

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



St. John's Messenger

Nov., Dec., 2021, January 2022

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REFLECTIONS

Someone has written these beautiful words. Do read and try to understand the deep meaning of it. They are like the ten commandments to follow in life all the time.

- 1. Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout.**
- 2. So why is a car's windshield so large and the rear view mirror so small? Because our past is not as important as our future. So, look ahead and move on.**
- 3. Friendship is like a book. It takes few seconds to burn, but it takes years to write.**
- 4. All things in life are temporary. If it's going well, enjoy it, that won't last long. If it's going badly, don't worry, that won't last long either.**
- 5. Old friends are gold! New friends are diamonds! If you get a diamond, don't forget the gold! Because to hold a diamond, you always need a base of gold!**
- 6. Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, God smiles from above and says, "Relax, sweetheart, it's just a bend, not the end!"**
- 7. When God solves your problems, you have faith in His abilities; when God doesn't solve your problems, He has faith in your abilities.**
- 8. A blind person asked St. Anthony, "Can there be anything worse than losing eyesight?" He replied, "Yes, losing your vision!"**
- 9. When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them; sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.**
- 10. Worrying does not take away tomorrow's troubles, it takes away today's peace.**

Pastor's Report



Isaiah 55:11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

The word "farmer" means "worker of the earth".

What does a farmer do? If he or she works hard at preparing the ground for the sowing of seed. Each year, the farmer waits in expectation for the harvest. Hopefully, he tilled the ground well and the seed sank deep into the rich soil. Hopefully, watering was consistent and the seed will grow and bear large abundant harvest. But really, the farmer can't know for sure until many months have passed and it's time for the harvest.

Perhaps you know that one of the trees for which Israel is best known is the olive tree. It doesn't take months; it takes YEARS for an olive tree to develop fruit! Hmmm. Who wants to plant a tree that doesn't bear fruit for many years? But guess what, once it starts bearing fruit it can keep producing on producing fruit for dozens of years! That should be of great encouragement to us personally.

All who belong to the Savior are spiritual farmers – we are His workers, planting the seed of His word wherever we go, like the fabled Johnny Appleseed. It is our privilege to be used of God to bring about a great, eternal harvest! What we often lack is the patience to wait to see fruit! We want those seeds to sprout right now and we lose heart when we don't see instant results.

But my friends, the Lord promises that His Word will not go forth in vain, but will accomplish what He pleases and shall prosper where He sends it! Our job is to be faithful and patient! Let's not get discouraged when we don't see our efforts producing fruit. But the fruit will come! Be patient! Keep planting His word in the lives of those we know and love! And expect a bountiful harvest in His time!

Pastor Bob

Council Minutes:

August 11, 2021

Council Members Present: All council members except Karen Konerza were present.

Joe Blackbird called the meeting to order. Pastor Bob opened the meeting with prayer and a devotional about seeing God's wisdom in nature, his works of creation.

Pastor's Report:

- Confirmation will begin 9/15 with 3 to 4 students. Pastor Bob is reviewing a potential new curriculum, and plans to get a letter out to the confirmation families this week.

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

Karen Konerza gave the treasurer's report.

- Beginning balance - \$ 73,598.66
- Ending balance - \$ 77,616.99
- Designated Funds - \$ 15,799.21
 - Cemetery Spraying - \$ 50.00
 - Memorial - \$ 6819.49
 - Benevolence - \$ 3276.15
 - Building - \$ 1495.00
 - Choir - \$ 731.04
 - Cemetery Fund - \$ 2717.53
 - Sunday School / VBS - \$ 285.00
 - Youth – 20.00
 - Pastoral Fund - \$ 405.00
- General Fund - \$ 61,817.78

Brian Alsleben gave the Building Fund report: The Citizen's Bank balance is: \$ 16,752.69. Vanguard balance is \$ 8,491.78.

The financial reports were approved as given.

Old Business:

- Update on shingles repair – Cory Garoutte is reaching out to Travis Brecht of TLB Construction to quote the job.
- Brian Alsleben has arranged for the carpet to be cleaned by Dave Trimbo on Wednesday 8/18. The council has removed the loose furniture pieces to give open access to the carpet, and will return the items to their places before the service on 8/22. Celine Swift will make sure the door is unlocked for Dave.

