May, 2020 St. John's Messenger 82

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



St. John's Messenger May, June, & July 2020

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Special Notice about Gertens Flowers

Gertens flowers will be ready for pickup at the Swift's house (13902 125th St, Glencoe) on <u>Wednesday May 6th from 4-6pm</u>. This year, due to social distancing guidelines, it will be run a little differently from years before. For instance, the youth group will not gather for dinner and then help with the flower handouts. However, all youth who sold flowers (along with any congregation members who ordered flowers directly from me) should come during the 4-6pm pickup time to pick up your flowers.

Please enter the <u>EAST</u> driveway, park between the garage and the house. Stay in your vehicle and wait for someone to deliver flowers to your vehicle. If other vehicles are there ahead of you, please just wait in your car for your turn. This allows us to practice social distancing.

If for health reasons you are uncomfortable being there at the same time as others, or if the scheduled 4-6pm timeframe doesn't work for you, please contact Celine Swift to schedule another time during the day (Cell: 320-296-9083; Home 320-864-6188). Also feel free to call Celine if you have any questions. Thank you.

REFLECTIONS

HOW THE VIRUS STOLE EASTER by Kristi Bothur (with a nod to Dr. Suess)

Twas late in '19 when the virus began, Bringing chaos and fear to all people, each land.

People were sick, hospitals full, Doctors overwhelmed, no one in school.

As winter gave way to the promise of spring, The virus raged on, touching peasant and king.

People hid in their homes from the enemy unseen. They You Tubed and Zoomed, social-distanced, and cleaned.

April approached and churches were closed. "There won't be an Easter," the world supposed.

"There won't be church services, and egg hunts are out.

No reason for new dresses when we can't go about."

Holy Week started, as bleak as the rest. The world was focused on masks and on tests.

"Easter can't happen this year," they proclaimed. "Online and at home, it just won't be the same."

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the days came and went. The virus pressed on; it just would not relent.

The world woke Sunday and nothing had changed. The virus still menaced, the people, estranged.

"Pooh pooh to the saints," the world was grumbling. "They're finding out now that no Easter is coming.

"They're just waking up! I know just what they'll do! Their mouths will hang open a minute or two, And then all the saints will all cry boohoo.

"That noise," said the world, "would be something to hear." So it paused and the world put a hand to its ear.

And it did hear a sound coming through all the skies. It started down low, then it started to rise.

But the sound wasn't depressed. Why, this sound was triumphant! It couldn't be so! But it grew with abundance!

The world stared around, popping its eyes. Then it shook! What it saw was a shocking surprise!

Each saint in each nation, the tall and the small, Was celebrating Jesus in spite of it all!

It hadn't stopped Easter from coming! It came! Somehow or other, it came just the same!

And the world with its life quite stuck in quarantine Stood puzzling and puzzling. "Just how can it be?"

"It came without bonnets, it came without bunnies, It came without egg hunts, cantatas, or money."

Then the world thought of something it hadn't before. "Maybe Easter," it thought, "doesn't come from a store. Maybe Easter, perhaps, means a little bit more."

And what happened then? Well....the story's not done. What will YOU do? Will you share with that one Or two or more people needing hope in this night? Will you share of the source of your life in this fight?

The churches are empty - but so is the tomb, And Jesus is Victor over death, doom, and gloom. So this year at Easter, let this be our prayer, As the virus still rages all around, everywhere.

May the world see hope when it looks at God's people. May the world see the Church is not a building or steeple. May the world find Faith in Jesus' death and resurrection, May the world find Joy in a time of dejection. May 2020 be known as the year of survival, But not only that - Let it start a revival.

Sent to me by Mary Taylor and am passing it on. Karen

Pastor's Report



He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. (II Corinthians 12:9)

Paul was going through a rough time in his life. He was plagued by what he called, *a thorn in his flesh*. We don't know what that was exactly, but it was probably a physical ailment of some kind. And so, he pleaded with the Lord three times to take it away. The answer he received was not the one he expected but an answer he not only accepted but embraced with all his being.

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.

Like Paul, all of us are going through a rough time in light of the coronavirus. The coronavirus has impacted each of our lives in ways we never dreamed could happen. But it has. The question is, how will we deal with it? I know that the implications of the presence of this pandemic affects each of our lives differently but it does represent a difficulty we would rather not deal with and could certainly cause us to cry out to God, *make it go away*. And no matter how may times we ask God to *take it away*, it will still be with us for the foreseeable future. The answer the Lord gave to Paul, is the one we too should embrace:

My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.

