

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



St. John's Messenger
May, June, & July 2024

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Reflections

Are you God's wife?

An eye witness account from New York City , on a cold day in December, some years ago: A little boy, about 10-years-old, was standing before a shoe store on the roadway, barefooted, peering through the window, and shivering with cold.

A lady approached the young boy and said, My, but you're in such deep thought staring in that window! 'I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes,' was the boy's reply.

The lady took him by the hand, went into the store, and asked the clerk to get half a dozen pairs of socks for the boy. She then asked if he could give her a basin of water and a towel. He quickly brought them to her. She took the little fellow to the back part of the store and, removing her gloves, knelt down, washed his little feet, and dried them with the towel.

By this time, the clerk had returned with the socks. Placing a pair upon the boy's feet, she purchased him a pair of shoes. She tied up the remaining pairs of socks and gave them to him. She patted him on the head and said, 'No doubt, you will be more comfortable now.' As she turned to go, the astonished kid caught her by the hand, and looking up into her face, with tears in his eyes, asked her: 'Are you God's wife?'

If you can't sleep at night have you ever thought maybe that's Gods way of saying we need to talk and now you have time!

PASTORS NOTES:

Pastor Barry has no report for us this time.

But I have something that Dick Swift gave me, that he thought would be good for a Newsletter for St. John's.

*O sweeter than the marriage-feast,
'Tis sweeter far to me,
To walk together to the kirk*
With a goodly company!-*

To walk together to the kirk
And all together pray,
While each to his great Father bends,
Old men, and babes, and loving friends
And youths and maidens gay!*

*He prayeth best, who loveth best
All things both great and small;
For the dear God who loveth us,
He made and loveth all.*

**-Kirk is an informal Scottish name for church. Note on the St John's cornerstone it is spelled: "Kirche", the German version.*

REMINDER: SUMMER HOURS BEGIN ON MAY 26th 9:30 A.M. !!!!

Council Reports

Annual Meeting Minutes January 28, 2024

President Joe Blackbird called the meeting to order. 47 members were in attendance. Brian and Dawn handed out the Annual Reports packet. Pastor Barry opened the meeting with prayer.

Clipboards were passed around for those in attendance to sign-up for ushering / custodial / communion duties. Joe thanked Pastor Barry for pastoring St. John's Church through our transition.

- Pam Martin read the minutes from the 2023 Annual Meeting. The minutes were approved as presented.
- Review of the Annual Reports were given as follows:
 - **General Fund, Memorial Fund, Choir Fund, and Congregational Direct Giving were given** by Dawn Norrbom. A question was asked regarding the \$40,000.00 transfer to the building fund. It was explained that \$5,000.00 was needed for expenses and the remaining \$35,000.00 was transferred to the Vanguard account where it earns more interest.
 - **Membership & Attendance Record** by Karen Konerza
 - **Benevolence** by Karen Konerza
 - **Building Fund** by Brian Alsleben.
 - **Women's Guild** by Brenda Schaefer
 - **Youth Group** by Andrea Wigern
 - **Sunday School** by Brenda Garoutte
 - **Financial Review** report was given by Pam Martin. She stated that the review committee found the financial records for 2023 were accurate and in good order.

Motion/Second/Carried to approve all reports as presented.

New Business:

- Joe Blackbird presented the 2024 **Operating Budget**. Mary Huebert donated her organist services again this year. (Thanks Mary!). The Secretary's salary and Organist's salary would stay the same. Some of the categories were increased slightly while some were decreased. The total budget is \$82,450. In order to meet the budget, on average, each family unit will need to contribute about \$2,860 total for the year. This equates to about \$55 for 52 weeks. M/S/C to accept the budget.
- Joe Blackbird reviewed the proposed 2024 service times and dates. Easter service will be at 9:30a.m. as well as the Thanksgiving service. It was suggested that we place an ad in the local papers to reflect these starting times. Congregation approved.
- The women's guild asked for congregational approval to offer a gift of \$10,000.00 to Pastor "H" from their funds. This could be used towards a down payment or any updates to a house when he finds one. M/S/C.
- There was a question if we thought about celebrating the Church's 160th Anniversary next year. The council will discuss along with the new Pastor when he gets here.
- David Swift gave an update on the Endowment Fund. He highlighted how the fund works and to consider this fund in your giving or estate planning so we can grow the great gift that the Nemitz's began. Funding available for distribution in 2025 will be \$2,832.28.
- **Volunteers/Staff Elections**
 - **Council** Joe Blackbird and Brian Alsleben have completed their second term on the council. Elmer Baysinger completed his first term and will serve a second. Dave Swift and Deb Froemming volunteered to be on the council. M/S/C to elect Dave and Deb to the council for their first terms.
 - **Ice Cream Social Committee** – June 13th, 2024. Brenda Garoutte, Jody Sanken, and Julie Karl volunteered. Any other members are welcome to join as well.

