510-0493

Treas. Karen Konerza.....864-4554

Secretary: Celine Swift.....864-6188

Fin. Sec. Cory Garoutte 320-583-1475

Bldg.Fund: Brian Alsleben... 864-6745

WOMEN'S GUILD 2021

President Julie Karl 587-7702

Vice Pres. Lea Ette Peters864-3282

Sec. Susie Blackbird.....583-1025

Treasurer Brenda Schaefer ...864-6745

Sunshine Chr: Elaine Carrigan 864-3330

CEMETERY BOARD

Jerome Karl 320-587-7702

Warren Kaufmann 320-587-5676

David Swift..... 320-864-6188

BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE

Elaine Carrigan...864-3330

Mavis Mielke320-328-5339

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS & SUBSTITUTES 2021

Preschool-Mary Taylor

Grade 1st-3rd

Dawn Huebert, Andrea Wigern

4th- 5thGrade

June Knick, Jodi Sanken

6th-8th Grade

Joe & Susan Blackbird

Young Adult Class

Michelle Alsleben,

Substitute List:

Jan & Wayne Alsleben

Laura Anderson (Madi)

Barb Buckentin

Stephanie Mielke

Grace Garoutte

YOUTH GROUP LEADERS

Andrea Wigern andreawigern@gmail.com

Dawn Norrbom dawnnorrbom@gmail.com

CHURCH SECRETARY & RECORDS UPKEEP

Karen Konerza..... 320-864-4554

Job Sign-Ups 2021

ALTAR GUILD & PREP

January.....Sladek
February Swift
MarchBlackbird.
April.....Smith
May..... Leas Ette
JuneElaine C.
July
AugustLea Ette & Nita
September..... Alsleben
October Garoutte
November
December 5th
12th.....
19th
24thChristmas Eve
26th.....
January 2022

CUSTODIAN

January Sladek
February Swift
March.....Blackbird
April..... Smith
MaySenske
June Julie.
July Sanken
August.....
September Alsleben
October Garoutte
November Knick
December 5th.....
12th
19th
24th Christmas Eve.....
26th
January 2022.....

USHER/GREETER

JanuarySladek
FebruarySwift
March Blackbird
April Dave & Jodi
MayBrian & Michelle
JuneDave Huebert
July.....
August.....
SeptemberAlsleben
October.....Garoutte
November..... Konerza
December 5th.....
12th
19th
24th Christmas Eve.....
26.....
January 2022

Please check the bulletin board and sign up if you wish to serve for one of the jobs.

August 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion	2 Maggie B. Brenda G.	3	4 Chase B.	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Annie B	12	13	14
15 Out Door service at HEATWOLE	16	17	18	19	20 Taylor M.	21
22 Elaine C.	23	24	25 Evan K.	26	27	28 Mavis M. Glen B.
29	30 Andrea W.	31 Stephaine M.				

September 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Noah. E. Gene K. Alyssa M.	2	3	4
5 Communion <u>Last Sunday of Summer hours!!</u>	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Debbie S. <u>Sunday School</u> <u>9:15 a.m.</u> <u>Worship 10:30</u> <u>a.m.</u>	13 Carly E.	14	15	16	17	18
19 Jerome K.	20	21	22	23	24 Holden M. Jayden S.	25
26	27	28	29 Adam G.	30 Lucile B.		

October 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Hailey S.	2
3 Communion Hailey M. Pam M.	4 Grace G.	5	6	7	8 Sandi S. Dylan W.	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Alice K. Doug M.	16 Zake Z.
17 Curtis P.	18	19	20 Dean F.	21	22	23
24	25	26 Alex K.	27 Leah S. Braden W.	28	29	30 Duane W.
31						

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Information for the next newsletter will be due Oct. 25th bring your input to me at church, or email me at chubbers67@gmail.