New Business:

- Heatwole is back on. Mary Huebert and Mike Norbomm will be there for the music and sound. Brian Alsleben and Joe Blackbird will make sure all the necessary equipment is brought to Heatwole.

- Motion/Second/Carried to approve Julie Karl's request that the Karl family use the church Sunday 10/17 for Alice's 90th Birthday.
- The council discussed options for responding to the recent increased infection rate of Covid due to the Delta variant. M/S/C that if the state mandates masks indoors, we will follow suit. M/S/C that the Choir may resume when Mary Huebert is ready.

Task List for the month:

- Review stock options – *M/S/C to transfer to Vanguard anything in checking over \$15,000.*
- Update newspaper/website hours (*Karen will update newspaper. Website updates automatically.*)
- Change sign for winter hours – *Joe Blackbird*
- Pay Property Insurance- *Brian Alsleben will call to make sure we get the bill on time this year.*
- Review need for "clean-out" – *none this year.*
- Review usher/altar/custodian duty lists – *OK*
- Suggestion box – *None*
- Test elevator/phone – *done*

Next council meeting date Wednesday, September 8 at 6pm.

M/S/C to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Celine Swift / Secretary

September 8, 2021

Council Members Present: All council members except Joe Blackbird were present.

Brian Alsleben called the meeting to order. Pastor Bob opened the meeting with prayer and a devotional based on Psalm 26. "Test me, Lord, and try me, examine my heart and my mind." We should daily ask God to examine our hearts.

Pastor's Report:

- Visitation: Dick Swift, Maynard Rannow, Marge Block, Betty Benjamin
- Confirmation begins 9/15 with four students.

Karen Konerza gave the treasurer's report.

- Beginning balance - \$ 77,616.99
- Ending balance - \$ 30,001.18
- Designated Funds - \$ 14,646.21
 - Cemetery Spraying - \$ 100.00
 - Memorial - \$ 6819.49
 - Benevolence - \$ 3436.15
 - Building - \$ 0 (paid out to Building Fund)
 - Choir - \$ 731.04
 - Cemetery Fund - \$ 2782.53
 - Sunday School / VBS - \$ 285.00
 - Youth – 20.00
 - Pastoral Fund - \$ 450.00

- General Fund - \$ 15,376.97

Brian Alsleben gave the Building Fund report: The Citizen's Bank balance is: \$ 8741.01. Vanguard balance is \$ 51,573.82. This includes transfer of \$43,000 into investments from General Fund. Insurance payment of \$9316.68 was paid this month, plus \$300 for shampooing the carpet.

The secretary's minutes and financial reports were approved as given.

Old Business:

- Update on shingles repair –The council has approved Travis Brecht of TLB to do the repair up to a cost of \$300.
- \$43,000 was transferred from the General Fund to Vanguard to take advantage of better getting a better return on investment.
- Church sign, website, and newspaper announcements have all be updated for winter hours.
- The Heatwole church event was another wonderful success, with at least 62 in attendance at the service.
- Brian Alsleben has paid the insurance bill, and noted it has gone up significantly in cost. He will also follow-up to see if there is anything we can do for a better rate.
- The choir will resume this fall.

New Business:

- There have been some complaints that the area on the south side of the sanctuary can be too cold with the A/C is running. Celine Swift will reprogram the thermostat to increase the temperature two degrees. Cory Garoutte will look into if something can be done to redirect the air flow more towards the center of the sanctuary.
- Hutch Fire and Safety has done their annual inspection of our fire extinguishers.
- The lawn mowers have reported that the new grass on the south side of the parking lot is quite rough to mow over. Dave Huebert has volunteered to roll it some time when the ground is soft, either this fall or in the spring. Brian Alsleben will communicate this to the mowers.
- The council approved via email to allow Nuvera to use our church parking lot on 9/30 for a neighborhood meeting about new fiber cable for internet service that they plan to install in the area.

Task List for the month:

- Send notice for snow removal bids – *Brian Alsleben*
- Spray for Japanese beetles - *Brian Alsleben will talk to Joe Blackbird to make a plan*
- Winterize hose reel outside – *Brian Alsleben*
- Faith Center Thermostat to Heat – *Celine Swift*
- Update video of property/contents – *OK for now. Last done Nov 2020*
- Review usher/altar/custodian duty lists – *OK for Sept and Oct*
- Suggestion box – *None*
- Test elevator/phone – *done*

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

M/S/C to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Celine Swift / Secretary

October 13, 2021

Council Members Present: All council members except Cory Garoutte were present.

