



DECEMBER CHURCHLETTER



The Most Hated Men In Judea

But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift his eyes up to heaven, but was beating his chest saying, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" I tell you this man went down to his house justified. Luke 18:13, 14

Many people today are familiar with Charles Dickens' classic tale, *A Christmas Carol*. In it, we remember the stingiest man in London, Ebenezer Scrooge, is visited by three ghosts on Christmas Eve. They show him scenes from his past, present, and future to demonstrate how miserly he has become. Scrooge happily mends his evil ways when he learns of the horrible fate which awaits him unless he repents.

In Jesus' day, "Scrooges" were commonplace. They were called "publicans" or "tax collectors". The publicans were Jews who collected taxes for the Romans. The more taxes they collected, the more money they made. This system encouraged them to cheat the Jewish people by charging higher taxes than were justified. So the Jews despised the publicans on two accounts...they worked for the hated Romans and they oppressed their own people.

Jesus demonstrated, in word and in deed, that even the publicans needed salvation. The most common charge leveled against Jesus was that He ate with publicans and sinners. As we enter into this season of Advent and Christmas, we need to remember that everyone is welcome in the kingdom of God.

Holy Lord, keep us from the sins around us by helping us to focus our minds on the teaching of Your holy word. May we be faithful to live in Your word and to proclaim Your word to others around us so that they can keep away from sin and deepen their relationship with

You as well. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Peace and blessings...Pastor Gary

The office phone number is 651-280-0150
You can also reach the churches by email at: st.johnsuccwheeling@gmail.com or NerstrandUMC@gmail.com

Prayer Chain



Please direct all prayer chain requests to **Becky Tatge (507) 210-1214** or **Mary Kindseth 507-789-6879**. Messages can be left on either of the phones. If you want to make any changes on how you are contacted or add your name to the list, you can be on the email or phone list. Let's keep this available to our community.

Prayer chain and worship service link emails:

Becky Tatge has been regularly sending emails with the worship service link and/or prayer chain requests. If you have not been receiving them and would like to, please contact Becky at (507) 210-1214

Please send **bulletin (deadline-9am Thurs)** and **newsletter (deadline-20th of month)** information to: st.johnsuccwheeling@gmail.com (Lynn Hirschey will be monitoring this email). Phone number 507-330-1831. Notes in the mail are also welcome if you prefer.

Loving Thoughts and Prayers Surround:

Faribault Senior Living

Gerry Erickson

Pleasant View Estates

Shirley Bauer

Norma Meyer

Judy Smith

At Home

Doris Hildebrandt

Arlene Shaske

Arlene Bultman

Mill City Senior Living

Richard Hanson

Kaye Spike



Joys and Concerns

A heart warming Thank You to the numerous workers who came to help with the St. John's church and cemetery clean-up on Nov. 13. It was greatly appreciated.

Christmas Dinner/Concert



St John's events committee is planning a formal sit down Christmas dinner and concert on the evening of Dec. 6th. The goal of this fundraiser is to attract dollars from outside the church. There will be a sign-up list for people willing to donate time and/or items to support this event.

As part of our Christmas dinner-concert we are asking people to bring their nativity scenes to display in church for Saturday November 29 decorating day thru Sunday December 7th. This will be fun to share with each other our collections and maybe family heirlooms.

Events committee

Steven Wille
507-323-4812

St. John's Choir Rehearsals will be Sunday mornings at 9:50 am.

Wednesday Wear

Hours: Wed. 1-5 pm Sat. 9-noon
Remember that donations are welcome!
Any questions about being open or on donating,
Call-Linda 507-789-5376
Or Marlene 507-334-2143
Church phone 507-332-4089

Christmas Day

We will be having a Special Christmas Day service at St. John's. A service of True Celebration as we observe the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The service is at 10:00 A.M. with special music, many Carols and readings. All welcome to come and share in the Joy of our Savior's birth!



Sunday School at St. John's

St. John's Sunday School meets weekly from 9:30-10:20am. Students PreK through grade 8 are welcome, as are any adults interested in being a teacher or substitute. Please contact Carrie Hess with any questions: 651-775-5594 or littlehesshouse@gmail.com.

Notice of Replacements for SJ Council for 2026

Elder, Deacon, Trustee and S.P.R.C. Anyone interested, please contact Gloria Karl.



St. John's U.C.C. council meeting Nov. 11th 2025

The meeting was brought to order by Gloria Karl at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Liker opened with a reading from Today's Devotional. Smile of God.