This, my friends, is an opportunity to trust in the faithfulness and the grace of God in ways we've never or seldom had to do before. And I know that His grace will be sufficient for you and your situation as it was for Paul and his.

To God be the glory, Pastor Bob

Note: A very special thank you to Pastor Bob for keeping us all in contact with the church and his spiritual services each week and checking on each of us throughout these trying times. You are a truly God sent man.

Council Meeting Minutes: Feb 19, 2020

Council Members Present: All council members were present. Council now organized as: President: Dave Sanken, VP: Joe Blackbird, Treasurer: Karen Konerza, Financial Secretary: Cory Garoutte, Secretary: Celine Swift, Building Fund: Robyn Field, and Pastor Bob Taylor.

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

Pastor's Report:

- Visitation: Maynard Rannow, Randy and June Knick, Lillian Nemitz, Betty Benjamin, Marge Block, Duane and Gloria Wigern, Dick Swift, Marge Block, Moriah Cosby, Don Padrnos
- On Sunday Feb 16 Joe Blackbird was installed as our new Council Member.
- Lenten Services begin Feb 26th.

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

Karen Konerza gave the treasurer's report.

- Beginning balance \$ 33,511.25
- Ending balance \$ 35,523.40
- Designated Funds \$ 8,609.68
 - Memorial \$ 6,399.49
 - Benevolence \$ 756.15
 - Building \$ 350.00
 - o Choir \$ 731.04
 - Cemetery Fund \$ 220.00
 - Sunday School / VBS \$ 143.00
 - Youth Fund \$ 10.00
- General Fund \$ 26,913.72

Robyn Field reported that the Building Fund has a balance of \$ 21,476.22 Citizen's Bank: \$ 14,147.77 Vanguard: \$ 7,238.45

Financial reports were approved as given.

Old Business:

- The annual meeting went well. Thank you to Roxanne Sladek for taking meeting minutes.
- Faith Center update: The ramp is still waiting to be built, which may not happen until springtime.
- The new door stops in the Faith Center are working great!

New Business:

- Cory Garoutte provided an update call list for the new council. A few of our regular visitors have been added.
- Lea Ette Peters proposed collecting the paintings from Pastor Grunewald, adding an information plaque about him and his donation of the paintings, and hanging them for people to see, perhaps in the Faith Center. Motion/Second/Carried to proceed with the plaque and hanging the paintings in the basement where we have more visitors for potlucks and funerals.
- The donation from Pastor Bob's friend Avis will be designated toward the cemetery fund.

- The Brownton church sent an invitation to a soup diner on March 15th. It has been posted on the bulletin board.
- It was suggested that we consider changing the By-laws to state that there should not be two people from one family serve on the council at a time. After discussion about how it would be complicated to effectively define what is meant by "one family", it was decided it would be better to let the congregation's vote stand instead trying to narrowly define family in the By-laws.

Task List for the month:

- Clean out files *decided to wait until after tax season is done*
- Snow Call List for new council *Done*
- Enact Pastor contract *Done*
- Review division of council roles– *Done*
- Check Altar/Usher/Custodian duty lists Done
- Check Suggestion box –*None*
- Test elevator phone *Done*

Next council meeting date Tuesday, March 10 at 7pm.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Celine Swift / Secretary

March 10, 2020

Council Members Present: All council members were present.

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

Pastor's Report:

• Visitation: Maynard Rannow, Randy and June Knick, Lillian Nemitz, Betty Benjamin, Marge Block, Duane and Gloria Wigern, Dick Swift, Nadine Forbes, Don Padrnos

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

Karen Konerza gave the treasurer's report.

- Beginning balance \$ 35,523.40
- Ending balance \$ 34,615.13
- Designated Funds \$ 10.032.68
 - Memorial \$ 6,399.49
 - Benevolence \$ 1,106.15
 - Building \$ 650.00
 - Choir \$ 731.04
 - Cemetery Fund \$ 920.00
 - o Sunday School / VBS \$ 166.00
 - Youth Fund \$ 10.00
 - Pastoral Fund \$ 50.00

• General Fund - \$ 24,582.45

Robyn Field reported that the Building Fund has a balance of \$ 28,657.59 Citizen's Bank: \$ 21,576.27 Vanguard: \$ 7,081.32

Financial reports were approved as given.