Joe Blackbird called the meeting to order. Pastor Bob opened the meeting with prayer and a devotional based on Psalm 85, a beautiful psalm that encompasses God's kindness, judgment and restoration.

Pastor's Report:

- I was able to serve communion to Dick Swift and Dave and Celine Swift at Grand Meadows in Glencoe. I was hoping to serve communion to Maynard Rannow but Cedar Crest in Silver Lake was not open to visitors.
- Our confirmation class got off the ground this past Wednesday with three students.
- Kyle and Jamie Sparby are interested in becoming members. We are in the process of setting up a time to meet.
- I would like permission to set up a time with the Gideon's to come to our church and conduct gospel presentation training for our church family. There is no cost for the training. (Pastor Bob will arrange the training.)
- Mary and I and everyone in our household are grateful for the fruit basket that I found on the table in the overflow room last Wednesday. Thank you for your kindness.

Karen Konerza gave the treasurer's report.

- Beginning balance - \$ 30,001.18
- Ending balance - \$ 34,424.68
- Designated Funds - \$ 14,159.21
 - Cemetery Spraying - \$ 150.00
 - Memorial - \$ 6819.49
 - Benevolence - \$ 2621.15
 - Building - \$ 135.00
 - Choir - \$ 731.04
 - Cemetery Fund - \$ 2902.53
 - Sunday School / VBS - \$ 285.00
 - Youth – 20.00
 - Pastoral Fund - \$ 495.00
- General Fund - \$ 20,265.47

Brian Alsleben gave the Building Fund report: The Citizen's Bank balance is: \$ 6653.65. Vanguard balance is \$ 50,460.36. Second half of taxes has been paid.

The secretary's minutes and financial reports were approved as given.

Old Business:

- Shingle repair is complete.
- Snow removal bids were requested from 3 contractors. Motion/Second/Carried to accept Curt Bussler's offer for the same price as last year.
- Brian and Michelle Alsleben researched new insurance provider options for the church, due to the significant rate increases over the past few years from our current insurance provider. M/S/C to switch to North Star, costing \$5700 for \$1.7M worth of coverage.
- Joe Blackbird sprayed once for Japanese beetles, and plans to spray a second time soon.
- Faith Center – deck staining is complete. Recommend restaining horizontal surfaces in 2023. Thanks to Dave Martin, Dave Swift, and Dave Huebert.

New Business:

- The water spigot in the corner by the front entry is leaking. Glen Sladek volunteered to look into getting it repaired.
- Next council meeting will be one week early on 11/3.
- Dave Martin has prepped and repainted the storage shed. Thanks Dave!

Task List for the month:

- Pay 2nd half taxes – *done*
- Accept Snow removal Bid – *done*
- Change furnace filters – *Cory Garoutte*
- Put away dehumidifier – *Cory Garoutte*
- Call Foster Mechanical to check furnace (320-587-4003) – *Joe Blackbird*
- Review usher/altar/custodian duty lists – *OK for Oct & Nov. Need volunteers for December*
- Suggestion box – *None*
- Test elevator/phone – *done*

Next council meeting date Wednesday, November 3 or at 7pm.

M/S/C to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Celine Swift / Secretary

Question??? **MISSING, THE CHURCH CANDLE SNUFFER!!** **Does anyone know anything about it? If anyone can help let one of the council members know. Thank you.**

Sunday School Happenings:

Dates to put on your calendars:

November 7- start Christmas program practice

November 21- kids sing in church

December 12- Happy Birthday Jesus party and dress rehearsal after church

December 19- Christmas program at 10:30

December 26- No Sunday School

January 2- No Sunday School

January 9- Resume Sunday School

The older class(grades 5, 6, 7 & 8).

Their focus this year is on the Providence of God, titled “My Purpose Will Stand”.

Namely

God is present and active in all creation. His eye is watching, His hand is working to uphold and govern all creation to fulfill all His purposes for His Glory and the good of His children. That is a lot for them to understand but they are grasping it and understanding the providence of God little bits at a time. This study helps the children see the big picture of God’s work in the world and understand their response to this truth.

As always they enjoy the games we play when we have a few minutes of extra time.

