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



St. John's Messenger February, March & April 2024

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Reflections

Why go to Church?

I think this is fantastic, I just love the guy's answer, and the interpretation for Bible. Enjoy and pass on.

If you're spiritually alive, you're going to love this!

If you're spiritually dead, you won't want to read it.

If you're spiritually curious, there is still hope!

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

He wrote: "I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time, the preachers and priests are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all".

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column.

Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals.

But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today.

Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something!

Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible & receives the impossible!

Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment!

IF YOU CANNOT SEE GOD IN ALL, YOU CANNOT SEE GOD AT ALL!

B. I. B L. E. simply means: Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth!

Submitted by Jerry Block (Thank you Jerry, I was looking back over some old newsletters and found this from 8 plus years ago. Thought it was worth repeating)

PASTORS NOTES:

To the erstwhile people of St John's Church,

I have greatly enjoyed my time as your Pastor in 2023. It will be remembered as a year in which the Church unanimously called its new Pastor. Pastor Jon Hartman and his wife Sarah will complete more than 12 years in a CCCC's church in Barnes, Wisconsin. At this time it is thought that his first sermon will be on April 14th. You will find him welcoming, very experienced, measured and Biblically focused. He fits very well into the Conference on the "reformed side" of the Protestant Reformation begun in the 1500's.

Their coming to us has been complicated by their need to buy a house in the area - maybe Hutchinson. This will be their first house since they have previously lived in parsonages. Pastor Hartman claims he is no "handyman"!

During 2023 St. John's has hosted several events: the Ice Cream Social (347 attending), an Overnight for teens (16 attending), and VBS (with about 40 kids attending). For a number of months we held a Prayer Meeting with mostly contemporary music and much guided prayer. Bible studies have been lead by Susie Blackbird, Michelle Alsleben, Adam Smith and others. Doug Maxwell and I have taught Galatians on Sundays.

Preaching has been topically varied. I have started a series on more difficult topics including the origin of human life, what constitutes Biblical marriage, Biblical insights when considering abortion and the homosexual in the church. I will spend 6 Sundays preaching from Messiah, the historic oratorio from 1741 by Handel. The entire lyrical score in Messiah is from Scripture and tells the story from prophecy to the Second Coming of the "Anointed One".

As a Church family we have lost recently 2 long-time members; Duane Wigern and Margie Block. I am expecting 3 new members and one baptism in the near term.

The Great Commission is needed where the wondrous story of Jesus and His abiding love needs to be told to a wider culture which is increasingly post-Christian.

Richest blessings to all, Pastor Barry Marchant

REMINDER: Lent starts on Feb. 14th, Wed. Services at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Service at 7:00 p.m. Easter Worship is 9:30 a.m.

Sunday March 10th Daylight savings starts, don't forget to turn your clocks ahead!!

Palm Sunday Breakfast is March 24th 9-10:00 a.m.

Council Reports

Special Meeting St. John's Church October 18, 2023 Reevaluate New Pastor Package

President, Joe Blackbird, called this meeting to see what we can do to attract a potential new Pastor to our Church. Also invited were members of the search committee. Those present were Joe Blackbird, Pam Martin, Brian Alsleben, Elmer Baysinger, Julie Karl, Gene Konerza, Celine Swift, and Pastor Barry.

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

Joe shared with those present a reading from Matthew 25 starting with vs. 14 which talks about the three servants. It was a reminder that our Church has been blessed with many things, including a large sum of money and many talented servants.

The search committee has an excellent candidate who wants to be our next Pastor, but because of the package offered, he would be taking a step backwards.

Joe brought up the idea of having a parsonage. Discussion was made on the pros and cons and in the end, it was determined that this was not the answer.

Celine had a spreadsheet of some of the financials from previous years of giving and thought there was room to offer more of a base salary. There was discussion made and those council members present made a motion and approved to up the salary package from \$70,000.00 to \$80,000.00.

Also discussed were some possibilities of offering with ways to help purchase real estate.

Joe will call this candidate and see what exactly he would need to become our next Pastor. He will keep the council and search committee updated.

Meeting adjourned Respectfully submitted, Pam Martin Secretary

Special Meeting
St. John's Church
October 29, 2023
Candidate Discussion

President, Joe Blackbird, called this meeting to set a date for when we could have a candidating weekend. Also invited were members of the search committee. Those present were Joe Blackbird, Pam Martin, Brian Alsleben, Elmer Baysinger, Julie Karl, Celine Swift, Dawn Norrbom, Barb Buckentin, and Pastor Barry.