Old Business:

- Faith Center Dave Huebert, Dave Swift and Adam Garoutte collected all the ramp lumber and supplies and moved them onto a trailer to allow for grass to grow as the ground thaws. Thanks, gentlemen!
- Water quality Dave Sanken will connect with Dave Swift and/or Dave Huebert to discuss some ideas to improve the water smell situation.

New Business:

- A congregation member commented that the grape juice used for communion this month looked too close to wine. Pastor Bob will buy some of the Welch's regular red grape juice to replace the Concord grape juice that is too dark.
- The council discussed how to respond to the Covid-19 coronavirus outbreak that is dominating the news. Since our congregation is rural, it is lower risk in our community at this time. However, to be on the cautious side, we have decided to take the following steps:
 - Pastor Bob will announce during the next service that we recommend not shaking hands as we greet one another. Instead we can "nod" a greeting, elbow bump, or just give a big smile.
 - Looking ahead, if the virus does breakout in this area, such that Hutchinson and/or Glencoe churches are asked to discontinue services and other gatherings, we would work to set up online services via YouTube, Zoom or other videoconferencing options. Pastor Bob will talk to Mike Norbomm, and Joe Blackbird will talk to Casey Blackbird to see how difficult this would be to setup if it becomes necessary.

Task List for the month:

- Update memorial plaque/book *Karen*
- Update visitor's brochure/website *Celine*
- Adjust clocks Done
- Check Altar/Usher/Custodian duty lists Done. We need ushers for April
- Check Suggestion box –*None*
- Test elevator phone *Done*

Next council meeting date Wednesday, April 8 at 7pm.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Celine Swift / Secretary

April 8, 2020

Council Members Present: All council members were present via conference call.

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

Pastor's Report:

• Since all in-person church activities have been canceled due to Covid19, Pastor Bob has been reaching out to connect with each member of the church once per week by phone.

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

Karen Konerza gave the treasurer's report.

- Beginning balance \$ 34,615.13
- Ending balance \$ 35,523.22
- Designated Funds \$ 10,754.68
 - Memorial \$ 6,399.49
 - Benevolence \$ 1,401.15
 - Building \$ 970.00
 - Choir \$ 731.04
 - Cemetery Fund \$ 990.00
 - o Sunday School / VBS \$ 203.00
 - Youth Fund \$ 10.00
 - Pastoral Fund \$ 50.00
- General Fund \$ 24,768.54

Robyn Field reported that the Building Fund has a balance of \$ 28,885.70 Citizen's Bank: \$ 21,576.27 Vanguard: \$ 6,612.30

Financial reports were approved as given.

Old Business:

- Faith Center ramp No update. Still waiting for carpenter to begin working on it again.
- Water quality Tabled at this time
- Karen Konerza is working with Lea Ette Peters to update the Memorial Book. This is tabled until they can get together to work on it.

New Business:

- The Kaufmann family, who had previously arranged to use St. John's Church for Angela's wedding shower on April 25th, asked the council if would be OK to use the church for a "drive-by shower". Motion/Second/Carried to allow the drive-by shower with social distancing. The council will wait until next month to discuss what options are available for their wedding on May 30th.
- Pastor Bob reported that Dave Huebert has been at the church cleaning up after snowplow damage to the lawn, fixing the drain tile and picking up sticks. Thanks Dave!
- Ice Cream Social the council discussed takeout and other possible options to modify the Ice Cream Social to make it work during this pandemic, but decided it was still too risky. M/S/C to cancel the Ice Cream Social for 2020. According to Dave Sanken's memory, this is probably the first time it has been canceled since it started, in one form or another, 50 or so years ago. Dave Swift will update the church website to reflect the cancelation.
- VBS is typically scheduled to be held in late July. The VBS planners would like to know by mid-June if we need to cancel. Council will discuss this next month.
- Offerings A few people have mailed in their offerings since the church has been closed. Church finances are OK for now, so the council asks everyone to set aside their offerings each week and hold on to them for the time being. A plan for collecting offerings will be decided at a later date.

- A piece of linoleum in the Faith Center hallway has lifted. Joe blackbird will work with Dave Huebert to take care of it.
- Confirmation Sunday, which was scheduled to be the 1st Sunday in May, will be postponed until Fall.