Learning the books of the Bible and playing bible themed hangman.

They are looking forward to Trunk or Treat, Thanksgiving & soon getting ready for the Christmas program.

It is such a blessing to be able to have class in person again!

First Sunday of Sunday School:

Let us run with
Perseverance the
race marked out for
us, fixing our eyes on
Jesus.

Hebrews 12:1-2







Youth Group Happenings:

- **Youth Group Meetings: 5:15 to 6. Food provided so please RSVP.**
 - **Nov 3**
 - **Nov 17**
 - **Dec 1**
 - **Dec 15**
 - **Jan 6**
 - **Jan 20**
- **Youth Group LOCK-IN**
 - **Oct 29-30 Come join the fun, and bring a friend. 6pm to 6am**
 - **RSVP if you haven't already.**
 - **Our Fall Service project will be stuffing Shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child during the lock-in. Any donations before Friday Oct 29 are welcome (please no candy, toothpaste, gum, used items, food, liquids or breakables. Monetary donations, for shipping the boxes, are so welcome before Nov 14. It costs around \$9 per box for shipping.**

All church Event

- **2nd Annual Trunk or Treat. This was a fun event last year. All are welcome to attend and if you would like to volunteer, there is still time. Ask any Sunday School teacher for more information. There is also a sign up on the bulletin board if you would like to decorate your own trunk or host a game.**

Any questions contact:

Andrea Wigern andreawigern@gmail.com

Dawn Norrbom dawnnorrbom@gmail.com

Common Cup Corner:

Common Cup was so grateful to receive the huge donation of personal care products collected during VBS this summer. In a program called PoPP (Provision of Personal Products), a Common Cup volunteer delivers the supplies to local high schools and middle schools. Nurses, counselors and staff let students know that products are available, and they are distributed to high school and middle school students by request with no questions asked.

It was another wonderfully successful Back to School giveaway this fall. Over 420 children received a backpack full of school supplies between the Hutchinson and Glencoe events. Thanks to the many items and cash donated by St. John's members to help fill this important need in our community!

The annual winter coat distribution took place in Hutchinson on Sept 23 & 24, where over 350 coats were given away, along with mittens, hats and boots. Thank you to everyone who donated coats when we collected them in the spring. Look for another collection box this coming spring for next year's event.

Sadly, Common Cup Ministry's biggest single annual fundraiser, the Coming Together in Song concert which is usually held in late November, has been canceled/postponed. Look for more information for a possible outdoor concert in the spring.

The Thrift Shop of Common Cup in Glencoe is in need of volunteers to work at the store. Many of our older volunteers did not come back to work after Covid closed things down for a while. Store hours are 11am-3pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. If you want, you could shadow someone for a day and see if you might enjoy working there. Training is provided. Working once or twice a month would be a great help! If you or someone you know is interested, please see Celine Swift for more information

Church Happenings:



Heatwole Service on August 12th



"Thank you to the Three Daves (Martin, Huebert and Swift) for the great job staining the Faith Center ramp last month. It looks great!!"

Mark your Calendars:

November is Food Shelf month. Groceries or a monetary gift are much appreciated for the less fortunate in our community. Let's share our blessings!

Nov. 7th Sunday School Christmas program practice starts

Nov. 25th 9:30 a.m. Thanksgiving Worship

Nov. 21st Children sing in church

Nov. 27th 9:30 a.m. Decorate church for Christmas all welcome.

Dec. 12th Happy Birthday Jesus party and dress rehearsal after church

Dec. 19th 10:30 a.m. Sunday School Christmas Program

Dec. 26th NO Sunday School

Dec. 24th 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

Jan. 2nd NO Sunday School

Jan 9th Sunday School resumes

Jan. 9th Take Christmas decorations down following worship all welcome.

