

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



St. John's Messenger

Nov. Dec. and Jan. 2020

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REFLECTIONS

If you don't know GOD, don't make stupid remarks!

A United States soldier was taking some college courses between assignments. He had completed 20 missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

One of the courses had a professor who was an avowed atheist.

One day the professor shocked the class when he came in. He looked to the ceiling and flatly stated, "GOD, if you are real, then I want you to knock me off this platform...

I'll give you exactly 15 min."

The lecture room fell silent. You could hear a pin drop. Ten minutes went by and the professor proclaimed, "Here I am GOD, I'm still waiting."

It got down to the last couple of minutes when the soldier got out of his chair, went up to the professor, and cold-cocked him; knocking him off the platform. The professor was out cold.

The soldier went back to his seat and sat there, silently.

The other students were shocked and stunned, and sat there looking on in silence. The professor eventually came to, noticeably shaken, looked at the soldier and asked, "What in the world is the matter with you? Why did you do that?"

The soldier calmly replied, "GOD was busy today protecting America's soldiers who are protecting your right to say stupid remarks and act like an idiot. So He sent me."

The classroom erupted in cheers!

Submitted by, Karen

Pastor's Report



*For I am the Lord your God
Who takes hold of your right hand
and says to you, Do not fear;
I will help you, Isa. 41:1*

I know that this has been a very difficult growing and harvesting season for those who make their living from the land. St. John's does not have many involved in farming, but some. But, the plight of all farmers, has really weighted down my heart. As I am writing my article, we have had another two days of rain. With each rain, the challenges of harvesting multiply. And so I searched the scriptures for verses that remind us that God will always provide a way through any difficulty we might face in this life. Let me share just a few. Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (Isa. 41:10)

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. (1 Peter 5:7)

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? (Rom. 8:31)

*They who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint. (Isa. 40:31)*

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. (Prov. 3:5,6)
These are just a few of many passages that remind us that we are not alone in our struggles. We who believe, belong to a God who is not some distant, disinterested God, but one who is deep concerned about those who belong to Him, and because of His love and personal concern for you, He will always provide a way through the difficulty that will be for your good and His glory.

Pastor Bob

Council Minutes:

August 14, 2019

Council Members Present: All members were present with the exception of Celine Swift who was excused because of a death in the family.

Dave Huebert called the meeting to order. Bob Taylor opened with prayer and a brief devotional.

Guest: Christ Hunter from Mid Country Insurance was present to review our current policy. Chris will do some research concerning **workman's** comp. and liability protection for the pastor.

Pastor's Report

- Visitation: Maynard Rannow, Joyce Karl, Nadine Forbes, Lillian Nimetz, Betty Benjamin, Marge Block, Don Padrnos, Randy Knick, Dick Swift.
- Misc.: This summer I participated in VBS, the Shot Gun Blast event, youth lock-in, led a Wednesday night bible study, participated in the Thursday night Bible study, also participated in the bi-weekly Hutchinson prayer meeting for the nation.
- It appears there will be six new confirmation students this fall in addition to the three second year students.
- Use of church for Dawson wedding, Sept. 21, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

Secretary's Report Minutes from last month's meeting were approved.

Treasure's Report Karen Konerza gave the treasure's report

- Beginning balance - \$34,980.06
- Ending balance - \$35,417.95
- Designated funds - \$21,501.68
 - Memorial fund - \$6389.49
 - Benevolence fund - \$2996.15
 - Building fund - \$6665.00
 - Choir fund - \$726.04
 - Cemetery fund - \$3395.00
 - SS/VBS – \$1225.00
 - Youth fund - \$105
- General fund - \$13,916.27

Building Fund Report Robyn Field presented the Building Fund Report

- Vanguard - \$6801.94
- Citizen's Bank - \$11536.24
- Total - \$18338.18

All reports were approved as given.

Old Business:

- Carpet and floor cleaning are done – Council very pleased with the job that was done.
- Gould Brothers event was a great success.
- Sidewalk has been poured and telephone cable buried. Now waiting for phone line to be activated.
- No need for a retaining wall due to miscalculation on the grade needed.
- Youth Lock-in was a great success with 19 youth participating.
- New Common Cup display is now in place.

