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



### St. John's Messenger August, September, & October 2023

Service Time will change back to FALL hours on Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

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### Reflections

### Shoes in Church

I showered and shaved I adjusted my tie. I got there and sat In a pew just in time.
Bowing my head in prayer As I closed my eyes.  I saw the shoe of the man next to me Touching my own. I sighed.  With plenty of room on either side I thought, 'Why must our soles touch?'  It bothered me, his shoe touching mine But it didn't bother him much.
A prayer began: 'Our Father' I thought, 'This man with the shoes, has no pride. They're dusty, worn, and scratched. Even worse, there are holes on the side!' Thank You for blessings,' the prayer went on. The shoe man said A quiet 'Amen.' I tried to focus on the prayer But my thoughts were on his shoes again. Aren't we supposed to look our best. When walking through that door? Well, this certainly isn't it, I thought, glancing toward the floor. Then the prayer was ended
The shoe man was certainly loud Sounding proud as he sang. His voice lifted the rafters His hands were raised high. The Lord could surely hear The shoe man's voice from the sky.
It was time for the offering And what I threw in was steep. I watched as the shoe man reached Into his pockets so deep. I saw what was pulled out What the shoe man put in. Then I heard a soft "clink" as when silver hits tin.
The sermon really bored me To tears, and that's no lie. It was the same for the shoe man For tears fell from his eyes.
At the end of the service As is the custom here.  We must greet new visitors And show them all good cheer.  But I felt moved somehow And wanted to meet the shoe man.
So, after the closing prayer I reached over and shook his hand.
He was old and his skin was dark And his hair was truly a mess. But I thanked him for coming For being our guest.

He said, 'My name's Charlie...... I'm glad to meet you, my friend.' There were tears in his eyes....... But he had a large, wide grin. Let me explain, he said...... Wiping tears from his eyes. I've been coming here for months..... And you're the first to say "Hi." I know that my appearance......Is not like all the rest. But I really do try.....To always look my best. I always clean and polish my shoes...Before my very long walk. But by the time I get here......They're dirty and dusty, like chalk. My heart filled with pain...... And I swallowed to hide my tears. As he continued to apologize......... For daring to sit so near. He said, When I get here..... I know I must look a sight. But I thought if I could touch you...... Then, maybe our souls might unite. I was silent for a moment...... Knowing whatever was said. Would pale in comparison.... I spoke from my heart, not my head. Oh, you've touched me, I said......And taught me, in part. That the best of any man......Is what is found in his heart. The rest, I thought, ...... This shoe man will never know. Like just how thankful I really am.... That his dirty old shoe touched my soul. You are special to me and you have made a difference in my life.

# FALL HOURS BEGIN SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15 a.m. WORSHIP 10:30 a.m.

#### **PASTORS NOTES:**

At this time we are planning a Community Hymn Sing on September 17th, either at 4PM or at 7PM. Most of the Hymn Sing will be from our wonderful hymnal. I expect many people will have hymns that they would like to have sung. I expect there will be a few preselected hymns as well. We will also use music videos which will have the lyrics projected on the screen. I am hoping to have my grandson Andy bring his violin for a couple of songs. Also, I am hoping to invite a couple of soloists with wonderful voices from Grace Church. We'll see.

Starting on September 24th I will begin a preaching series on a number of topics which need to be understood Biblically and lived out Biblically. The topics are: The Creation, Biblical Marriage, the Challenge of Child Sacrifice, The Bible and the Homosexual, and the Permanent Nature of Chromosomes (transgender issues). There will be 2 guiding teachings of Jesus: "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23) and "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31). Perhaps friends or relatives could be invited for any or all of these messages.

St John's and other Christian churches are being challenged by an increasingly secular, and sometimes aggressive, anti-God and anti-Christian culture. Our task is not just to say "No"! As others have said, "It is not what we are against, it is what we are for!' WE ARE FOR the unadorned Gospel of Jesus Christ, our Lord!

Many people expect that St John's will welcome a new pastor sometime during the new Church Year, maybe earlier, maybe later. The pastor will change at some point, but the call of Christ will not change. The need for the Gospel of Jesus Christ in America is greater now than at any time in the last 100 years. Our task is to proclaim and pursue Jesus' teachings and do it with both humility and grace.

