

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



St. John's Messenger
November, December, 2023 & January 2024

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Reflections

Science says that we all need 4 basic elements to survive.

- 1. Water*
- 2. Air*
- 3. Food*
- 4. Light*

Look what the Bible tells us about Jesus.

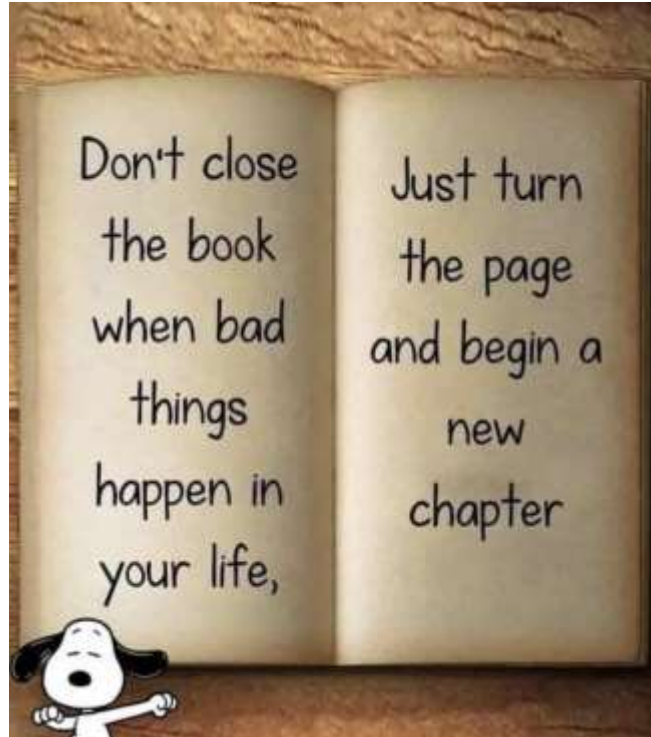
He is the living water.

He is the breath of life.

He is the bread of life.

He is the light of the world.

Science is right. We do need JESUS to live.



PASTORS NOTES:

Several plans which I listed in the last Newsletter did not materialize because of the changing circumstances surrounding the wonderful efforts of the Search Committee. Perhaps in lieu of that Hymn Sing I hoped to have in September we can all share in the joys of a Christmas Carol Sing. We'll see.

The tentative preaching schedule involving 5 important topics did not happen and are now tentatively scheduled to begin after the Christmas Season. Those topics; The Creation, Biblical Marriage, Child Sacrifice, The Homosexual Christian and Transgender Issues will probably commence in mid-January. Again that is subject to the Pastoral Search Process.

I always look forward to the Advent Season. Often there are additional folks attending who enjoy the Christmas Season and - sometimes - they come because it is time in their lives to make the Christian faith the centerpiece of their changing and challenging lives.

Christmas is for everyone; believer, casual attender and skeptic too!
Let's again embrace the wonder of what can be a truly hallowed Season.

Pastor Marchant

Council Reports

July 19th, 2023

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

Joe called the meeting to order. Pastor Barry opened the meeting with prayer which included those who are ill and those in recovery. He shared a devotional on how the Church should be outward looking and not necessarily doing the same thing all the time. He also talked about having a community hymn sing – possibly September 17th.

The secretary's minutes were approved from the June 19th meeting.

Dawn gave the treasurer's report. The beginning balance was \$50,461.01 with an ending balance of \$54,231.92.

- Designated Funds - \$14,050.11
 - Cemetery Spraying - \$25.00
 - Memorial - \$6,835.49
 - Benevolence - \$1,937.15
 - Building – \$865.00
 - Choir - \$731.04
 - Cemetery Fund - \$2,575.00
 - Casey Blackbird Fund - \$65.00
 - Sunday School/VBS - \$611.43
 - Youth Group - \$105.00
 - Pastoral Fund - \$300.00
- General Fund - \$40,181.81

Brian gave the building fund report. The balance in the checking account is \$9,359.30. This balance reflects the payment for the seal coating of the parking lot, electrical work for handicap door, and the cleaning of the carpet.

The Vanguard balance is \$95,257.61. He also mentioned we will be getting an invoice from Access Lift for around \$1,318.00 for repairs done to the elevator.

All financial reports were approved as given.