Joe Blackbird called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

The search committee informed us that Pastor "H" was ready to move forward with a candidating weekend. The dates given were November 26th, January 7th, and January 14th. Discussion was made.

M/S/C to have him preach on Sunday, November 26th with a congregational meeting to follow on December 3rd for a vote. There will also be a potluck following the November 26th service which will let members visit with the candidate and ask questions.

Meeting adjourned Respectfully submitted, Pam Martin Secretary

November 8th, 2023

Council Members Present: All council members were present (Pam by phone) as well as Pastor Barry.

Joe called the meeting to order. Pastor Barry opened the meeting with prayer and a devotional. He also mentioned that he has been visiting with Duane Wigern who is at home on long term hospice.

The secretary's minutes were approved from the October 11th meeting.

Dawn gave the treasurer's report. The beginning balance was \$41,914.09 with an ending balance of \$49,651.01.

- Designated Funds \$18,900.46
 - o Cemetery Spraying \$2,025.00
 - o Memorial \$6,835.49
 - o Benevolence \$2,852.15
 - o Building \$1,505.00
 - o Choir \$731.04
 - o Cemetery Fund \$3,765.00
 - o Casey Blackbird Fund \$65.00
 - Sunday School/VBS \$686.78
 - o Youth Group \$135.00
 - o Pastoral Fund \$300.00
- General Fund \$30,750.55

Brian gave the building fund report. The balance in the checking account is \$12,676.72 and the Vanguard account balance is \$107,620.23.

All financial reports were approved as given.

Old Business:

- -- Dave Swift along with ABC Seamless siding fixed the siding on the west side of the Faith Center. Thanks Dave!!
- -- Travis Brecht fixed the shingles on the west side of the steeple.
- -- A reminder was given to the ushers to make sure the toilets aren't sticking after the service/event.
- -- Joe will re-spray for Asian beetles.
- -- Pam contacted Michael Sanken from Foster Mechanical to do annual furnace check.
- -- Joe winterized hose reel and changed furnace filters. He will put dehumidifier away.
- -- The last video of the Church was done in 2020. Pam will note on task calendar with a reminder to do again when larger purchases are made. (Example: AED if approved)

New Business:

- Candidate weekend was discussed in depth. The following were some of the topics:
 - 1) Joe will communicate with him to plan the details of the visit.
 - 2) Julie has volunteered as well as Brian and Michelle to go out for a meal Saturday night.
 - 3) Barry will visit with him on the order of the service on the 26th.
 - 4) There will be a potluck following the service on the 26th.
 - 5) Joe and Susie will be inviting him to Sunday school along with the women from the Bible study to join them at 9:00 prior to the service.
 - 6) He will be reimbursed on gas used not mileage. He will be asked to turn in receipts for mileage, meals, and hotel. This will be reimbursed from the search committee fund and if needed the general fund.

- 7) Pam will print out voting ballots to be used the following Sunday, December 3rd.
- 8) The council will use their call list to call members on November 20th as a reminder to come and listen to him preach on the 26th and to vote the following Sunday, December 3rd.
- ➤ M/S/C to change the wording on the Pastoral Contract to pay the salary on a bi-monthly basis vs. monthly.
- ➤ M/S/C to change the wording on the Pastoral Contract to 4 weeks of paid vacation per year to include no more than 4 Sundays vs. 2 weeks for each.

November Task List:

- O Draft Pastor contract & review Amounts were changed as voted on. Pam will update wording for policy book as needed.
- Check salt supply for sidewalk *Joe will purchase pet friendly salt if needed.*
- o Land rent bid Two-year contract up next year. Brian will remind current renter to pay before 4-1-24.
- Council position candidates 3 positions needed. Brian will announce in Church 11-19-23.
- Schedule decorating/undecorating. Saturday, Dec 2nd @ 9:00/Jan 14th after Church.
- o Review membership list Membership list reviewed with names discussed. Pam will send letters or call.
- Change batteries as listed *Brian volunteered*.
- Pay building insurance Brian has done.
- o Review usher/altar/custodian duty list *Need volunteers for December. Barry will announce on Sunday.*
- Test elevator/phone *Elmer will complete*.

There were no suggestions in the box. However, Dawn brought up the idea and volunteered to come up with a thank-you to send out to families that have visited our Church. There were a couple of families that came to the Fall Festival that were not members and the council agreed that would be a nice way maybe to get them to visit our Church again.