Come, let us all claim the future Christ has for us,

Pastor Marchant

### **Council Reports**

May 10th, 2023

**Council Members Present:** All council members were present as well as Pastor Barry.

The council met at 6:30 to do a grounds assessment. There were not too many issues found. Joe will talk to Dave Huebert regarding the trimming of the trees on the south side of the parking lot. At that time the three pine trees on the south side will be looked at. Dave Martin will paint the trim on the back door where the ramp is prior to the ice cream social. Joe will replace the landscape edging in the front of Church that is breaking. There were a few places that need power washing on the Church. This will also get done before the social.

Joe called the meeting to order. Pastor Barry opened the meeting with prayer and shared a devotional with the council.

The secretary's minutes were approved from the April 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Dawn gave the treasurer's report. The beginning balance was \$481,738.85 with an ending balance of \$485,801.26.

- Designated Funds \$12,439.75
  - Cemetery Spraying \$0
  - o Memorial \$6,835.49
  - o Benevolence \$1,832.15
  - o Building \$560.00
  - o Choir \$731.04
  - o Cemetery Fund \$1,685.00
  - o Casey Blackbird Fund \$25.00
  - o Sunday School/VBS \$496.07
  - Youth Group \$85.00
  - o Pastoral Fund \$190.00
- General Fund Endowment \$440,508.30
- General Fund \$32,853.21

Brian gave the building fund report. After the property taxes were paid, the balance in the checking account is \$16,726.13. The Vanguard balance is \$92,522.65.

All financial reports were approved as given.

#### **Old Business:**

- -- Dawn reported that the search committee has suggested the salary for a new pastor. Base pay would be 30/35k and Housing 30/35k as well as mileage reimbursement. Council approved.
- -- Dawn is checking with Mike on some questions with the recordings of our service.
- -- Brian sent out the contract to Stanley for our handicap button. They should be out in two to three weeks to install.
- -- Dawn will make sure the memorial book/plaque are up to date.
- -- Joe talked briefly to Adam regarding the AED. He will bring more back to the June meeting for discussion.
- -- Joe sprayed the south and east walls for Asian beetles. Thanks Joe!!
- -- Sunday school teacher recognition will be May 21st.
- -- Joe changed the furnace filters and set up dehumidifier.
- -- Brian got a couple of bids for resealing/striping the parking lot. B & H Seal Coating (who has done our parking lot for many years) came in with the lowest bid. M/S/C to have them reseal/stripe at a cost of \$3,501.00.
- -- Pam talked to Michael Sanken from Foster Mechanical to have the A/C checked. He will see that it gets done.
- -- Pastor Barry said that the prayer meeting went well. There were 20 people in attendance and that the next prayer meeting will be May 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.
- -- The firemen and first responders that were at the scene of Glen Schaefer's accident were asked to attend our Church service on May 21st.

#### **New Business:**

- ➤ M/S/C to accept the search committee's Church Information Form which will be shared/posted with potential Pastoral candidates.
- ➤ James Peters met with the council after he met with the Women's Guild. Per the recent vote of the congregation to approve the endowment policy, the endowment committee and the investment manager, a motion was made and carried to transfer the gift from Lillian Nemitz of \$440,508.30 from the checking account to Investment Management & Associates of Mankato to initiate the investment process. James will send a receipt showing this transfer.
- ➤ Leslie Smith set up a movie night for May 12<sup>th</sup>. The movie will be "Left Behind Rise of the Antichrist."

#### **May Task List:**

- Clean out files *Joe & Pam will do prior to next meeting*
- o Update newspaper/website for summer hours *Karen/done automatically*
- Change sign *Brian*
- Honor graduates *June 4<sup>th</sup> (Pastor Barry will see what works best)*
- o Call cleaning service after I/C Social Pam (Only shampoo again this year. No basement.)
- o Clean septic filter Glen Sladek
- o Faith Center thermostats to A/C Joe did
- Review usher/altar/custodian duty lists June is filled

○ Test elevator/phone – Brian will do

There was a suggestion in the box: Create a "welcome packet" for families of confirmation students both available on paper and on the Church website that explains in detail times/dates of classes, contact information for teacher/pastor, expectations at time of confirmation for flowers, photo, gown fitting. The policy for membership and other expectations and policies. Pastor Barry apologized that he did not research this earlier. A copy was made of the Confirmation Policy from the policy book which explains most of this. This sheet will be handed out at the first meeting of confirmation students where parents will be in attendance as well.