Task List for the month:

- Church/grounds assessment *Looks OK for now*
- Get burning permit *Joe Blackbird*
- Pay 1st half taxes *Robyn Field, by 5/15*
- Setup dehumidifier *Cory Garoutte*
- Change furnace filters Dave Sanken
- Call Foster Mechanical to check air conditioner Dave Sanken
- Teacher recognition Tabled at this time, but we want all teachers to know how very much we appreciate them!
- Check Altar/Usher/Custodian duty lists Tabled
- Check Suggestion box Tabled If church members have a suggestion while the church is closed, please contact a council member directly.
- Test elevator phone *Tabled*

NOTE: I got the new burning permit. There are a couple of changes. If anyone plans to burn at the church they must call dispatch at 888-440 -3134. My name Joe Blackbird and number 320-583-1026 are on the permit. When someone burns at the church they must give the dispatcher their name and number.

Next council meeting date Wednesday, May 13 at 7pm.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Celine Swift / Secretary

Sunday School Happenings:

Since the Sunday School has not been able to meet, with the help of Mary Taylor, Roxanne and Eli Sladek, packets were delivered to their homes to help prepare the students for the Lent and Easter season. We hope to make another delivery at the end of April.

We are also having the Sunday School kids participate in the "World of Hearts" movement. The goal is to spread love and happiness during this uncertain time by putting up hearts on the church doors for others to see. (see picture below)

SAVE THE DATE: Please join us on July 26-29 for a Vacation Bible School mountaintop adventure! The kids will discover Jesus' power can pull them through life's ups and downs. More information to come. Contact Jodi, Andrea or Mary T, if you have questions or are available to serve in any capacity!





Sunday School packets. Putting up hearts on the church door for others to see.



Joe & Susie Blackbird gave their students a devotional book like Zach is holding.

SAVE THE DATE!!!!



Save the date!!!

Invite your friends!

When:

July 26-29, 2020 6:00 PM-8:15 PM

Where:

St. John's Church Hassan Valley Twp, 13372 Nature Avenue Hutchinson, MN



Save the date!!!

Invite your friends!

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July 26-29, 2020 6:00 PM-8:15 PM

Where:

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Save the date!!!

Invite your friends!

When:

July 26-29, 2020 6:00 PM-8:15 PM

Where:

St. John's Church Hassan Valley Twp, 13372 Nature Avenue Hutchinson, MN REMEMBER WHEN we were all togeher!!!! It will come again, hopefully before we see this type of weather!!

Sunday Schools winter fun Sunday "Jesus Loves You Snow Much"















Snack time after a fun time outside!!

St John's Youth Page

What we've been doing:

 As with all other areas of our life Youth Group activities have been temporarily put on hold. The Seder dinner and Palm Sunday Breakfast were not able to happen when we planned but I have faith that this Corvid 19 thing will pass and will help us become better Christians when we return to a more regular daily life. God is good all the time! • Youth group provided packets for younger children to enjoy this Easter season from surplus supplies we had left from previous Lenten Fairs. The packets were dropped off at doorsteps for kids to do at home during this time of social distancing.

Looking Ahead:

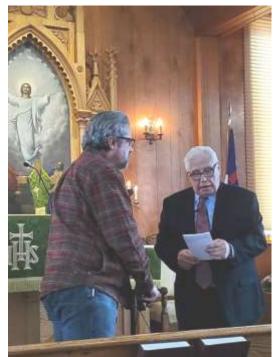
- Gerten's fundraiser orders are turned in and will be ready May 6th. Pickup and delivery of flowers may be different this year. Watch texts for details coming closer to that date.
- Other activities will be scheduled as soon as we are able to do them together again! Stay healthy everyone and I look forward to seeing you soon!

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

Some pictures of some of the flowers we'll be getting soon, we hope!!



Church Happenings:



Joe Blackbird being installed as member of the council on Feb. 16th.



Kids and adults alike watch with anticipation as Pastor Bob tries to drink water without bending his elbow for a children's sermon. After getting a little wet, he shared with the congregation that the Holy Spirit is needed to understand God's word, just like an elbow is used to help us eat and drink. Mark your Calendars:

Summer Hours begin on Sunday, May 24th Worship 9:30 a.m.

With sadness in our hearts there will be NO ICE CREAM SOCIAL IN 2020, THINK "BIG" FOR 2021!!!!