Our next council meeting will be Wednesday, December 6^{th} @ 7:00 p.m. M/S/C to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Martin/Secretary

Special Meeting St. John's Church December 3, 2023 Voting for Pastoral Candidate

Brian Alsleben called the meeting to order after the church service as Joe Blackbird was gone due to illness.

Brian explained to the congregation that the Pastor's salary would be moved up to \$80,000 total package. Also changed was the vacation from 2 weeks to 4 weeks. Even though we are voting, it's ultimately the decision of Pastor "H" to accept or not.

If a yes vote is attained and he accepts, his starting date could possibly be after Easter.

Dave Swift and Dawn Norrbom handed out ballots. Votes were counted with a unanimous 54 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Joe Blackbird will give Pastor "H" a call and let him know how the vote went. He will keep the congregation updated.

Meeting adjourned Respectfully submitted, Pam Martin Secretary

December 6th, 2023

Council Members Present: All council members were present, except for Elmer, as well as Pastor Barry.

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

The secretary's minutes were approved from the November 8th meeting and the Congregational meeting on December 3rd.

Dawn gave the treasurer's report. The beginning balance was \$49,651.01 with an ending balance of \$52,874.87.

- Designated Funds \$19,929.46
 - o Cemetery Spraying \$2,025.00
 - o Memorial \$6,835.49
 - o Benevolence \$3,072.15
 - o Building \$1,740.00
 - o Choir \$731.04
 - o Cemetery Fund \$4,275.00
 - o Casey Blackbird Fund \$65.00
 - Sunday School/VBS \$746.78
 - Youth Group \$139.00
 - o Pastoral Fund \$300.00
- General Fund \$32,945.41

Brian gave the building fund report. After he paid ABC siding \$150.00, Workman's Comp premium of \$478.00, and the premium for the building insurance of \$6,989.00, the balance in the checking account is \$4,661.95. The Vanguard account balance is \$111,500.49.

All financial reports were approved as given.

Old Business:

- -- Tree trimming will be getting done this coming Monday.
- -- Joe will complete the application for an AED.
- -- There are still shingles loose on the west side of the steeple that Joe will have Travis look at.
- -- Dawn is continuing to work on a "thank you" post card for visitors.

New Business:

- Michael and Holly Sanken expressed interest in becoming members. Pastor Barry has been in contact with them.
- ➤ Discussion was made on council member positions needed. Pam volunteered to serve another year to fill out her term and Dave Swift expressed interest. We are still in need of one more. Members will be approached to see if they are willing to serve.
- ➤ M/S/C to give Mary Huebert a \$150 gift certificate to a restaurant as she never takes any pay. Dawn will pick one up.

December Task List:

- o Prep for annual meeting.
- o Sign-up sheet for Altar Guild/Custodian/Usher Celine already printed.
- Present pastor review *No review done this year.*
- Contact staff on their pay Pam will contact Karen and Mary.
- o Update recordkeeper with year's membership changes *Pam will contact Karen*.
- o Review usher/altar/custodian duty list December is taken care of.
- Test elevator/phone *Joe will complete*.

There were no suggestions in the box. However, there was a question brought to Pam regarding if we should put any or all our policies on our website. Discussion was made and decision not to put any of them on it. It is too much to keep updated if there are changes in any policies.

Our next council meeting will be Wednesday, January 17^{th} @ 7:00 p.m. M/S/C to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Martin/Secretary

January 17th, 2024

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 and a devotional.

The secretary's minutes were approved from the December 6th meeting.

Dawn gave the treasurer's report. The beginning balance was \$52,874.87 with an ending balance after the restricted funds were paid out at the end of the year of \$45,623.69.

- Designated Funds \$9,828.18
 - o Memorial \$6,835.49
 - o Benevolence \$611.65
 - o Choir \$581.04
 - o Missions \$1.800.00
- General Fund \$35,795.51

Brian gave the building fund report. The balance in the checking account is \$6,434.83 and the Vanguard account balance is \$114,275.20.

All financial reports were approved as given.

Old Business:

- -- Tree stumps will be ground in the spring.
- -- The shingles that are loose on the west side of the steeple will get looked at in the spring.
- -- Dawn is continuing to work on a "thank you" post card for visitors.
- -- Adam Smith will look further into an AED for the church.
- -- Pastor Barry is still in the process of working with Michael and Holly Sanken on becoming members as well as another potential member.
- -- Discussion was made on potential candidates for the open council positions. We have one member who volunteered and another that will be getting back to us with their decision.