Our next council meeting will be June 21st @ 5:00 p.m.

M/S/C to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Martin /Secretary

#### June 19th, 2023

**Council Members Present:** All council members were present except for Pam and Elmer. Pastor Barry was also in attendance.

Joe called the meeting to order. Pastor Barry opened the meeting with prayer and shared a devotional with the council. He also informed the council that the next prayer meeting is set for June 28<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 8 p.m. Pastor Barry wanted to especially keep the following in our prayers as they are experiencing difficult health issues: Kari Eischens, Duane Wigern and Michelle Moyer. VBS dates of July 30<sup>th</sup> – Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> was advertised on the post cards that were sent out for the I/C Social.

The secretary's minutes were approved from the May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Dawn gave the treasurer's report. The beginning balance was \$485,801.26 with an ending balance of \$50,461.01. This balance reflects the movement of the Endowment Fund to Investment Management & Associates.

- Designated Funds \$13,684.85
  - o Cemetery Spraying \$0
  - o Memorial \$6.835.49
  - o Benevolence \$2,107.15
  - o Building \$720.00
  - Choir \$731.04
  - Cemetery Fund \$2,280.00
  - Casey Blackbird Fund \$65.00
  - o Sunday School/VBS \$601.17
  - o Youth Group \$100.00
  - Pastoral Fund \$245.00
- General Fund \$36,776.16

Brian gave the building fund report. The balance in the checking account is \$13,607.30. This balance reflects the payment for the handicap door opener of \$3,130.00. The Vanguard balance is \$94,657.41.

All financial reports were approved as given.

#### **Old Business:**

- -- The handicap button is installed and has been working well with a few minor tweaks.
- -- AED will be discussed at our July meeting.
- -- Parking Lot is resealed and looks great! Thanks, Brian, for organizing!
- -- Foster Mechanical did the annual check of the A/C. Michael Sanken had to do a minor repair the day of the I/C Social. Thanks Michael!!
- -- Pam contacted David Trimbo to do the carpet cleaning. He is scheduled for June 30th.

#### **New Business:**

- ➤ M/S/C to add a copy of our Constitution to our website.
- ➤ M/S/C to adopt a new baptism policy as presented by the search committee.

- ➤ M/S/C to change verbiage on the Pastoral Covenant and Employment Contract in the policy book to reflect changing "part time employment" as well as other outdated verbiage.
- Council approved a request by Adam Smith to let LEO ministries (Law enforcement Christian organization) to use the church on a by-monthly basis. Their first meeting will be July 17<sup>th</sup> from 6-7:30 p.m.
- The water heater quit. Joe purchased a new one and installed with the help of Austin Field. Thanks guys!
- We will add to the task list to clean the septic filter in October as well as May.
- ➤ There were 347 meals served at the I/C Social!!
- ➤ Outdoor service will be held July 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### June Task List:

- o Ice Cream Social Beautiful day everything went well!
- o Review usher/altar/custodian duty list Council filling open positions for July
- Test elevator/phone *Done*

There was a suggestion in the box: While cleaning the windows in the front entry, I noticed the bottom frames of windows need sanding and varnish. *Joe will talk with some members to see if they can assist in getting this done.* 

Our next council meeting will be Wednesday, July  $19^{\text{th}}$  @ 5:00 p.m. M/S/C to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Joe Blackbird/Acting Secretary

• Minutes from the July Council meeting will be in the November Newsletter!

### **Update from the Pastor Search Committee**

Dear St. John's family,

We appreciate your support and prayers. We have filled out our church information form and now have posted the pastoral position online. Celine has done a great job getting our info out there and has put it on nine seminary sites. I put it on two other sites.

We looked at our constitution and have compiled questions to ask our upcoming applicants and appreciated any input or questions you would like asked.

We asked the council to look and approve the baptism policy to include both infant and believers' baptism with sprinkling or full immersion which the council said yes to. We have received 7 applications and have let 5 go.

We are doing two more follow-up and are setting up two interview. We are very blessed to have a great church family and we are working very hard to be prepared for any candidate the Lord presents to us. Please again keep us in your prayers and thank you for your patience and support.