- Dawson's use of the church – Pastor Bob will forward to Sharon Dawson the costs involved.
- Still working on getting a clear water result from well testing.
- Change on the sidewalk and ramp footings were up graded at a cost of \$1200. The money to cover those changes was donated.
- Shelf for cemetery and policy books – to be placed on the north wall between the door to the Faith Center and the cupboards.
- Supplies in Faith Center bathroom – will be regularly checked per suggestion box request.
- Parking lot – will wait one more year before seal coating again.
- Time change for worship and Sunday school – Jodi Sanken did some surveying. The results will be presented at Annual Meeting.
- Service at Heatwole went well with an attendance of 71.

Tasks for August

- Update newspaper and website – Karen Konerza will make necessary changes.
- Pay insurance – due September 23rd.
- Review need for clean-out was put on hold.
- Suggestion box was checked.
- Next Meeting scheduled for Sept. 11, 2019 – Robyn Field will be gone on vacation.

Meeting Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

Minutes Submitted by Acting Secretary, Bob Taylor

September 11, 2019

Council Members Present: All council members except Robyn Field were present.

Dave Huebert called the meeting to order. Pastor Bob opened the meeting with prayer and a devotional.

Pastor's Report:

- Visitation: Maynard Rannow, Joyce Karl, Don Padrnos, Dick Swift, Lillian Nemitz, Randy & June Knick, Betty Benjamin
- Confirmation began today with 7 students. The bill for new confirmations books has been submitted to Karen Konerza.

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

Karen Konerza gave the treasurer's report.

- Beginning balance - \$ 35,417.95
- Ending balance - \$ 38,950.55
- Designated Funds - \$ 22,581.68
 - Memorial - \$ 6389.49
 - Benevolence - \$ 3321.15
 - Building - \$ 6915.00
 - Choir - \$ 726.04
 - Cemetery Fund - \$ 3500.00

- Sunday School / VBS - \$ 1605.00
- Youth Fund - \$ 125.00
- General Fund - \$ 16,368.87

Robyn Field reported that the Building Fund has a balance of \$ 17,938.26

Citizen's Bank: \$ 11,044.11, Vanguard: \$ 6894.15

Financial reports were approved as given.

Old Business:

- The Workman's Comp policy has been reviewed and will continue as it is.
- The Policy Book has been updated and returned to the church. It is being stored in a new location: on the wall near the door to the passageway to the Faith Center. Updates include clarifying instructions on using the book, specifically that the Council Secretary can take the book home to update it, and needs to put a note in the holder so church members know where it is during that time. Also the church thermostat programming chart was updated to include the Faith Center.
- The well and all the church plumbing was treated with chlorine again. The filter under the kitchen sink may have been the source of bacteria contamination.
- The Sunday School survey is complete and feedback suggests we can consider switching Sunday School to be after church. This topic will be on the agenda at the Congregational Meeting.

New Business:

- Landscaping rock installation is complete. 12 yards of black dirt have been added and leveled, but a few more loads, additional tilling and rock picking are still needed before adding grass seed.
- The phone line has been reconnected.
- 31 people submitted for background checks and all cleared.
- The paperwork to get reimbursed for the Water Protection Grant has all been submitted, and payment is expected soon.
- The council discussed storage of extra tables and chairs: A number of red chairs have been moved to the basement to be used by the Adult Sunday School class. After trying it out for a few weeks either the brown padded chairs or the red ones will be removed from the basement. The extra tables from the Faith Center storage room will be moved to the storage shed and the lightweight plastic tables will be stored in the storage room.
- Common Cup has begun its annual coat drive which will run through October 6. A collection box has been placed by the Common Cup table.
- Pastor Bob informed the council that the youth group plans to show the movie Breakthrough on October 27 in the 3:16 room.

Task List for the month:

- Spray for Japanese beetles – wait and see if necessary
- Winterize hose reel outside – *Gene Konerza will take care of it*
- Check Altar/Usher/Custodian duty lists
- Check Suggestion box –*None*
- Test elevator phone – *Done*

Next council meeting date October 9 at 7pm.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Celine Swift / Secretary

October 9, 2019

Council Members Present: All council members were present.

Dave Huebert called the meeting to order. Pastor Bob opened the meeting with prayer and a devotional.

Pastor's Report:

- Visitation: Maynard Rannow, Joyce Karl, Don Padrnos, Dick Swift, Lillian Nemitz, Randy & June Knick, Betty Benjamin, Nadeen Forbes, Margie Block, Doug, Rachel and Holden Meyer, Carly Eischens.
- Thursday evening Bible study will be starting soon. Wayne Alsleben will lead the men's study, Susie Blackbird will continue to lead the women's study.
- Pastor Bob contacted the Gideon's to see when they should next come speak at St. John's again. They were last here in April.