New Business:

- It was brought to Joe's attention that there is a filter for the drinking water that is in the basement that needs to get changed. Pam will add it to the task calendar so that it gets done at least yearly.
- ➤ Pastor "H" and his wife will be here the second Sunday after Easter.
- The call list was discussed and updated phone numbers were given to Barb for a new list to be done.
- ➤ Discussion was made on streaming of church services/funerals/etc. There are too many licenses that need to be obtained to do this. Pastor Barry will check with Grace Church to see if they would have any ideas that would work for us.
- > The audit committee will be meeting tomorrow night to go over the various checking accounts.
- ➤ The funerals for both Duane and Margie went well. The council will need to look into what is needed if someone chooses to use the Cremation Society where there is no funeral home to help coordinate everything that needs to be done for a service.
- > Joe thanked all the council members for their service.

January Task List:

- o Annual Meeting:
 - 1) Establish budget *done*
 - 2) Proposed services times for 2024 were discussed.
 - 3) Confirmation Date $May 5^{th}$. (Pastor Barry will do the confirmation as he has worked with the students throughout the year.)
- o Review usher/altar/custodian duty list *Will be good through February*.
- Test elevator/phone *done*.

There were no suggestions in the box.

Our next council meeting will be Tuesday, February 13th @ 7:00 p.m. as Lent starts on Wednesday, the 14th. M/S/C to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Martin/Secretary ANNUAL MEETING minutes will be in next Newsletter!

Sunday School Happenings:

Christmas Program Practice and Program





Evan remember when it was you?? Enjoy!





The Sunday School will be having their "Jesus L wes You Sn *□w Much" event on Sunday, February 18 during Sunday School time. Please send the kids with snow gear as we are hoping for more snow and will be spending time outdoors. Parents and congregation are invited, especially for hot cocoa and treats at about 9:45.



Youth Group Happenings:

The Youth Group members had a busy Christmas season, preparing and packing shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child and packing Christmas Goodie bags for the Sunday School kids and other members of St. Johns. Now they are gearing up for the new year with fun activities and favorite service projects!

Mark your calendars and plan to attend these upcoming Youth Group meetings, which are usually held the first and third Wednesday evening of each month at 5 p.m. in the John 3:16 room! Youth Group is open to all youth grades 4/5 and older! We often have delicious food at these meetings!

Meetings: February 7 at 5 p.m. and Feb 21 at 5 p.m.

March 6 at 5 p.m. and March 20 at 5 p.m.

April 3 at 5 p.m and April 17 at 5 p.m.

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Youth group members and families, also please mark your calendars for our famous <u>Palm Sunday Breakfast on March 24th!</u> Plan on helping out this day to make it a continued success! We will be shopping and preparing the basement for the next morning on Saturday, March 23, so we will need helpers for a couple of hours on this day as well. More information to come, but please save the date!

We invite everyone at St. Johns to the Palm Sunday Breakfast on Sunday, March 24!

Packing Shoe Boxes!











Packing Christmas bags for the Sunday School kids and others!



Endowment Fund Update

What is St John's Endowment Fund and how does it work?

- The fund was launched last year as a result of a very generous gift from the Nemitz family (Lillian, Irene & Erwin) to provide perpetual support of St John's mission and ministry efforts.
- The goal of the fund is to provide a regular stream of distributions for these efforts that is outside of St John's normal operating budget.
- The fund uses the earnings within the investments to make the distributions, preserving the original gifts essentially using the "interest" while keeping the "principle".
- Distributions will ramp up to an annual payout of 3-5% of the fund's total value over the next several years. By 2028, the distributions are expected to be about \$15,000 \$20,000, annually.
- Each year we'll be accepting funding requests throughout the year that will be distributed in the following year.
- Distribution recipients will be selected by the committee and subject to approval by the council and congregation.
- Endowment fund request forms will be available soon.
- Please keep in mind that the power of the fund is not in the money. Rather, it is you, our congregation members who have the ideas, energy and follow-through to make it happen.
- Put on your thinking caps! We need to come up with creative activities that we can host or sponsor to bring more people to Christ.
- Finally, consider the Endowment Fund in your giving or estate planning, so we can grow the great gift that the Nemitz's began.

Available funds for distribution in 2025: \$2,832.28

Please contact a committee member if you have questions or ideas on how this money should be used. The committee members are:

- Glen Scheafer
- Elmer Baysinger
- David Swift

Church Happenings:

Check it out!!







February 18th at 9:15 a.m. For all the family!!

We are looking forward to April when we'll have this family become part of our St. John's Family!!





Mark Your Calendars:

Feb. Lent begins;
All Services at 7 p.m.