Old Business:

- Dawn reported that the memorial book and plaque are up to date.
- The AED is still in discussion.
- LEO Ministries met at the Church on July 17th. They will continue to meet by-monthly.

New Business:

- Elevator problems have been addressed. The elevator does get inspected once a year. Batteries needed to get replaced. After several adjustments it seems to be working fine right now.
- Joe suggested that we go back to greeting each other in Church and back to doing the hymn sing when there is no choir or Sunday School kids singing during the summer. The council and Pastor Barry agreed.
- It was brought up that during the summer months the A/C may need to be adjusted to cool sooner. Joe will set the thermostat to start sooner.
- Dawn reported that 28 kids signed up for VBS!
- The Youth Group wants to do a campout at the Church August 7th/8th. Council approved.
- Dawn also mentioned that the Youth Group leaders would like to host a Parents Night Out. Possibly the last Saturday of the month (Aug. 26th) from 5 – 9. Parents would need to sign their children up in advance. She will check with other area churches that do something similar and see what kind of rules/paperwork needs to be completed. There would also be 3-4 adults supervising this event. Council approved.
- Dawn suggested that we have a sheet that lists all the different volunteer/duties that we offer in Church. The hope is to get more involvement. She will try to put something on paper and bring to one of our next council meetings.

July Task List:

- Review Constitution/Policy – *Joe and Pam will look at changes needed and bring to council in next meetings.*
- Review supply list – *Elmer will check the list and make any additions as necessary.*
- Review who needs background checks – *There is one new person and one that has expired. Paper work has been completed for both.*
- Review Heatwole list – *Joe and Pastor Barry will make sure the list is followed and will bring what is needed.*
- Change furnace filters – *Joe changed.*
- Review usher/altar/custodian duty list – *Council will fill open positions for August.*
- Test elevator/phone – *Elmer completed.*

There were no suggestions in the box. However, Dawn had someone suggest to her that we include our website to the advertisements that are in the newspapers. Pam will call Karen to have her update the ads.

Our next council meeting will be Wednesday, August 16th @ 5:00 p.m.
M/S/C to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Blackbird/Acting Secretary

August 16th, 2023

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

The council met with the search committee as they wanted to recommend a potential candidate for a pastor. After several questions were asked and answered, the committee left the meeting. The council told them they would discuss and get back to them with their decision as well as a salary package.

Joe called the meeting to order. Pastor Barry opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer.

The secretary's minutes were approved from the July 19th meeting.
Dawn gave the treasurer's report. The beginning balance was \$54,231.92 with an ending balance of \$57,005.82.

Designated Funds - \$14,720.11

- Cemetery Spraying - \$25.00
- Memorial - \$6,835.49
- Benevolence - \$2,132.15
- Building – \$1,040.00
- Choir - \$731.04
- Cemetery Fund - \$2,840.00
- Casey Blackbird Fund - \$65.00
- Sunday School/VBS - \$631.43
- Youth Group - \$120.00
- Pastoral Fund - \$300.00
- General Fund - \$42,285.71

Brian gave the building fund report. The balance in the checking account is \$8,041.30. This balance reflects the payment to Access Lift for \$1,318.00. The Vanguard balance is \$93,346.85. Brian mentioned that the property insurance of around \$6,000.00 is to be paid by the end of November. M/S/C to move \$20,000 from the general fund to the building fund with \$15,000.00 of that to be transferred to the Vanguard account.

All financial reports were approved as given.

Old Business:

- The AED will be tabled until after the first of the year.
- Joe and Dave Huebert will be looking into getting a bucket truck to do tree trimming as needed.
- Elevator issues should be solved.
- Joe and Pam will get together at the Church to review the constitution on Monday, August 21st. Any changes will be brought to the next council meeting if needed.
- Greeting and hymn sing are going well. Thanks, Pastor Barry, for making them part of our service again!

New Business:

- Discussion was made on the search committee's recommendation of a potential pastor. M/S/C to have them contact the candidate for a candidate weekend. The council also put together a salary/benefit package to present to him prior to him coming to St. John's to preach some Sunday.
- Heatwole went well!
- There were around 15 kids that attended the campout. Everyone had fun!