- **Financial Review Committee** – Pam Martin, Brenda Garoutte, and Brian Alsleben will be on the committee again.
- **Benevolence Committee** – Elaine Carrigan volunteered to stay on. Mavis Mielke was contacted to see if she will serve again and she said she would.
- **Nursery Committee** – Michelle Alsleben, Zachary Zeleke.
- **Records Keeper** – Karen Konerza
- M/S/C to accept the above committee volunteers.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Martin/Secretary

The Cemetery Association Board conducted their meeting next.

February 13th, 2024

Council Members Present: Dave Swift, Pam Martin, Elmer Baysinger, Barb Buckentin, Dawn Norrbom, and Deb Froemming. Pastor Barry was not present due to surgery the day before.

Discussion was made on the duties of the council. Everyone serving another term/year volunteered to keep their current positions. Dave volunteered to be president and Deb volunteered to be the building fund treasurer. M/S/C to accept their new positions. Welcome to both!!

Dave called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

The secretary's minutes were approved from the January 17th meeting.

Dawn gave the treasurer's report. The beginning balance was \$45,623.69 with an ending balance after the restricted funds were paid out at the end of the year of \$53,052.71.

- Designated Funds - \$12,005.18
 - Memorial - \$6,835.49
 - Benevolence - \$831.65
 - Choir - \$581.04
 - Missions - \$1,800.00
 - Building - \$155.00
 - Cemetery Fund - \$1,525.00
 - SS-VBS - \$202.00
 - Pastoral Fund – \$75.00
- General Fund - \$41,047.53

Deb gave the building fund report. The balance in the checking account is \$6,435.92 and the Vanguard account balance is \$116,219.90.

All financial reports were approved as given.

Old Business:

- Dave will get information from Dave Huebert regarding the removal of the tree stumps in the spring.
- The shingles that are loose on the west side of the steeple will get looked at in the spring.
- Dawn has a thank you card she came up with. She will share at the next council meeting.
- Dave will talk to Adam Smith regarding the AED.
- Since the last meeting, it was brought to our attention that there is no longer a water filter that needs to be changed in the kitchen. We now have a "whole house" filtration. The task list did not need to get updated.
- Discussion was made regarding concerns with our funeral policy. Dave volunteered to work with the Cemetery Board to rewrite the policy during 2024 to present at the annual meeting next January.

New Business:

- Upcoming Events:
 - March 3rd – Council installation
 - April 13th – Shower for Leslie Smith
 - May 4th – Annie Oakley event for Jess A and Hudson
- The Church voicemail has been changed from Joe Blackbirds phone number to Dave Swifts.
- Dave mentioned that he moved some of the overflow of paper products that were stored in the utility room to the back of stairwell and women's restroom cabinet.

- Dave will pick up the mail and distribute as needed. If he is gone, Dawn will pick it up and sort accordingly.
- Dave addressed some repairs that need to get looked at. He will ask some members with help on fixing the loose faucet in the John 3:16 room, trim that needs to be replaced downstairs, and a hymnal holder that needs repair.
- There seems to be some confusion on the new automated door. Dave will make a new sign that reflects having to use the “handicap” button to open the door from the outside. There will be no use of a key, but ushers will need to make sure the power button is turned on and off. The policy book will be updated to reflect this change.
- The outside church sign no longer lights up. M/S/C to have Dave Swift refurbish the lights with LEDs with a cost not to exceed \$50.00.
- Deb offered to drop off the deposit to Citizens Bank after each meeting. Thanks Deb!!
- The council approved the new signers on the checking accounts at the bank as follows:
 - General Fund:** Dave Swift and Dawn Norrbom
 - Building Fund:** Dave Swift and Deb Froemming

February Task List:

- Update snow call list – *Barb has done. She will make some corrections.*
- Pastor Contract – *N/A*
- Thermostat plan – *Dave will make sure it is programmed correctly.*
- Dave had Pam add to task list: *Stock rodent bait stations outside twice a year. (April & September.)*
- 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, March 12th @ 7:00 p.m.