14th, 21st,28th

March are 6th, 13th,20th

March 10th Daylight Savings time begins

Good Friday, Service March 29th 7 p.m.

Palm Sunday Breakfast is on March 24th 9-10 a.m.

Easter Sunday, Service March 31st.NOTE TIME IS at 9:30 a.m

YOUTH GROUP:

Meetings at 5 p.m. Feb. 7th & 21st

March 6th & 20th

April 3rd & 17th April

14th Pastor Jon will have his first Sunday Service with St. John's Family! Welcome Jon & Sara!

MAY 5th Confirmation

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

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

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

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

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

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 2024

PASTOR BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE Interim: Barry Marchant 952-210-2633 Elaine Carrigan864-3330 Email barryjmarchant@cfs.com Mavis Mielke 320-328-5339 772 Silver Maple Dr. New Prague, MN. 56071 SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS & SUB-**STITUTES 2022-2023 COUNCIL** Preschool-President Dawn Norrbom & Jayme Sparby V.Pres.Elmer Baysinger 320-583-3713 Grade 1st -2nd Jodi Sanken & Sec. Pam Martin...... 320-510-0493 Michelle Moyer Treas. Dawn Norrbom.. 952-484-1326 Grade 4th-8th June Knick-Andrea Wigern Fin Sec. Barb Buckentin320-510-4130 Michelle Alsleben – Joe Blackbird Bldg.Fund:..... NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE DAVID SWIFT **Substitute List:** & DEB FROEMMING Ashley Alsleben WOMEN'S GUILD 2024 Jessica Alsleben President Lea Ette Peters..... 864-3282 Brenda Garoutte Vice Pres. Julie Karl 320-587-7702 Leslie Smith Sec. Susie Blackbird......583-1025 Treas. Brenda Schaefer. 507-766-7486 Children's Church Sunshine Cr:Elaine Carrigan 864-3330 Totes Michelle Alsleben

CEMETERY BOARD

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

YOUTH GROUP LEADERS

Andrea Wigern andreawigern@gmail.com Dawn Norrbom dawnnorrbom@gmail.com

CHURCH SECRETARY & RECORDS UP-KEEP

Karen Konerza		320-864-4554
c	ell	320-510-4859

Job Sign-Ups 2024

COMMUNION & ALAR PREP

CUSTIODIAN

JanuaryBlackbird
February Swift
March
April Michelle & Lea Ette
May Alsleben
JuneJulie Karl
JulySanken
AugustKnick
September
October Garoutte
November Smith
December
1 st
8 th Knick
15 th
22 nd
24 th Christmas Eve 5p.m.
29 th

USHER/GREETER

JanuaryBlackbird
FebruarySwift
March
April Michelle & Lea Ette
May Alsleben
June Konerza
July
August Knick
SeptemberSchaefer
OctoberGaroutte
November
December
1 st
8 th Knick
15 th
22 nd
29 th

January 2025

February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Dave Streeter	2	3 Isaac S.
4 Communion	5	6	8	8	9	10 Michael N.
11	12	13	14 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m. Shelby S.	15	16	17
18 Desiree S.	19	20	21 Lenten Service 7:00 p.m.	22 Roxanne S.	23	24 Jettie M.
25 Gloria W. Mark W.	26	27 Deb F.	28 Lenten Service 7:00 p.m.	29		

March 2024

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Mary G.	2 Hannah W.
3 Communion	4 Sharon M.	5 Robin S.	6 <u>Lenten</u> <u>Service 7:00</u> <u>p.m.</u>	7	8	9
10 Daylight Saving begins!	11	12	13 <u>Lenten</u> <u>Service 7 ;00</u> <u>p.m.</u>	14	15	16
17	18 Myra M.	19	20 <u>Lenten</u> <u>Service 7:00</u> <u>p.m.</u>	21	22	23
24 Palm Sunday Palm Sunday Break- fast 9:00-10 a.m.	25	26 Randy R.	27 Michelle M.	28	29 Good Friday Service 7:00 p.m. Jerry B.	30
31 Easter Sunday Service 9:30 a.m. NO Sunday School						

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 Brenda S.	5 Lea Ette P.	6 Celine S.
7 Communion	8	9	10 Marley S.	11 Kari E.	12	13 Allan B.
14 Welcome Pastor Jon & Sara!	15	16	17	18 Elmer B.	19	20 Glen Schaefer
21 Adam & Leslie S.	22	23	24 Mike M.	25	26	27 Laura S.
28 Mason M.	29	30				

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Information for the next Newsletter will be needed by April 24^{th} give it to me at church or email at chubbers 67@gmail.com