

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



St. John's Messenger

Nov., Dec. 2020-Jan.2021

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REFLECTIONS

Too Busy for a Friend.....

One day a teacher asked her students to list the names of the other students in the room on two sheets of paper, leaving a space between each name.

Then she told them to think of the nicest thing they could say about each of their classmates and write it down.

It took the remainder of the class period to finish their assignment, and as the students left the room, each one handed in the papers.

That Saturday, the teacher wrote down the name of each student on a separate sheet of paper, and listed what everyone else had said about that individual.

On Monday she gave each student his or her list. Before long, the entire class was smiling. 'Really?' she heard whispered. 'I never knew that I meant anything to anyone!' and, 'I didn't know others liked me so much,' were most of the comments.

No one ever mentioned those papers in class again. She never knew if they discussed them after class or with their parents, but it didn't matter.

The exercise had accomplished its purpose. The students were happy with themselves and one another. That group of students moved on.

Several years later, one of the students was killed in Vietnam and his teacher attended the funeral of that special student. She had never seen a serviceman in a military coffin before. He looked so handsome, so mature.

The church was packed with his friends. One by one those who loved him took a last walk by the coffin. The teacher was the last one to bless the coffin.

As she stood there, one of the soldiers who acted

as pallbearer came up to her. 'Were you Mark's math teacher?' he asked. She nodded: 'yes.' Then he said: 'Mark talked about you a lot.'

After the funeral, most of Mark's former classmates went together to a luncheon. Mark's mother and father were there, obviously waiting to speak with his teacher.

'We want to show you something,' his father said, taking a wallet out of his pocket 'They found this on Mark when he was killed.. We thought you might recognize it.'

Opening the billfold, he carefully removed two worn pieces of notebook paper that had obviously been taped, folded and refolded many times. The teacher knew without looking that the papers were the ones on which she had listed all the good things each of Mark's classmates had said about him.

'Thank you so much for doing that,' Mark's mother said. 'As you can see, Mark treasured it.'

All of Mark's former classmates started to gather around. Charlie smiled rather sheepishly and said, 'I still have my list. It's in the top drawer of my desk at home.' Chuck's wife said, 'Chuck asked me to put his in our wedding album.' 'I have mine too,' Marilyn said. 'It's in my diary' Then Vicki, another classmate, reached into her pocketbook, took out her wallet and showed her worn and frazzled list to the group. 'I carry this with me at all times,' Vicki said and without batting an eyelash, she continued 'I think we all saved our lists'

That's when the teacher finally sat down and cried. She cried for Mark and for all his friends who would never see him again.

The density of people in society is so thick that we forget that life will end one day. And we don't know when that one day will be.

So please, tell the people you love and care for, that they are special and important. Tell them, before it is too late.

I believe I put this in a newsletter a few years back, but I came across it again and thought it maybe repeated again. We've had a bad 2020 and we all forget because we haven't seen all friends during these difficult time ***Karen***

Pastor's Report



Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, ² for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. 1 Thessalonians 5:2,3

Jan Markell, in here most recent issue of "*Understanding the Times*", reminds us that last day events happen quickly and even suddenly. The Greek word "quickly" is *tachos* is used eight times in the book of *Revelation*.

We often see sudden destruction falling upon the wicked in the bible. The unrepentant living during Noah's time experienced a sudden and catastrophic flood (Gen. 6-9). They had 12- years to repent as Noah preached to them, but they chose to ignore him and judgment suddenly fell (Gen. 6:3-7).

In 2020, everything has happened suddenly.