M/S/C to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Martin/Secretary

March 12th, 2024

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

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

The secretary’s minutes were approved from the February 13th meeting.

Dawn gave the treasurer’s report. The beginning balance was \$53,052.71 with an ending balance of \$58,431.86.

- Designated Funds - \$13,900.18
 - Memorial - \$6,835.49
 - Benevolence - \$1,176.65
 - Choir - \$581.04
 - Missions - \$1,800.00
 - Building - \$335.00
 - Cemetery Fund - \$2,650.00
 - SS-VBS - \$372.00
 - Pastoral Fund – \$150.00
- General Fund - \$44,531.68

Deb gave the building fund report. The balance in the checking account is \$6,453.94 and the Vanguard account balance is \$117,335.07. She also mentioned that she received the land rent check of \$8,250 which will be deposited into the checking account.

All financial reports were approved as given.

Pastor Barry shared some topics that he wanted to share with the council:

- Casey Blackbird will graduate from the Seminary in May – Pastor Barry will make announcements in Church if anyone would like to give any of their offering directly to Casey. He will also ask Casey if he

would like to do a short (4 week) preaching series so that he could include it on a resume. Council approved.

- He would like to see the Church have a summer music festival. – He would put together a committee to research options for a band, costs, dates, etc. M/S/C to allow this committee to do the research and report back to the council what they find.
- Pastor Barry would also like to establish a “Young Christians for Jesus Group” (20’s and 30’s) which would maybe include Bible study/Christian Missions. – He will work on this.
- He is also exploring short Bible studies (conversational) for the fall – (4-6 weeks long)

Old Business:

-- Mail slots are now labeled for new recipients: Benevolence & Endowment Committees, Sunday School, Building Fund and Cemetery Board. Thanks Dave!

-- Dave S and Brian A labeled the automated door and installed a closer plate.

-- Gene replaced some missing basement trim, broken pulpit trim and repaired a hymnal holder. Thanks Gene!

-- Cory repaired a loose faucet in the John 3:16 room. Thanks Cory!

-- The entry lights that were flashing have been adjusted.

-- Rodent bait stations have been filled.

-- M/S/C to allow the Pastor search committee to move forward with finding a Pastor.

-- Doug and Gene requested to be done on the Pastor search committee. (Thank you, gentlemen, for your work!!) Dave will announce in Church on Sunday that we are seeking two volunteers to replace them. The council voted to allow the pastor search committee to select their additional members that are best matched to fit the needs of the committee going forward.

-- M/S/C on wording changes to the Congregational Information Form regarding the Pastor’s salary, Church Unity, and Evangelical sub group.

New Business:

➤ Upcoming Events:

March 23rd – Dick Swift’s funeral @ 10:30 a.m. – Dave will make sure thermostats are set, Dawn, Pam, and Barb will be available for council representatives.

March 24th – Palm Sunday Breakfast 9:00 – 10:00

March 29th – Good Friday service @ 7:00 p.m. Andy will be playing the violin.

- The Rose publications need re-stocking. Pam volunteered to get them replaced as needed.
- Updating of procedures needs to be done for the automated door/security. Dave S and Pam will get updated.
- The lighting of the Church sign is being worked on.
- Dave S and Pam will get together to clean out the back cupboards.
- Dave S will replace the paper towel holder in the kitchen that is broke.

March Task List:

- Update memorial book/plaque – *Dawn is taking care of with the help of LeaEtte.*
- Update brochure and website – *Dave will have Celine make the necessary changes.*
- Adjust clocks – *Done*
- Review usher/altar/custodian duty list – *List looks good for the next couple of months.*
- Test elevator/phone - *done.*

There were no suggestions in the box.

Our next council meeting will be Wednesday, April 24th @ 7:00 p.m.

M/S/C to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Martin/ Secretary

Update from Pastor Search Committee:

The Pastor Search Committee is back at work. Doug Block and Gene Konerza have completed their service on the committee. Thanks to both of them for their hard work and dedication over the past year! Thanks also to Dave Sanken and Adam Garoutte, who volunteered to serve on the committee with returning members Julie Karl, Celine Swift and Dawn Norrbom.