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

Karen Konerza gave the treasurer's report.

- Beginning balance - \$ 38,950.55
- Ending balance - \$ 41,349.68
- Designated Funds - \$ 23,251.68
 - Memorial - \$ 6389.49
 - Benevolence - \$ 3346.15
 - Building - \$ 7040.00
 - Choir - \$ 726.04
 - Cemetery Fund - \$ 3800.00
 - Sunday School / VBS - \$ 1825.00
 - Youth Fund - \$ 125.00
- General Fund - \$ 18,098.00

Robyn Field reported that the Building Fund has a balance of \$ 13,537.54
Citizen's Bank: \$ 663.49, Vanguard: \$ 6904.05

Financial reports were approved as given.

Old Business:

- The refund from the state and county for the well project have been received. The total project cost was \$7375.50, and the refund totaled \$3866.90.
- The Adult Sunday School class has moved to the basement, and is working on finding the best table and chairs layout to accommodate the large group.
- The coat drive for Common Cup is over, and we collected several quality coats to give away. Thanks to everyone for your donations.

New Business:

- M/S/A to accept Carly Eischens into membership on the basis of confession of faith.
- The annual task calendar was updated with furnace and dehumidifier tasks.
- The cemetery board is low on funds, so the accumulated money in the cemetery fund will be distributed to the cemetery board.

- The council approved Jodi Sanken's request to install clocks in the Grace and Bible rooms of the Faith Center. The Sunday School has the funds to purchase them.
- The baseboards in the Bible room are coming loose. This should be fixed with similar warrantee issues when the crew is here to install the Faith Center ramp. Gene Konerza will followup if additional action is required.
- We are still waiting for the carpenter to come and install the ramp to the Faith Center. The goal is for the ramp and landscaping to be done in the next month.
- We are also waiting for the state to retest the water.
- Curt Bussler offered to do snow removal from the parking lot for the same price as last year. MSA to accept the snow removal bid from Bussler, including up to \$20 extra to shovel the ramp and sidewalk each time.
- Still waiting to spray for beetles if the need is there.
- A stream of water has started flowing in the ditch north of the parking lot. Dave Huebert and Dave Swift plan to run a tile down the ditch, and will work with Dave Sanken to make sure it doesn't cause any water problems with the farm land.

Task List for the month:

- Pay 2nd half taxes (due 11/15) – *Robyn Field*
- Accept Snow removal Bid – *Done*
- Change furnace filters including Faith Center – *Dave Huebert will follow up with Joe Blackbird*
- Put away dehumidifier – *Cory Garoutte*
- Call Foster Mechanical to ck furnace *Dave Sanken will talk to Michael, who will also look at the leaking water fountain.*
- Check Altar/Usher/Custodian duty lists - *OK*
- Check Suggestion box –*None*
- Test elevator phone – *Done*

Next council meeting date November 13 at 7pm.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Celine Swift / Secretary

Sunday School Happenings



Parents and/or drivers: Coming soon! Help hands needed! If you are dropping off your children on Wednesday evenings, please check out the bulletin board in the entryway. There are post-it notes with a variety of tasks written on them. It would be great if you would choose a task or two, complete the job and put the finished project in the supply room in the Faith Center. Anything you could do would be appreciated. Thank you! Sunday School and Youth Group Staff



The Young Adult Sunday School class kicked off the year by having our annual egg bake breakfast on September 8th. We started off the year by viewing the movie "Run the Race" from Executive Producers Tim and Robby Tebow.

Sunday School happenings continued;

Based on the movie, our six-session Bible study combines powerful scenes from the film with the timeless message of faith, hope, and love. Through illustrations, Scripture, and discussion we are learning the triumph of grace and hope that only comes from trusting the God who “loves us like crazy” and never stops pursuing us.

This year we are blessed to have Austin Field help lead the class.

“But God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8

Michelle Alsleben

VBS happenings:



VBS continued:



Looks like fun for all!!!