- Our fairly ordinary world suddenly vanished.
- Stores sold out.
- Fear gripped America and the world, suddenly.
- People were ordered to suddenly change their lifestyles.
- People lost businesses suddenly.
- A U.S. President went from popular to "the cause of it all" suddenly.
- Reality became altered suddenly.
- Cities, turned into ghost towns suddenly.
- Mankind became lovers of life, treacherous, and without self-control suddenly.
- Virtual became the new way of doing virtually suddenly.
- The U.S. economy went from the best ever to horrible suddenly.
- ***Churches went from essential to irreverent in the eyes of the world suddenly.***
- ***Order turned into chaos suddenly with racial tension.***
- ***That tension suddenly turned to lawlessness.***

- *Lawlessness turned to anarchy suddenly.*
- *The cry for police protection suddenly turned to “abolish the police.”*
- *Common sense suddenly turned to strong delusion.*

Is there a message in all of this? Something else will happen suddenly – the Rapture of the Church! It will take place in a twinkling of an eye. Could it be that God is telling us that something of eternal significance is about to happen? Could the Rapture of the Church be coming anytime soon? It certainly could, even tomorrow. Are you ready for that life changing moment? Paul describes that critical moment of time for us in I Thessalonians chapter 4:14-18.

¹⁴ For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. ¹⁵ According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Pastor Bob

Council Minutes:

August 12, 2020

Council Members Present: David Sanken, Cory Garoutte, Karen Konerza, Celine Swift and Pastor Bob Taylor were present. Joe Blackbird was absent. Robyn Field has resigned from the council.

Dave Sanken called the meeting to order. Pastor Bob opened the meeting with prayer and a devotional based on Psalm 12.

Pastor’s Report:

- Confirmation Catch up Classes - Aug. 12,29,26. Confirmation Sunday - September 20,2020
- Confirmation 2020/2021 – September 16 1st class – 5 students – new material, “Understanding the Faith”, by P&R Publishing, a one-year preparation for members curriculum utilizing the Westminster Shorter Catechism – material for year 2 to be determined
- I will be gone on Sunday, September 13, 2020, to officiate at our son Chris’ wedding in Wisconsin – Barry Marchant will lead us in worship on September 13th.
- I would encourage the council to maintain the mask requirement with several allowances: allow masks to be removed during worship, because we are social distancing; allow worshippers to sing, again because we are social distancing; when exiting, masks again are to be worn.

- Mike Norrbom created a Facebook page where he posts the Sunday morning worship service: stjohnscccc

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

Karen Konerza gave the treasurer's report.

- Beginning balance - \$ 37,157.67
- Ending balance - \$ 42,527.66
- Designated Funds - \$ 13,699.68
 - Memorial - \$ 6,399.49
 - Benevolence - \$ 2,451.15
 - Building - \$ 2425.00
 - Choir - \$ 731.04
 - Cemetery Fund - \$ 1330.00
 - Sunday School / VBS - \$ 233.00
 - Youth Fund - \$ 30.00
 - Pastoral Fund - \$ 100.00
- General Fund - \$ 28,827.98

Building Fund: The Citizen's Bank balance is: \$ 17,382.55. Vanguard balance was not readily available.

Financial reports were approved as given.

Old Business:

- Faith Center ramp – No change
- Water quality – tabled at this time
- VBS- Virtual lessons were completed, packets were sent home with the students and the event was a success.
- Teacher Recognition/Fall Sunday school kick off – the council will coordinate this to happen at Sunday School kick off in the fall.
- Clean out Files – Dave Sanken took care of this.
- Service plans
 - The council decided to begin self-serve bulletins to minimize handling. They will be placed on the card table in the entry.
 - We have received good feedback on using the juice/wafer communion kits. Additional communion kits have been ordered but are on backorder.
 - The council discussed Pastor Bob's suggestions to allow mask removal during services. M/S/C to continue to follow the mask ordinance, especially in light of the recent outbreak in Glencoe.
- Background checks: Two members submitted paperwork to update their background checks, and a few others allowed their background checks to expire. Mary Huebert has input the data and has received the reports back as all clear. As per St. John's Policy, two council members, Dave Sanken and Cory Garoutte, will verify the reports and sign the policy book with the updates.

New Business:

- Building fund coordinator – Pastor Bob will make an announcement in church to see if anyone is interested in serving on the council to fill the vacated position. Dave Sanken will speak with Joe Blackbird to see if he would cover the position until a replacement is appointed.
- Sunday school plans for the fall from teachers – Sunday School teachers have been meeting to make plans for the fall. They surveyed the families and found that 6 students would prefer in-person class, 14 preferred virtual, and 5 did not respond to the survey. The teachers are planning to do a combination of

in-person and virtual, and are laying out safety plans for masks and sanitizing. The council liked the plan they laid out.