August Task List:

- Review stock options – *Will look at in September.*
- Update newspaper/website for service times – *Karen/Chandler has set up to do automatically.*
- Change sign – *Brian will do.*
- Review need for cleanout – *In process.*
- Review usher/altar/custodian duty list – *Filled for September!!*
- Test elevator/phone – *Elmer completed.*

There were no suggestions in the box.

Our next council meeting will be Wednesday, September 13th @ 7:00 p.m.

M/S/C to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Martin/Secretary

September 13th, 2023

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

Joe called the meeting to order. Pastor Barry opened the meeting with prayer.

The council met with a few members of the search committee to discuss the need to have a marriage policy written and be approved by the congregation. M/S/C to accept the marriage policy as drafted. M/S/C to call a congregational meeting on 10-1-23 to vote on the policy. Pam and Celine will compose a letter to be mailed to all members explaining the need for the meeting along with a copy of the proposed policy.

After the search committee members left, Pastor Barry shared a devotional about Lauren Daigle, a song artist, and how she came to know God. He also informed the council that he has three students in confirmation class. These three are in their second year and will be studying the Old Testament.

The secretary's minutes were approved from the August 16th meeting.

Dawn gave the treasurer's report. The beginning balance was \$57,005.82 with an ending balance of \$38,263.12. (This balance reflects the \$20,000.00 that was approved to be transferred to the building fund last month)

- Designated Funds - \$15,245.11
 - Cemetery Spraying - \$25.00
 - Memorial - \$6,835.49
 - Benevolence - \$2,332.15
 - Building – \$1,175.00
 - Choir - \$731.04
 - Cemetery Fund - \$3,025.00
 - Casey Blackbird Fund - \$65.00
 - Sunday School/VBS - \$631.43
 - Youth Group - \$125.00
 - Pastoral Fund - \$300.00
- General Fund - \$23,018.01

Brian gave the building fund report. He mentioned that he deposited the \$20,000.00 from the general fund, kept \$5,000.00 in the building fund to cover taxes and insurance premiums and transferred \$15,000.00 to the Vanguard account. The balance in the checking account is \$13,045.17 and the Vanguard account is \$108,592.76.

All financial reports were approved as given.

Old Business:

-- Dave Huebert will be getting a quote next week on a bucket truck to do the tree trimming.

New Business:

- M/S/C to allow up to \$6,500.00 for moving expenses for a potential pastor.
- M/S/C to accept Michelle Moyer into membership by reaffirmation of faith. Pastor Barry will set up a date with her to be recognized as a new member at an upcoming worship service.
- Brian will ask Dave Swift to look at some siding by the back entrance that is broken.
- Joe will contact Travis Brecht to replace shingles on the west side of the steeple.

September Task List:

- Send notice for snow plow bids – *Brian will take care of.*
- Spray for Japanese beetles – *Joe volunteered.*
- Faith Center thermostat to heat – *Will do when needed.*
- Update video of property/contents for insurance every couple years – *Dave Swift did last year when we changed our insurance carrier.*
- Review usher/altar/custodian duty list – *September and October are filled!*
- Test elevator/phone – *Elmer completed.*

There were no suggestions in the box.

Our next council meeting will be Wednesday, October 11th @ 7:00 p.m.

M/S/C to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Martin/Secretary

**Congregational Meeting
St. John's Church
October 1st, 2023
Establish a Marriage Policy**

Joe called the meeting to order following the Church service and Pastor Barry led the congregation in prayer.

Mailings were sent out to the members prior to the meeting. This letter explained the reason for the meeting along with a proposed copy of a marriage policy.

Joe read the policy to the members present. There were no questions regarding it.

M/S/C to accept the policy as written.

Ballots were passed out to the members with a yes or no vote. After they were collected, there were 41 votes with 39 yes and 2 no. Policy accepted.

Julie Karl updated the members on why this vote needed to be in place and that they are very close in calling a Pastor to visit St John's.

There being no other business, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Martin
Secretary

October 11th, 2023

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

Joe called the meeting to order. Pastor Barry opened the meeting with prayer. He also shared a devotion about Eugene Bartlett, a singer/songwriter, who wrote the hymn Victory in Jesus. He wrote many hymns but this hymn was written after he had a stroke that left him paralyzed.

The secretary's minutes were approved from the September 13th meeting and the Congregational meeting on October 1st.

Dawn gave the treasurer's report. The beginning balance was \$38,263.12 with an ending balance of \$41,914.09.