The Pastoral Job Opening has been updated and re-posted with the CCCC's, as well as online at several seminaries and job search sites. The committee is receiving new resumes through May 1, then plans to start interviewing any potential candidates after that. Please remember to keep St. John's Church, the Pastor Search Committee, and our next pastor in your prayers.



***The new white altar cloths and banner were purchased by the Women's Guild
In Memory of Irene & Lillian Nemitz for their faithful dedication and love
for St. John's Church. Blessed be their memory!***

Sunday School Happenings:

The Sunday School and VIP guests enjoyed their time together in February for the "Jesus ♥ You Sn❄w Much" event. We heard about how snow is white and Jesus died for us to keep our hearts clean. Snow came just in time for us to use our sleds. We made valentines and did other crafts. Hot cocoa, donuts and singing concluded our event.

Palm Sunday was postponed to a following Sunday. After the delicious Youth breakfast, the kids searched for Easter eggs.

Dates to Remember:

April 28- Puppet show during church

May 12- Mother's Day! Bring your moms to church! ♡

May 19- Last day of Sunday School - "Diving into VBS" and **singing in church**

June 13- Help at the Ice Cream Social

July 28- July 31- Vacation Bible School- "**SCUBA**" 🐡 and entertainment provided by the BASICS music group

VBS...

Get ready to splash into fun with **SCUBA**- VBS- "Diving into friendship with God" on Sunday, July 28 through Wednesday, July 31. Scuba is filled with awesome Bible-learning experiences, where kids see, hear, and touch, Science-fun, games, songs and tasty treats every evening. These are a just a few of the activities that help faith flow into real life. Watch for a sign up soon at church or find a link through Facebook and our church website.



Get ready to "dive" into the closing night of our Vacation Bible School series about friendship on **Wednesday, July 31st**. The parents and the community will be invited to enjoy an awesome evening of music by the kids and music from a group called the BASICS (Brothers and Sisters in Christ). A light supper will be provided and lawn chairs are encouraged. Watch for more details and mark your calendars now!

Sunday School Happenings continue:

"Jesus ♥ You Sn❄w Much"



Hot Chocolate and fun time indoors!!

Sunday School continues:



Puppet Show

Youth Group Happenings:

Focus on Serving

St. John's Youth Group continued to serve the church in a variety of ways and celebrated with some fun activities too over the past few months. Some of our service projects included: making Valentine favors for church members, refilling the activity bags for children, and spring clean up around the church grounds. We also tried a walking and Bible verse reading challenge program for the Lenten season (thanks to those who walked with us on Wednesday evenings!) Our big spring event, the Palm Sunday breakfast, was rescheduled for April 7 due to snowstorm concerns, and we ended up with a very rainy day! Despite the weather, we had a great team of parent and youth workers who served a delicious breakfast for those able to attend. The Youth Group also got out and enjoyed Thunder Alley bowling at Hutch Bowl.

Coming up in the future, the Gertens Flower Fundraiser Sale is closed. Orders totalled just under \$9,000 in sales, with an expected profit of over \$2500. Thank you to everyone who sold! Remember that order pickup is at the Swift's home (13902 125th St) on Wednesday, May 8, from 6 to 8pm. The Youth Group will be there to help load orders. If you won't be available to pick up your order at that time, please contact Celine Swift in advance to make other arrangement. We'll be checking out the races in Arlington during the summer. (We have a big interest in cars, trucks and other vehicles in this group!) Every year we also get involved with VBS at the end of July (this year it runs July 28-31.) We help with setting up decorations, assisting with skits, helping younger kids and clean up. We always welcome new ideas! If you have any suggestions for fun activities or other ways Youth Group can serve please let Dawn or Andrea know.



Zach and Chase making Valentine favors for members of the church.

Youth Group continues:



Getting activity bags ready for the kids!



Zach dumping sticks etc. from the youth cleaning up the church grounds! Thank you.

“Palm” Sunday Breakfast after Easter



BUSY AT WORK!!!



GOOD JOB!!!!

Church Happenings:



Baptism of Karson Michael Sanken, born January 9, 2024 to Holly & Michael Sanken. His God parents are, Katie & Jenessa Urban & Morgan & Dan Kroeninger. Grandparent are Dave & Jodi Sanken & Jon & Cheryl Templin & Mike Jackson. Great Grandparents are Ben & Gloria Schuft and Mary Brelje.