- Confirmation classes will resume September 15th.
- M/S/C to accept Casey Blackbird's request for membership release as he moves to Louisville, KY to attend seminary. Celine Swift will send him a letter of release. Casey, you will be missed!
- The choir will not resume at this time.
- Adult Sunday School can resume in the fall with masks and social distancing.
- The well passed its annual inspection. The report needs to be kept on file for 10 years. It will be stored with the other well paperwork in the binder in the cupboard on the north wall above the altar cloths.

Task List for the month:

- Review stock options – *M/S/C to skip this task until next year.*
- Update newspaper and website – *Karen Konerza and Celine Swift*
- Change sign – *Dave Sanken*
- Pay property insurance – *Dave Sanken will make sure this gets done before 9/23*
- Review need for clean out - *M/S/C to skip this task until next year.*
- Review supply list – *Joe Blackbird will review the supply list.*
- Check Altar/Usher/Custodian duty lists – *Done*
- Check Suggestion box – *None*
- Test elevator phone – *Done*

Next council meeting date Wednesday, September 9 at 7pm.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Celine Swift / Secretary

September 9, 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 about how in 2020 the world seems turned upside down, and how we can learn from Paul and Silas. In Acts 17, they utilized the opportunity to continue to declare the Gospel.

Pastor's Report:

- September 20th will be a busy Sunday: confirmation students will be examined and confirmed; bibles will be given to 3rd graders; Adult Sunday School begins.
- Confirmation begins on Wednesday, September 16th with 5 students
- Barry Marchant will lead us in worship next Sunday, September 13th. We need a member of the council to welcome Barry, handle the announcements and introduce Barry to the congregation. Dave Sanken volunteered.
- Mary and I will be leaving for Wisconsin tomorrow and will return sometime on Sunday.

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

Karen Konerza gave the treasurer's report.

- Beginning balance - \$ 42,527.66
- Ending balance - \$ 46,083.99
- Designated Funds - \$
 - Cemetery Spraying - \$ 50.00
 - Memorial - \$ 6,399.49
 - Benevolence - \$ 2826.15
 - Building - \$ 3050.00
 - Choir - \$ 731.04
 - Cemetery Fund - \$ 1665.00
 - Sunday School / VBS - \$ 233.00
 - Youth Fund - \$ 30.00
 - Pastoral Fund - \$ 100.00
- General Fund - \$ 30,999.31

Building Fund: The Citizen's Bank balance is: \$ 17,388.95. Vanguard balance was not readily available. Joe Blackbird will contact Robyn Field to find out how to access Vanguard statements.

Financial reports were approved as given.

Old Business:

- Faith Center ramp – No change
- Water quality – tabled at this time
- Sunday School plans for the fall are underway. Sunday School starts on 9/13. Adult Sunday School resumes on 9/20, using masks and social distancing.
- Teacher Recognition – Pastor Bob will recognize the teachers during the service on 9/27.
- Service plans – We have been receiving good feedback. We will keep the same service options at this time. We are so thankful to have Mary Huebert back on the organ, and Mike Norbomm handling broadcasting technology.
- Choir – will not resume at this time.
- Background checks: Completed for 2 members. Policy book has been updated to record this.
- Bldg fund coordinator – Joe Blackbird will handle the building fund coordinator duties for now.
- Pay prop insurance – It is ready to send.