Bible School, plans are set for July 26th-29th from 6:00 PM-8:15 PM. There is a page in the Sunday School part of the newsletter with 3 bookmarkers you can cut out and give to a friend or friends to join us. If you need more let me know (Karen or Andrea) and we'll get you more.

CONFIRMATION will be held in the fall.

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

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 9/07 113 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. Hutchinson, MN. 55350

(Brenda Garoutte's Dad)

CHURCH LEADERS FOR 2020

PASTOR

WOMEN'S GUILD 2020

President Lea Ette Peters....864-3282 Vice Pres. Julie Karl.......587-7702 Sec. Susie Blackbird......583-1025 Treasurer Brenda Schaefer...864-6745 Sunshine Chr:Elaine Carrigan864-3330

CEMETERY BOARD

BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE

Robyn Field	
Elaine Carrigan	
Mavis Mielke	

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS & SUBSTITUTES 2019- 2020

<u>Preschool-</u>Mary Taylor <u>Grade 1st-3rd</u> Dawn Huebert, Andrea Wigern <u>4th- 5thGrade</u> June Knick, Jodi Sanken <u>6th-8th Grade</u> Joe & Susan Blackbird <u>Young Adult Class</u> Michelle Alsleben, Austin Field

Substitute List:

Jan & Wayne Alsleben Laura Anderson (Madi) Barb Buckentin Stephanie Mielke Grace Garoutte

YOUTH GROUP LEADERS

CHURCH SECRETARY & RECORDS

UPKEEP

Karen Konerza...... 320-864-4554

Job Sign-ups 2020

<u>COMMUNION & ALTAR</u> <u>PREP</u>

CUSTODIAN

USHER/GREETER

January Sladek FebruarySwift MarchSwift MarchBlackbird April May JuneLeaEtte & Nita July August September .B & M Alsleben OctoberGaroutte November December 6th 13 th 20 th 24 th Christmas Eve 27 th January 2021Sladek	JanuarySladek FebruarySwift MarchBlackbird AprilKnick MayJuneWright JuneWright JulyAugust August September .B & M Alsleben OctoberGaroutte November December 6 th 13 th 20 th 4 th Christmas Eve 27 th	JanuarySladek FebruarySwift MarchBlackbird April May JuneWright July August August September B & M Alsleben October September G th December 6 th 13th 20 th 24 th Christmas Eve 27 th
January 2021Sladek	January 2021 Sladek	January 2021 Sladek

Once we are back in our house of worship, maybe some of you will like to change your duties, if you were suppose to do them in the months we have not worshiped in the church. Please change it on the list if you find a blank opening. THANK YOU.

May 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Joe B.	2
3 Communion Bridget B.	4	5 Don P.	6 Sarah F. Kim M. Mariyah S.	7	8	9
10 Bonnie K.	11	12 Sue R.	13	14	15 Pastor Bob	16 Dave Sanken
17 Eli S.	18	19 Dennis S. Angela U.	20 Cody & Cory R.	21	22	23
24Summer Hours begin: 9:30 a.m. Rachel M.	25 Jessica A.	26	27	28 Mary Ann F. June K. Rachel S.	29	30
31 worship 9:30 a.m.						

June 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1.	2	3 Cory G.	4	5	6
7communion Worship 9:30 a.m. Mary H. Nita V.	8 Cameron M.	9	10 Lillian N.	11 Alan K.	12	13 Chandler S. Dave Swift
14 Outdoor service 9:30 a.m.	15	16	17 Oakley S.	18	19	20
21 Worship 9:30 a.m. Gary F.	22	23 Ashley A.	24	25 Jon B.	26	27
28 Worship 9:30 a.m. Charlee B. Dave H. Alex S. Danielle M.	29	30				

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Kyle W.	4
5 Communion Worship 9:30 a.m.	6 Laura Streeter	7	8 Dawn N.	9	10	11
12 Outdoor service 9:30 a.m. Conner M.	13. Owen R.	14.	15	16	17	18 Alan M.
19 Worship 9:30 a.m.	20	21 Jeremy F.	22 Eric R. Tom S.	23	24	25
26 Worship 9:30 a.m. BIBLE	27 SCHOOL	28 6:00 PM	29 Andy M. 8:15 PM	30	31	

July 2020

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Information for the next newsletter will be due July 27th you can bring your input to me at the church, or mail it to me (821 Baxter Ave, Glencoe) or email me at <u>chubbers67@gmail.com</u> Karen Konerza