Julie Karl

#### **Common Cup Information**

It's that time of year again... time to think Back-to-School. Common Cup Ministry is accepting donations of school supplies. There is a collection box by the Common Cup Corner table now through Aug 6. St. John's Church has been challenged specifically to collect <u>backpacks</u> and <u>#2 highlighters</u>, but there is a longer list of needed items at the CCC table if you'd prefer to donate something else. Cash donations are appreciated as well.

Common Cup will be distributing school supplies on August 16th (Hutchinson) and August 17th (Glencoe). Free school supplies are open to all students who live in or attend schools in McLeod County. If you know of anyone in need of supplies, they may register at the CCM office: 105 2nd Ave SW in Hutchinson, by phone at 320-587-2213 or website at: <a href="https://www.common-cup.org">www.common-cup.org</a>. Deadline is 8/4/23

The next warm coat distribution will be coming up late September or early October. We already collected coats earlier this spring, so there won't be a formal collection this fall. But if you have any warm winter coats/boots/snowpants, get them to Celine Swift and she will get them delivered.

\* Questions about anything above? Contact Celine Swift

### Sunday School Happenings

#### **Dates to Remember:**

July 30-August 2- Vacation Bible School August 26- KIDZ Jam- drop off event September 10- Sunday school starts 9:15 a.m. September 24- VBS slideshow and kids sing

Our last day of Sunday School was a mission to introduce our Vacation Bible School theme: STEL-LAR- Shine Jesus' Light! We used flashlights and blacklight to emphasize certain bible verses... Psalm 147:4, Matthew 5:16, and John 8:12. Even in dark times, Jesus is with us and God has decided the number of stars and calls each one by name. The kids' next mission was to go through an obstacle course and then we enjoyed a snack.

Vacation Bible School ran from Sunday, July 30 through Wednesday, August 2. Setting up and decorating was completed with lots of busy hands, creativity and motivation! A thank you goes out to all who participated at the work night and hauled decorations to the church. There are so many people to thank for putting this together! Jesus' Light is Shining in all of you!

<u>NEW and Coming Soon... KIDZ Jam</u>- drop your children off on Saturday, August 26 for games, crafts, food and more! Sign up at church or go to the church website to register soon! Space is limit.

Last Sunday of Sunday School







**Preparing for Bible School** 



### VBS prep workers





### Youth Group Happenings:

Flower pickup and delivery!





### **Youth Group continued:**









### Church Happenings:

### Ice Cream Social June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023



"Choppers"



"Making Magic Sauce"



"Dish Duty"



"Setting up"

### **Ice Cream Social Continued:**



"Cutting Pie & Bars"



"Making Sandwiches"



"Let EAT"



"Checkout time"

"Ice Cream Social-perfect night for our special day!"







"Music for relaxing mealtime" by Chandler



"Clean up by Pastor Barry!"

## Winners from the Ice Cream Social June 8th, 2023

#### 2023 Raffle Winners!!!

Saw horses Gloria Schuette Coat rack Morgan Sanken Coat rack. Kelsie Howe Stand Carol Block Plastic bag holder Sonya Borg Plastic bag holder Louie Dammann Bird house Sonya Borg Wooden stand Shirley Troska Beverage holder Kelsey Howe Plant stand Dawn Alt **Carol Hanson Elmer Baysinger Step stool** Dave Martin Greeting cards Linn Morford 2 Scrubbies Chelin **Doreen Borg** 66 2 **Mopsy Karg** 66 2 **Lynn Morford** 2 66 **Cheryl Sanken** 66 2 Carol Block 66 2 Roxanne Sladek 2 Susie Blackbird Small chair Sonya Borg Cord holder Marian Filk Foot stool Susie Blackbird Sonya Borg Stool Amy Brady **Brenda Schroder** Hot pad Cindy Maier " " Marna Paehlke Paper towel rack Marna Paehlke " Doug Block **Stool Raelyn Sparby** Candle Holder Norma Helberg

Zach Zeleke

Stool

**Doily** Andrea Wigern Julie Schuch 66 Sonva Borg **Bonnie Kaufman Diane Hess Pam Martin** 66 Glen Schaefer Alan Kaufman **Doily Cecelia Fruhwirth** Candle holder Roxanne Sladek Towel & cloths Andrea Wigern \$25 Certificate - Dollar Fresh Brad Plamann Bench Elmer Baysinger Blue Baby Blanket Tammy Kosek Pink " Jenny Konerza Multi colored baby blanket Carol Block Lap pad Rachelle " Raelyn Sparby Table runner Andrea Wigern Small chair Marcie Baysinger **Quilt Betty Smakel** Quilt Kay Karg

Thank you to all who sold or purchased tickets to make our raffle a huge suggestion A very special THANK YOU to those that donated the nice items for the raffle!