First Sunday of Sunday School



First Sunday of Sunday School continued:



Dates to make note of:

- November 10- Christmas program practice starts at 9:00 a.m.***
- November 17- Kids sing during worship service***
- December 8- Jesus' Birthday party and Christmas program Dress Rehearsal***
- December 15- Christmas program***
- December 22 & 29- No Sunday School***
- January 5- Sunday School resumes***

St John's Youth Page

What we've been doing:

- Aug 7th we played mini golf in Hutch and had a Lock-in at church. 16 kids attended. We played fun games by Pastor Bob, had Escape rooms to figure out and watched Narnia on a BIG screen outdoors! Thanks Mike for setting up that amazing outdoor theater! Also played ping pong, ghosts in the graveyard, etc. It was a fun night!
- September 4th we started regular meetings at church. These are from 6:45 to 7:45 right after confirmation class finishes on the first and third Wednesday of each month. At our first meeting we brainstormed ideas and played kickball. Also this fall we started gifts for shut-ins, prepared for a Congregational movie (Sunday, October 27th), and the shoebox project.

Looking Ahead:

- November 6th we will pack shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Our goal is to donate 40 boxes this year. Some items previously included are no longer accepted. If you wish to donate towards this project please consider the following items: tooth brushes, paste, bar soap, wash clothes, small stuffed toys OR \$ to purchase supplies needed or use towards shipping shoeboxes.
- December 8th we will join with the choir caroling and visiting shut-ins.
- Upcoming meeting dates are 11-6, 11-20, 12-4, 12-18, and 1-15.

For more information about the youth group contact: Andrea Wigern at 320-234-6454 or Roxanne Sladek at 320-455-7218.

Youth group continued;

Youth Group attended Movie “Overcomer”



Mini golf followed by Lock-In







Youth group continued;



Getting ready for Movie night!! Thank you Mike!!

Church Happenings:

Common Cup Corner:

- Coat drive - Thanks to everyone who brought in coats for the coat drive. St. John's Church donated two large bags of quality coats. The coat drive was on October 16th in Hutchinson, and it served 113+ families, giving away hundreds of coats, boots, snow pants, hats and gloves to people in need. Thank you for your support!
- Drawn to the Word - Artist and Pastor Paul Oman will paint a larger-than-life sized mural of generosity before your eyes. This story will unfold artistically, musically, and narratively during the event, while we learn the community impact of three local non-profit partners: Common Cup Ministry, McLeod Emergency Food Shelf, and United Way of McLeod County. You decide how to divide your donation. Dessert is included! Thursday, Nov 21st, 6:30pm at the Glencoe City Center - Grand Ballroom. See Celine Swift and sign up with your donation by November 17, and you will get reserved seating. More info at the Common Cup Corner table at church.
- Coming Together in Song - There will be a fundraising concert on Sunday afternoon, November 24th at Christ the King Church in Hutchinson. Several artists and choirs will be performing. All donations will go to support the many programs of Common Cup Ministry. It usually starts at 4pm, but watch the bulletin for specifics as the date gets closer.

Heatwole Service;



Pastor Bob, Mary and Lee Gruenhagen, playing the concertina

Heatwole continued;



Gene and Saddle giving the children's sermon!

Church happenings continued;



**Landscaping before the ramp is added on!
Thanks to Dave Swift and Dave Huebert.**

Mark your Calendars:

SUNDAY SCHOOL TIMES !!!

November 10- Christmas program practice starts at 9:00 a.m.

November 17- Kids sing during worship service

December 8- Jesus' Birthday party and Christmas program Dress Rehearsal

December 15- Christmas program

December 22 & 29- No Sunday School

January 5- Sunday School resumes

Decorating St. John's Church for Christmas will be Sat., Nov. 30, 9:30 a.m. Happy hearts and helping hands of all ages are needed.

Taking decorations down will be Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020, after church.

ANNUAL MEETING will be Sunday, January 26th after worship, with Pot luck following.

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

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

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

**Joyce Karl Birthday 11/15
Harmony River Living Center -Room 125 Phone # 320-552-2171
1555 Sherwood St. S.E.
Hutchinson, MN. 55350**