Jan. 23rd Annual Meeting following Worship Service

Remember these members in prayer or with a card or note

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

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

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

Paul Volker Birthday 9/07
(Brenda Garoutte's Dad)
313 4th Ave S. Apt. 109
Sleepy Eye, MN. 56085

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

Duane Wigern Birthday 10/30
Gloria Wigern Birthday 2/25
425 Grant St.
Glencoe, MN. 55336

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

CHURCH LEADERS FOR 2021

PASTOR

Rev. Bob Taylor.....763-420-6800

Cell: 612-644-0628

COUNCIL

President: Joe Blackbird 325-583-1026

V. Pres. Pam Martin.....320-510-0493

Treas. Karen Konerza.864-4554

Secretary: Celine Swift864-6188

Fin. Sec. Cory Garoutte 320-583-1475

Bldg.Fund: Brian Alsleben ...864-6745

WOMEN'S GUILD 2021

President Julie Karl.....587-7702

Vice Pres. Lea Ette Peters864-3282

Sec. Susie Blackbird583-1025

Treasurer Brenda Schaefer...864-6745

Sunshine Chr: Elaine Carrigan 864-3330

CEMETERY BOARD

Jerome Karl320-587-7702

Warren Kaufmann320-587-5676

David Swift.....320-864-6188

BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE

Elaine Carrigan864-3330

Mavis Mielke320-328-5339

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS & SUBSTITUTES 2021-2022

Preschool- Kindergarten Mary Taylor & Leslie Smith

Grade 1st-4th

Dawn Norrbom, Jodi Sanken

5th-8th Grade

June Knick-Andrea Wigern

Young Adult Class

Michelle Alsleben, -Joe Blackbird

Substitute List:

Jan & Wayne Alsleben

Laura Anderson (Madi)

Barb Buckentin

Stephanie Mielke

Grace Garoutte

YOUTH GROUP LEADERS

Andrea Wigern andreawigern@gmail.com

Dawn Norrbom dawnnorrbom@gmail.com

CHURCH SECRETARY & RECORDS UPKEEP

Karen Konerza 320-864-4554

Job Sign-Ups 2021

ALTAR GUILD &

PREP

January.....Sladek
 FebruarySwift
 March Blackbird.
 April Smith
 May Leas Ette
 June Elaine C.
 July Taylor
 AugustLea Ette & Nita
 SeptemberAlsleben
 October Garoutte
 November Sanken
 December 5th.....
 12th.....
 19th.....
24thChristmas Eve.....
 26th.....
 January 2022.....

CUSTODIAN

JanuarySladek
 FebruarySwift
 March Blackbird
 April Smith
 MaySenske
 JuneJulie.
 July Sanken
 August
 SeptemberAlsleben
 October Garoutte
 NovemberKnick
 December 5th.....
 12th.....
 19th
24th Christmas Eve.....
 26th.....
 January 2022.....

USHER/GREETER

JanuarySladek
 FebruarySwift
 March Blackbird
 April Dave & Jodi
 May Brian & Michelle
 June Dave Huebert
 July
 August
 SeptemberAlsleben
 October Garoutte
 November
 December 5th.....
 12th.....
 19th.....
24th Christmas Eve.....
 26.....
 January 2022.....

Please check the bulletin board and sign up if you wish to serve for one of the jobs.

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country.
 "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.
 "Only the Ten Commandments." answered the lady.

November 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1.Dick S.	2	3	4	5 Maynard R.	6 Michelle A.
7 Communion	8	9 Carter R.	10	11	12	13
14	15 Jason E.	16 Chase Schaefer	17 Orrie B.	18 Warren K.	19	20
21 Carol B. Kids sing in church	22.Mandy G.	23	24	25 Thanksgiving Serv. 9:30 a.m.	26	27 Decorate For Christmas 9 a.m.
28 Rthan B. Randy K. 1 st Sunday of Advent	29	30				

December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Laura A.	3	4
5 Communion	6	7	8	9	10	11 Dave M.
12	13 Summer B	14 Betty B.	15	16 Julie K.	17	18
19 Sunday School. Christmas Program 10:30 a.m.	20	21	22	23 Joel B.	24 Christmas Eve Service 5 P.M.	25
26 No Sunday School	27	28	29 Mary T.	30	31	

January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Communion No Sunday School	3 Marcie B.	4	5 Susie B. Holly W.	6 James P. Jerry W.	7	8
9 Take decora- tion down after worship	10 Joshua K.	11	12 Jay A. Barb B	13 McKayla W.	14	15
16	17 Doug B.	18	19 Loren M.	20	21	22 Brian A.
23 Annual Mtg.	24	25	26	27 Glen Sladek.	28	29
30	31 Barb B. Myla F.					

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Information for the next Newsletter will be due Jan 25th bring your input to me at church, or email me at chubbers67@gmail.

Annual Reports are due me by Jan. 19th.