- Designated Funds - \$16,245.11
 - Cemetery Spraying - \$25.00
 - Memorial - \$6,835.49
 - Benevolence - \$2,577.15
 - Building – \$1,350.00
 - Choir - \$731.04
 - Cemetery Fund - \$3,580.00
 - Casey Blackbird Fund - \$65.00
 - Sunday School/VBS - \$646.43
 - Youth Group - \$135.00
 - Pastoral Fund - \$300.00
- General Fund - \$25,668.98

Brian gave the building fund report. After he paid the second half property tax of \$774, the balance in the checking account is \$12,271.17 and the Vanguard account balance is \$106,454.98.

All financial reports were approved as given.

Old Business:

-- The removing of two evergreens on the southwest side of the parking lot along with trimming will be done mid-October. The grinding of the stumps will not be done until next year.

- The marriage policy passed with a vote of 39 yes and 2 no.
- Michelle Moyer was accepted as a member and recognized on October 1st. Welcome Michelle!!
- Joe will be getting ahold of Travis Brecht regarding the shingles on the west side of the steeple.
- Joe and Dave Swift are working on getting a new piece of siding for the east side of the Faith Center.
- M/S/C to have Curt Bussler do the snow plowing again this year at the same cost of \$75/time.

New Business:

- Joe will be spraying for beetles in the next couple of weeks.
- The council and the search committee will have a meeting tomorrow, October 12th, to meet with a potential Pastor.
- Summit Fire Protection was out to check the fire extinguishers and all were good.
- Joe will remind the ushers to check the toilets after services to make sure they are flushed and not running.
- The Church will hold their Fall Festival/Trunk or Treat on October 29th.

October Task List:

- Pay 2nd half taxes - *Done*
- Change furnace filters – *Joe volunteered.*
- Put away dehumidifier – *Joe volunteered.*
- Call Foster Mechanical to check furnace – *Pam volunteered.*
- Winterize hose reel outside/turn off water – *Joe volunteered.*
- Clean septic filter – *Just done by Mid MN Septic.*
- Review usher/altar/custodian duty list – *November is filled.*
- Test elevator/phone – *Elmer completed.*

There were no suggestions in the box.

Our next council meeting will be Wednesday, November 8th @ 7:00 p.m.

M/S/C to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Martin/Secretary

Update from Pastor Search Committee: Since the last newsletter, four more candidates applied for the pastor position, making the total 11. The committee has had phone interviews with three pastors, and narrowed the choice to two possible candidates. One of those two withdrew his candidacy, leaving us with one very strong candidate. In August, a couple committee members attended a church service of our top candidate and spent the afternoon visiting with the candidate and his wife. When questions arose about what St. John's marriage policy is, the committee worked with the council to create a policy, which the congregation voted to adopt on 10/1. The CCCC's has completed a comprehensive background check and approved the potential candidate. References have been contacted, each giving very positive feedback on the candidate. There has been a lot of communication between the candidate and committee and council members, and the council and committee are all unanimous and enthusiastic about this candidate. We have learned, however, that the compensation package we intended to offer may not be sufficient. At this time the council and committee are working to see if we are able to offer a more significant compensation package, whether for this candidate or another. We prayerfully trust that God will make it clear who He has planned to be our next pastor. Please continue to pray for the committee and council, as well as for our next pastor, that we may discern His will for us.

Common Cup Corner:

It was another wonderfully successful Back to School giveaway this fall. Nearly 500 children received a backpack full of school supplies between the Hutchinson and Glencoe events. Thanks to the many items and cash donated by St. John's members to help fill this important need in our community!

The annual winter coat distribution took place in Hutchinson on October 19th where over 100 families were served. Nearly 350 coats were given away, along with mittens, hats and boots. Thank you to everyone who donated coats when we collected them in the spring. Look for another collection box this coming spring for next year's event.

“Coming Together in Song” – Save the date! There will be a fundraising concert on **Sunday afternoon, November 19, 2022 at 2:00 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. More information is on the bulletin board at church.

Newsflash!!! There will be a Women’s Guild **FOOD SHELF CHALLENGE** for the month of November. The Guild will match monetary gifts and food weight value. May we always have giving hearts for the less fortunate?