Reports: S.P.R.C. no report.

Secretary: Approved as read.

Treasurer: Suggests to do contract for L.P. Approved as read.

Trustee: garage door on north side of garage/storage has been installed. The remodel of the bath room in the parsonage has begun.

Old Business: The compensation package for the pastor is completed and accepted for 2026, along with the Yoking agreement. A motion was made and passed to send a gift of benevolence to the family of Chad Walker. Chad passed away this past late summer, and was the lawn care service which we have hired for many seasons. Security update, a door bell will be installed on the north and south side entrance doors to the church. This will make it so these doors may be locked during the hours the pastor is in office. Trustees will also look into some security cameras.

New Business: Cemetery clean up date is set for Nov. 13th. At 10:00 a.m. Thank you to all that came and helped. There were at least a dozen helpers. The 2026 budget went through review and will be ready to finalize at next meeting. Christmas bag donations and names will be taken Dec. 7th, 14th, & 21st after services. Please contact any Elder if you have questions. Trustees will also have an updated "Instructions for Cleaning" sheet posted and sign-up sheet for 2026 will be coming soon. **** It's time for Council, S.P.R.C. replacements. If interested please contact Gloria Karl.

Annual meeting is set for Jan. 18th following church, snow date the following week. Jan. 25th. Next council meeting will be Mon. Dec. 8th 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20. Closing with The Lord's Prayer

Joan L. Schwake secretary
Sub. for approval

Elders: Gloria Karl, Brian Bauer, Michelle Otte
Deacons: Joan Schwake, Gordie Wiegrefe, Sarah Miles
Trustees: Al Meyer, Zach Hertle, Jay Kindseth
Cemetery Board: Brian Bauer, Al Meyer, Kyle Keller

St. John's UCC Cleaning Committee



The St. John's UCC cleaning committee for the months of Nov./Dec. is:
Keith & Kim and Pauline & Gordie

Nerstrand UMC Administrative Board

Chairman-Duane Bailey
Secretary -Debbie Kerr



Second Saturday Quilters

The Quilters will meet on Saturday December 13 at St. John's from 9-3:00. We

will have our Christmas Party & Brunch in the morning and sew on our own projects for the remainder of the day. Cheryl will be our Hostess. Bring a dish to pass and 2 - One yard pieces of fabric, wrapped individually for a gift exchange.

Linda S. will teach us a new block.

SSQ is open to people from all churches and their friends. Contact Deb Wille
507-323-4813 or 83159deb@gmail.com for more info.

Wood Carving!

Wood Carving will be December 20th at 10:00 at St John's.
We will be practicing eyes.
All are welcome



Steve Wille

s.wille52@gmail.com
[1-507-323-4812](tel:1-507-323-4812)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, Dec. 1 Light Up A life tree lighting 7:00 pm -Dist. One Hospital, Faribault (flyer)

Saturday, Dec. 6- Christmas dinner and concert at SJ **Monday, December 8th** -St. John's Council Meeting, , at 7pm.

Wednesday, December 10th -Coffee and Conversation at Nerstrand UMC, at 10am

Sun. Dec. 21 NUMC Christmas breakfast after the service. Donations will be given to the Lowell and Ruth Gess Eye clinic

Wednesday, December 24th --Christmas Eve Worship Service at the Nerstrand UMC at 5pm.

Wednesday, December 24th-Christmas Eve Children's Christmas Program at St. John's Church, at 7pm.

Thursday, December 25th -Christmas Day Worship Service at St. John's Church, at 10am.

Wednesday, January 7th -Nerstrand UMC Ad Board Meeting, at 11am.

Sunday, January 25, 2026, Big Woods Run Planning Meeting: 11:30am - Anyone interested in working on the plans, promotions, and/or assisting with the Big Woods Run next fall is encouraged to attend the January kick-off meeting.

Sunday Church Service Schedule for 2025:

(Communion on first Sunday of month)

9:00 AM WORSHIP AT NERSTRAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

12 Maple Street, Nerstrand, MN 55053

E-mail: st.johnsuccwheeling@gmail.com

Website: <https://nerstrandumc.org>

Phone: 507.332.4089



10:30 AM WORSHIP AT ST JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

19086 Jacobs Ave, Faribault, MN 55021

E-mail: st.johnsuccwheeling@gmail.com

Website: <https://stjohnsunitdchurchofchrist.info>

Phone: 651-280-0150 (Pastor Gary-personal).



Pastor- Gary Liker