New Business:

- In accordance with our financial policy, Mike Norbomm will be considered an independent contractor and receive a 1099.
- Confirmation classes will resume September 16th.
- Hutchinson Fire and Safety will service the fire extinguishers this week.
- Online giving – Joe Blackbird suggested pursuing the option of online giving. Karen Konerza will contact Citizen's Bank to find out how to set it up, and work with Cory Garoutte to figure out how to make sure offerings are recorded by the Financial Secretary.
- It was brought up that historically we've taken video of our property for insurance purposes, storing it offsite. Pastor Bob will ask Dave Huebert if he know where the video may be. Joe Blackbird will look though the Building & Grounds file box and see if it is there. If we don't find it, we should revisit doing another video for our records

Task List for the month:

- Snow Removal bids – *Dave Sanken will get a bid from Kurt Bussler*

- Spray for Japanese beetles – *Not needed yet*
- Winterize hose reel – *Gene Konerza*
- Faith Center thermostat turned to heat – *Done*
- Check Altar/Usher/Custodian duty lists – *Done*
- Check Suggestion box – *None*
- Test elevator phone – *Unable to test since phone line is down. Joe Blackbird will investigate and contact Nuvera if repair is needed.*

Next council meeting date Wednesday, October 14 at 7pm.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Celine Swift / Secretary

October 14, 2020

Council Members Present: All council members were present except Karen Konerza, who was excused.

Dave Sanken called the meeting to order. Pastor Bob opened the meeting with prayer and a devotional based on James 1. If we look intently into the Word, God will fashion in us even greater Christ-like character.

Pastor's Report:

- I think all of you know about the Fall Fun Festival, scheduled for Oct. 31st from 3-5 p.m. Our creative Sunday School teachers are looking for ways to interject some fun activities for the families and children of our congregation. I'm so thankful for the determination of many in our congregation to battle the coronavirus in creative ways.
- I would like to suggest that we consider helping Casey Blackbird with his seminary expenses. My suggestion would be that we contribute \$500 for each semester he is in seminary.
- Confirmation is underway for 2020 with six students.
- Thank you to the congregation for the huge fruit basket! Mary and I are greatly blessed by each one in our church family.

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

Karen Konerza gave the treasurer's report.

- Beginning balance - \$ 46,083.99
- Ending balance - \$ 47,502.10
- Designated Funds - \$ 15,504.68
 - Cemetery Spraying - \$ 50.00
 - Memorial - \$ 6,399.49
 - Benevolence - \$ 3026.15
 - Building - \$ 3150.00
 - Choir - \$ 731.04
 - Cemetery Fund - \$ 1785.00
 - Sunday School / VBS - \$ 233.00
 - Youth Fund - \$ 30.00

- Pastoral Fund - \$ 100.00
- General Fund - \$ 31,977.42

Joe Blackbird gave the Building Fund report: The Citizen's Bank balance is: \$ 10,146.37. Vanguard balance is \$7573.40. Joe is now authorized on the Citizen's account.

Financial reports were approved as given.

Old Business:

- Faith Center ramp – Some progress. Ongoing.
- Water quality – tabled at this time
- Teacher Recognition – Bob will do recognition during a Sunday Service.
- Service plans during pandemic – remains the same
- Choir – will not resume at this time.
- Hutch Fire and Safely serviced the fire extinguishers.
- Online giving – Karen got some information from Citizen's bank. It appears that there is a monthly and per-transaction fee for this service. M/S/C to discontinue pursuing the idea.
- Video of our property for insurance purposes: the council searched and made some calls and drew the conclusion that we do not have a video of our property. We will add it to our task list to make sure it gets done periodically. A flash drive containing the video can be stored with the secretary's notes or with the Building & Grounds paperwork.
- Telephone not working – Joe Blackbird called the church and confirmed we can reach the answering message, but we still can't call out. He will call the phone company to get it repaired.

New Business:

- Fall Festival – October 31, 3-5pm – The committee is firming up their plans and ready to go ahead with the event.
- Snow removal bid – Curt Bussler offered the same price as last year. M/S/C to accept his bid.
- Scholarship for Casey Blackbird – M/S/C to suggest to the Benevolence Committee to give a \$500/semester (\$1000/year) scholarship to Casey as he pursues his training for ministry. Celine will contact the committee with this proposal.