Mark your calendars:

May 5th Confirmation

May 8th Pickup flowers you ordered from Youth at Swift's 6-8 p.m.

May 19th Last Sunday of Sunday School

May 26th SUMMER HOURS BEGIN 9:30 A.M.

June 13th ICE CREAM SOCIAL

July 28th-31st Vacation Bible School 6-8 P.M. SPECIAL PROGRAM ON THE 31ST!!!

Get ready to "dive" into the closing night of our Vacation Bible School series about friendship on Wednesday, July 31st. The parents and the community will be invited to enjoy an awesome evening of music by the kids and music from a group called the BASICS (Brothers and Sisters in Christ). A light supper will be provided and lawn chairs are encouraged. Watch for more details and mark your calendars now!

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

Mrs. Barry Marchant
772 Silver Maple Dr.
New Prague, MN. 56071

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

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

SUMMER HOUR BEGIN MAY 26TH
9:30 A.M.

Wednesday, July 31st. The parents and the community will be invited to enjoy an awesome evening of music by the kids and music from a group called the BASICS (Brothers and Sisters in Christ). A light supper will be provided and lawn chairs are encouraged. Watch for more details and mark your calendars now!

PASTOR

Interim: Barry Marchant 952-210-2633

Email barryjmarchant@cfs.com

772 Silver Maple Dr.

New Prague, MN. 56071

COUNCIL

President David Swift... 320-864-6188

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:Deb Froemming320-583-4876

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

CEMETERY BOARD

David Huebert 320-864-4724

David Sanken 320-583-7777

Celine Swift..... 320-864-6188

BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE

Elaine Carrigan...864-3330

Mavis Mielke320-328-5339

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS & SUBSTITUTES 2022-2023

Preschool- Dawn Norrbom &
Jayme Sparby

Grade 1st -2nd Jodi Sanken &
Michelle Moyer

Grade 4th-8th June Knick-Andrea Wigern
Michelle Alsleben – Joe Blackbird

Substitute List:

Ashley Alsleben

Jessica Alsleben

Brenda Garoutte

Leslie Smith

Children’s Church

Totes Michelle Alsleben

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 2024

COMMUNION & ALTAR PREP

JanuaryBlackbird
FebruarySwift
March
April Michelle & Lea Ette
May Alsleben
June Konerza
July Sanken
August Knick
September.....
October Garoutte
November.....
December

January 2025

CUSTODIAN

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

USHER/GREETER

January Blackbird
February Swift
March.....
April Michelle & Lea Ette
May Alsleben
June Konerza
July.....
August..... Knick
SeptemberSchaefer
October.....Garoutte
November
December.....
1st
8th Knick
15th
22nd

29th

May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Joe B.	3 Bridget B.	4
5 Communion Confirmation Don P.	6 Kim M. Mariyah S.	7	8 <u>Pickup Flowers at Swift's 6-8 p.m.</u>	9	10 Bonnie K.	11
12 Sue R.	13	14	15 Pastor Bob	16 Dave Sanken	17 Eli S.	18
19 Angela B. Dennis S. Last Sunday of Sun- day School	20	21	22	23	24 Rachel M.	25 Jessica A.
26 <u>SUMMER HRS. BEGIN</u> <u>9:30 a.m. Worship</u>	27	28 Mary Ann F. June K. Rachel S.	29	30	31	

June 2024

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Communion	3 Cory G.	4	5	6	7 Mary H. Nita v. W.	8
9	10	11	12	13 Chandler S. Dave Swift <u>ICE CREAM SOCIAL!!</u>	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 Jeff B.	22
23 Ashley A.	24	25 Jon B.	26	27	28 Charlee B. Dave Huebert Danielle M.	29
30						

July 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Chase K.	2	3 Kyle W.	4	5	6 Laura S.
7 Communion	8 Dawn N.	9	10	11	12 Connor M.	13 Owen R.
14	15	16	17	18 Alan M.	19	20
21 Kyle S.	22 Tom S.	23	24	25	26	27
28 BIBLE SCHOOL	29 STARTS	30 AT 6:00 P.M.	31 TO 8:15 P.M. "BASICS"	<u>Special on the last day 7/31 Families are invited!!</u>		

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Information for the next Newsletter will be needed by July 26th give it to me at church or email at chubbers67@gmail.com

**SUMMER HOURS BEGIN MAY 26TH
9:30 A.M.**