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

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

**Donald Padrnos Birthday 5/05
1181 Oakwood CT. N.W
Hutchinson, MN. 55350**

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

**Paul Volker Birthday 9/07 (Brenda Garoutte's Dad)
113 Walnut St. S.E.
Sleepy Eye, MN. 56085**

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

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

CHURCH LEADERS FOR 2019

PASTOR

Rev. Bob Taylor 763-420-6800

Cell: 612-644-0628

COUNCIL

President: David Huebert864-4724

V. Pres. David Sanken.. 320-583-7777

Treasurer: Karen Konerza.864-4554

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

Fin. Sec. Cory Garoutte 320-583-1475

Bldg. Fund Robyn Field 320-582-0356

WOMEN'S GUILD 2018 -2019

President Julie Karl587-7702

Vice Pres Lea Ette Peters864-3282

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

Treasurer Brenda Schaefer ...864-6745

Sunshine Chr: Elaine Carrigan 864-3330

CEMETERY BOARD

Jeremy Field 320-582-0319

Jerome Karl 320-587-7702

Warren Kaufmann 320-587-5676

BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE

Julie Karl587-7702

Robyn Field 320-234-6872

Elaine Carrigan...864-3330

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS & SUBSTITUTES 2019- 2020

Preschool-Mary Taylor

Grade 1st-3rd

Dawn Huebert, Andrea Wigern

4th- 5thGrade

June Knick, Jodi Sanken

6th-8th Grade

Joe & Susan Blackbird

Young Adult Class

Michelle Alsleben, Austin Field

Substitute List:

Jan & Wayne Alsleben

Laura Anderson (Madi)

Barb Buckentin

Stephanie Mielke

Grace Garoutte

YOUTH GROUP LEADERS

Roxanne Sladek 320-455-7218

Andrea Wigern..... 320-552-1292

CHURCH SECRETARY & RECORDS UPKEEP

Karen Konerza 320-864-4554

Job Sign-ups 2019

COMMUNION & ALTAR PREP

January.....Sladek
 FebruarySwift
 MarchBlackbird
 April.....Knick
 May.....Schaefer
 JuneElaine C.
 JulyKonerza
 AugustSanken
 September .B & M Alsleben
 OctoberGaroutte
 NovemberBlock
 December 2nd Nita & Lea Ette
 9th
 16th
 23rd
24th Christmas Eve
 30th.....
 January 2020Sladek

CUSTODIAN

JanuarySladek
 FebruarySwift
 March.....Blackbird
 April.....Knick
 MaySchaefer
 JuneWright
 JulyKonerza
 August.....Sanken
 September .B & M Alsleben
 OctoberGaroutte
 NovemberBlock
 December 2nd.....
 9th
 16th
 23rd
24th Christmas Eve.....
 30th
 January 2020.....Sladek

USHER/GREETER

JanuarySladek
 FebruarySwift
 MarchBlackbird
 AprilW & J Alsleben
 MaySchaefer
 JuneWright
 JulyKonerza
 August.....Konerza
 September B & M Alsleben
 October.....Garoutte
 November.....Block
 December 1st
 8th
 15th
 22nd.....
24th Christmas Eve.....
 29th
 January 2020Sladek

Please check the bulletin board for openings to serve as usher, custodian, or altar guild.

November 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Dick S.	2 Nick R.
3 Communion	4	5 Maynard R.	6 Michelle A.	7	8	9 Carter R.
10 Sunday School Starts at 9 :00 a.m.-Christmas Program practice	11	12	13	14	15 Jason E. Joyce K.	16 Chase S.
17 Orrie B.	18 Warren K.	19	20	21 Carol B.	22 Mandy G.	23
24	25	26	27	28 9:00a.m. Thanksgiving Service Randy K.	29	30 9:00 a.m. Decorate Church for Christmas

December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion 1 st Sunday of Advent Laura A.	2	3	4 Youth group Meeting 6:45 p.m.-7:45 p.m. Micael S.	5	6	7
8	9 Roger T.	10	11 Dave M.	12	13 Summer B.	14 Betty B.
15 Sunday School Christmas Program 10:30 a.m.	16 Julie K.	17	18. Youth group meeting 6:45p.m.-7:45 p.m.	19	20	21
22 NO Sunday School	23 Joel B.	24 Christmas Eve Service 5:00 p.m.	25	26	27	28
29 Mary T. NO Sunday School	30	31				

January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 Communion Take decorations down following worship Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Susie B. Holly W.	6 James P. Jerry W.	7	8	9	10 Joshua K.	11
12 Barb. B.	13 McKayka W.	14	15	16	17 Doug B.	18
19 Loren M.	20	21	22 Brian A.	23	24	25
26 Annual Meeting & Potluck following worship	27 Glen Sladek	28	29	30	31 Barb Bemis Myla F.	

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Information for the next newsletter will be due January 29th you can bring your input to me at the church, or mail it to me (821 Baxter Ave, Glencoe) or email me at chubbers67@gmail.com *Karen Konerza*

The THREE WISE WOMEN would have asked for directions.

Arrived on time.

Helped deliver the baby.

Brought practical gifts.

Cleaned the stable.

Made a casserole and.....there would have been PEACE ON EARTH!

Submitted by Lea Ette Peters