Sunday School Happenings

First day of Sunday School:





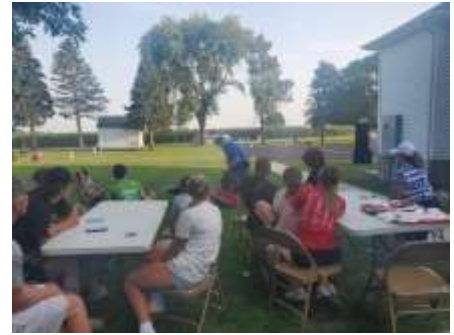
Puppet Show with Connor Martin & Andrea Wigern 10/15, during church service



Good job!!

Youth Group Happenings:

Youth Group campout:



The Youth Group are still collecting items for Project Shoebox!

Church Happenings:

Sunday, Oct. 1st

***Michelle Moyer became a member of St. John's.
Welcome to our church family Michelle!***



Mark your Calendar

Nov. 19th Sunday School Sing during Worship Service

Nov. 23rd Thanksgiving Worship 9:30 a.m

Dec. 17th Sunday School Christmas program at 10:30 a.m

***Dec. 24th Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Christmas Eve Worship 5:30 p.m.***

Dec. 24th & 31st NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Jan. 7th Sunday School resumes

Jan. 21st Sunday School Children Sing during Worship Service

Jan. 28th Annual Meeting following Worship with potluck following

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

Maynard Rannow Birthday 11/5
1401 Main St. W. Apt. 119
Silver Lake, MN. 55381

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 Blackbird..320-583-1026
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 2024

President Lea Ette Peters..... 864-3282
Vice Pres. Julie Karl..... 320-587-7702
Sec. Susie Blackbird.....583-1025
Treas. Brenda Schaefer. 507-766-7486
Sunshine Cr:Elaine Carrigan 864-3330

Children's Church

Totes Michelle Alsleben

CEMETERY BOARD

David Huebert 320-864-4724
David Sanken 320-583-7777
David Swift..... 320-864-6188

BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE

Elaine Carrigan864-3330
Mavis Mielke 320-328-5339

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS & SUBSTITUTES 2022-2023

Preschool- 2nd Dawn Norrbom -Leslie Smith
Grade 3rd - 5th 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
cell 320-510-4859

Job Sign-Ups 2023

COMMUNION & ALAR PREP

January
February Swift
March Blackbird
April
May
JuneLeaEtte & Nita
JulyAlice K.
August
September..... Alsleben
October..... Garoutte
November..... Sanken
December

January 2024

CUSTODIAN

JanuarySmith
FebruarySwift
MarchSmith
AprilKnick
MayLea Ette
June Gene & Karen
JulyJulie K.
August Sankens
September Alsleben
October..... Garoutte
November.....Sanken
December

3rd
10th
17th
24th
31st

January 2024

USHER/GREETER

January
February Swift
March.....Blackbird
April
May Lea Ette
June Gene & Karen
July.....
August.....
September Alsleben
OctoberGaroutte
November Hueberts
December

3rd
10th
17th
24th 10:30am.....
24th 5pm
31st

January 2024.....

**Still need some help for
December duties: you
just need to pick one
thing to do for one
Sunday!!!!**

November 2023

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

December 2023

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Laura A.
3 Communion	4	5	6 Lin Z.	7	8	9
10	11	12 Dave M.	13 Summer B. Jayme S.	14 Betty B.	15	16 Julie K.
17 Sunday School Christmas Pro- gram 10:30 a.m.	18	19	20	21	22	23 Joel B.
24 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m. Christmas Eve Service 5:00 p.m.	25	26	27	28	29 Mary T	30
31	<u>NO SUNDAY</u>	<u>SCHOOL on</u>	<u>DEC. 24th &</u>	<u>31st</u>		

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Marcie B.	2	3	4	5 Susie B. Holly W.	6 James P.
7 Communion 9:15 Sunday School	8	9	10 Joshua K.	11	12 Barb B.	13 McKayla W.
14	15	16	17 Doug B.	18	19 Loren M.	20
21	22 Brian A.	23	24	25	26	27 Glen S.
28 Annual Meeting after Worship	29	30 Delaney S.	31 Barb B.			

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Information for Annual Meeting needed by January 23rd!!

Information for the next Newsletter will be needed by January 25th give it to me at church or email at chubber67@gmail.com