Task List for the month:

- Pay 2nd half of property taxes – *Joe Blackbird*
- Accept Snow Removal bid - *Done*
- Change furnace filters– *Dave Sanken / Michael Sanken*
- Put away dehumidifier - *Cory*
- Call Foster Mechanical to check furnace – *Dave Sanken / Michael Sanken*
- Check Church Altar/Usher/Custodian list – *Pastor Bob will announce we need help for November*
- Suggestion box- *none*
- Test elevator/phone – *waiting for phone repair*

Next council meeting date Wednesday, November 11 at 7pm.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Celine Swift / Secretary

Sunday School Happenings:

First Day of Sunday School!!!





St. John's Youth Group

Trunk or Treat will be held on October 31 from 3 to 5PM in the church parking lot. Come join us for games, trunk or treat and food. Invite friends!

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

Church Happenings:



On August 9th, Casey sharing about his call into the Seminary with the congregation.



On September 20th, 3rd graders received their Bibles, Josh Knick, Emma Bluhm, and Myla Forbes.



Also on September 20th we had Confirmation for these three students, Owen Reilein, Chase Schaefer, and Hannah Wigern.

Mark your Calendars:

November is Food Shelf month. A table is set up in the front entry to share grocery items or a monetary gift. Thank you for sharing with the less fortunate in McLeod County

Thanksgiving Service will be Thursday, Nov. 26th at 9:30 a.m.

Christmas decorating will be done on Saturday, Dec. 5th 9:30 a.m. All ages welcome!!!

Taking decorations down will be done on Sunday Jan 3rd following worship. More hands are needed.

Christmas Eve Service will be at 5:00 p.m.

Annual Meeting will be January 24, 2021

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**

**Dick Swift Birthday 11/01
1420 Prairie Ave. #119
Glencoe, MN. 55336**

Please note Dick has moved!!!

**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.
Hutchinson, MN. 55350**

CHURCH LEADERS FOR 2020

PASTOR

Rev. Bob Taylor 763-420-6800

Cell: 612-644-0628

COUNCIL

President: Dave Sanken. 320-583-7777

V. Pres. Joe Blackbird .. 320-583-1026

Treasurer: Karen Konerza. 864-4554

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

Fin. Sec. Cory Garoutte 320-583-1475

Bldg. Fund:

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 Carrigan 864-3330

CEMETERY BOARD

Jeremy Field 320-582-0319

Jerome Karl 320-587-7702

Warren Kaufmann 320-587-5676

BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE

Robyn Field 320-234-6872

Elaine Carrigan 864-3330

Mavis Mielke 320-328-5339

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS & SUBSTITUTES 2019- 2020

Preschool- Mary Taylor

Grade 1st-3rd

Dawn Huebert, Andrea Wigern

4th- 5th Grade

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 2020

COMMUNION & ALTAR PREP

January..... Sladek
FebruarySwift
MarchBlackbird
April.....
May.....
JuneLeaEtte & Nita
July Schaefer
August
September .B & M Alsleben
October Garoutte
NovemberSanken
December Mavis
13th
20th
24thChristmas Eve
27th
January 2021Sladek

CUSTODIAN

January Sladek
FebruarySwift
March..... Blackbird
April..... Knick
May
JuneWright
July Schaefer
August.....
September .B & M Alsleben
October Garoutte
November
December 6th
13th
20th
4th Christmas Eve.....
27th
January 2021 Sladek

USHER/GREETER

JanuarySladek
February Swift
March Blackbird
April
May
JuneWright
July Schaefer
August.....
September B & M Alsleben
October..... Garoutte
November.....
December 6th
13th
20th
24th Christmas Eve.....
27th
January 2021 Sladek

PLEASE:

WE NEED HELP FOR NOVEMBER & DECEMBER!!!!

November 2020

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

December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Laura A.	2	3	4 Micheal S.	5 Decorating Church for Christmas
6 communion	7	8	9 Roger T.	10	11 Dave M.	12
13 Summer B.	14 Betty B.	15	16 Juile K	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Joel B.	24	25 Christmas Eve Service 5:00 p.m.	26
27	28	29 Mary T.	30	31		

January 2021

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

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Information for the next newsletter will be due Jan. 27th 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