Afghan Susie Blackbird



Blacktop resurfacing underway!

### Mark your Calendar

July 30th-Aug. 2nd VBS is going on

August 13th Outdoor Service is at Heatwole 9:30 a.m.

August 26th

KIDZ Jam- drop your children of for games, crafts, food and more!! Sign up at church or go to the church website to register soon!!

September 10<sup>th</sup>
Fall hours begin
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

#### September 17th

At this time we are planning a Community Hymn Sing, either at 4PM or at 7PM. Most of the Hymn Sing will be from our wonderful hymnal. I expect many people will have hymns that they would like to have sung. I expect there will be a few preselected hymns as well. We will also use music videos which will have the lyrics projected on the screen. I am hoping to have my grandson Andy bring his violin for acouple of songs. Also, I am hoping to invite a couple of soloists with wonderful voices from Grace Church. We'll see.

Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> VBS slideshow and kids sing

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

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

Margie Block Birthday 4/14 1015 Century Ave. # 213 Hutchinson, MN. 55350

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

Kari Eichens Birthday 4/11 Box 36 Silver Lake, MN. 55381

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

Aria Martin 1772 Brighton Trail Woodbury, MN. 55125

Michelle (Rowan) Moyer Birthday 3/27 736 Maple St. N.E. Hutchinson, MN. 55350 Maynard Rannow Birthday 11/5 1401 Main St. W. Apt. 119 Silver Lake, MN. 55381

Glen Schaefer Birthday 4/20 18548 100<sup>th</sup> St. Brownton, MN. 55312

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

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

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

#### **CHURCH LEADERS FOR 2023**

PASTOR
Interim: Barry Marchant 952-210-2633
Email barryjmarchant@cfs.com
772 Silver Maple Dr.
New Prague, MN. 56071
COUNCIL
President Joe Blackbird320-583-1026
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:Brian Alsleben 864-6745
WOMEN'S GUILD 2023
President Lea Ette Peters 864-3282
Vice Pres. Juile Karl587-7702
Sec. Susie Blackbird583-1025
Treas. Brenda Schaefer. 507-766-7486
Sunshine Cr:Elaine Carrigan 864-3330

President Joe Blackbird320-583-1026
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:Brian Alsleben 864-6745
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Vice Pres. Juile Karl587-7702
Sec. Susie Blackbird583-1025
Treas. Brenda Schaefer. 507-766-7486
Sunshine Cr:Elaine Carrigan 864-3330
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Children's Church
Totes Michelle Alsleben
CEMETERY BOARD
David Huebert 320-864-4724
David Sanken 320-583-7777

### **BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE**

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

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS & SUB-STITUTES 2022-2023**

<u>Preschool- 2<sup>nd</sup></u> Dawn Norrbom -Leslie Smith <u>Grade 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup></u> Jodi Sanken Grade 6th-8th June Knick-Andrea Wigern **Young Adult Class** Michelle Alsleben – Joe Blackbird

#### **Substitute List:**

Ashley Alsleben Brenda Garoutte Joe & Susie Blackbird

### **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 2023

COMMUNION & ALAR PREP	<u>CUSTIODIAN</u>	<u>USHER/GREETER</u>
January	January	January
		January 2024

### August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Maggie B. Brenda G.	3	4 Chase B.	5
6 Communion	7	8	9	10	11 Annie B. Raelyn S.	12
13 HEATWOLE SERVICE	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Taylor M.	21	22 Elaine C.	23	24	25	26
27	28 Glen B. Mavis M.	29	30 Andrea W.	31	FALL HOURS BEGIN	SEPT. 10 <sup>TH</sup> S.S. 9:15 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.

### September 2023

Sun		Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
FALL HOURS BEGIN:	SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15 a.m.	WORSHIP 10:30 a.m.			1 Noah E. Gene K.	2
3 Communion	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.	11	12 Deb S.	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 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Hailey S.	2	3 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 Zachery Z.	17 Curt 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 needed by October  $25^{th}$  give it to me at church or email at chubber 67@ gmail.com