



Wednesday Evening Lenten Services

ALL are welcome to share in a meal and join us for worship on Wednesday evenings during Lent through **April 5th**.

Community Soup & Sandwich meal @ 6:00pm
Lenten Worship @ 7:00pm

Holy Week Services

April 9th Palm Sunday Worship
8:15am and 10:30am

April 13th – Maundy Thursday Worship 7:00pm

April 14th – Good Friday Worship 7:00pm

April 16th – Easter Sunday Worship
8:15am and 10:30am

The staff of St. John's is here to serve you. Please don't hesitate to contact the church office at 952-445-5666 if you have any questions or concerns. If you need pastoral care or have a pastoral emergency, please call the church office and you will be directed to Pastor Gary. ***Please contact the church office for specific prayer requests or if a home or hospital visit is needed.***

Rev. Gary Kinkel, Senior Pastor
Sean Vander Veen, Worship Music Accompanist
Karen Van Sickle, Choir Director
Lisa Friesen, Administrative Assistant

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Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – Monday, Tuesday & Thursday,
12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. – Wednesday, Closed – Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

St. John's Lutheran Church 119 West Eighth Avenue, Shakopee, MN 55379
952-445-5666 www.stjohns-shakopee.com

From Pastor Gary Kinkel...

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

April 16 is fast approaching! Our Lenten pilgrimage, our meditation on our Savior's Passion and on our own discipleship, is hurrying to its consummation in joy! Easter calls us forward! It is the foundation and heart of our faith. The core message of Easter is that Jesus Christ, by his terrible suffering and death and through his resurrection from the dead, has conquered sin, death and the devil for all of us. This is the immovable point around which our whole faith—our whole life—turns. As Paul put it: "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins." (1 Corinthians 15:17)

The earliest Christians took meeting for worship on the first day of the week, Sunday, because it was the day Jesus rose from the grave. Therefore, every Sunday is actually a "little Easter." Every Sunday is a remembrance and a celebration of Jesus' victory. But around the end of the first century Christians spontaneously began to hold annual celebrations of Jesus' resurrection. It was called ***Pascha***, which is an attempt to make the sounds of the Hebrew word for Passover in Greek. This happened because it was at the time of Passover that Jesus was crucified and then raised from death. Sunday and Easter are the two most ancient Christian observances.

When Easter became an "official" celebration of the whole church, rather than the local observance of congregations at their discretion, there was a great deal of difficulty in agreeing on a date. I am embarrassed, maybe even a little ashamed, to say that there was fierce debate. Horrible things were said by some Christians about other Christians over the simple matter of a date. How often the church "majors in the minors," we get upset and fight about things that, in truth, do not matter. They just somehow become important to us, sometimes for reasons we ourselves do not even understand! But we have to be careful not to let any feelings we may have about some issue or other cause us to forget that God has loved us with an eternal love in the life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. Therefore, we are obligated by a duty to love one another.

It was actually the Council of Nicea, in the year 325 (famous for its resolution of some Trinitarian debates), that finally decided the issue of the date of Easter. The bishops together in Council agreed, and therefore, decreed, that Easter was to be celebrated on the Sunday immediately following the 14th day of Nisan (in the Jewish calendar). There has been some further debate and upset when changes have been made to the calendar (in the sixteenth century and again in the nineteenth century).

But whatever the date, Christians have always observed the memory of Jesus' suffering and death and his victorious resurrection with fasting and prayer, vigils, meditation on one's sins and on the ways one is called to become a more faithful disciple, and finally with exultant joy in Jesus' resurrection! The Lord's Supper, or Eucharist, was always central to this celebration as well.

And it is important to remember that we are actually doing this every Sunday! Christianity is the faith of those who participate in the resurrection faith of apostles, martyrs, confessors, and simple believers from every land and from every time since our Savior's resurrection! Come and be a part of this blessed company! I am so honored to be able to celebrate with you and to follow him together with you!

I will plan to see you Maundy Thursday at 7:00, then again on Good Friday at 7:00, and on Easter Morning.

In the grace of Jesus,

Pastor Gary

Council Update

The council is currently working to increase opportunities for members to get more involved in the work at St. John's. We have been reviewing a list of committee responsibilities so each group knows what their tasks are. Our new council format started in 2016 and we continue to work to improve how this new format will work for us. There are 4 main teams: Spiritual Formation, Community Relations, Management and Finance. My focus is on Spiritual Formation which includes Worship (music and drama), Education, Confirmation, Stewardship, and Children, Youth and Family. If any of these areas are of interest to you, or you would just like to find out more information, please get in touch with me and I would be happy to answer any of your questions.

Nancy Berndt, Spiritual Formation

Musicals with a Mission

Musicals with a Mission is proud to announce their summer touring musical, *Prince of Egypt!*

It is a Broadway style production that tells the exciting story of Moses and the struggle with his wealthy Egyptian family and his true Hebrew values. Ages 10 and above may audition.

Auditions are Saturday, May 6th from 1pm-5pm.

Performances are at St John's August 11-13 and a tour to Willmar, Slayton and Windom August 18th-20th.

Sign up for an audition time starting April 2nd at 1:00pm by emailing Kari Vaupel at theatremd@gmail.com.



Endowment Committee Scholarships

If you plan to attend a Lutheran College, you may apply for a **Memorial and Endowment Committee Scholarship** for the 2017-2018 school year. Please pick up an application form outside the church office or contact the church office at 952-445-5666.

**Applications must be submitted by May 31, 2017*



LOAVES AND FISHES

Loaves and Fishes will be on **Tuesday, April 4th, 2017** at St. Mark's Catholic Church Shakopee. Dinner is served at 5:30pm. We need volunteers to help serve the meal to the community and clean up. If you feel the Holy Spirit is leading you to volunteer, please contact Renee at muhmalea@aol.com. *You will find the volunteering to be very rewarding and fun!*



OWLS
(St. John's
Older, Wiser,
Lutheran Seniors)

The OWLS will meet on Wednesday, April 5th, at 10:00 a.m.

At our meeting in January one of the priority interests in the group was to better understand how to read and study the Bible, for example, how can we better understand a book in the Bible like Revelation. We may have grown up with different notions about the meaning and interpretation of the Book of Revelation. This session, led by Pastor Gary, will help us learn about how to read and study the Bible, and we will get some keen insights in how to understand Revelation.

Once again, we will enjoy being together. We will share some coffee and snacks and pack a lot into this one hour session! If you have a family member or friend who might be interested in this topic, please invite them to join you for this study.

For more information, contact Del at 952-412-4917. *OWL are welcome!*

Easter Egg Hunt

April 9th during the Sunday School hour



The Sunday School will continue to collect food for the **CAP Agency** and weekly offering for **Jose Carlos**, an orphan in Guatemala. We will have a basket outside of the Sunday School office each Sunday and the children can also bring their donations to their Sunday School room.

Sunday School Singing Schedule @ 10:30am service:

Little Lambs (3yrs - 2nd grade) & Singing Shepherds (3rd - 6th grade) will sing on April 9th



First Communion

In Holy Communion, we touch and taste the reality of God's word and promise. Fifth and sixth graders have been preparing to participate in the sacrament. The congregation is invited to join with these young people and their families on **Maundy Thursday of Holy Week, April 13th at 7 pm** for worship that will include their first partaking of the bread and wine.

**First Communion participants: please arrive @ 6:30pm. Thank you!*

Spring & Social & AUCTION

Friday April 28th - Turtle's Social Center @ 5:30pm

Tickets will be on sale April 9th – 23rd between services for this year's Spring Social.

Once again, we have many fun things planned including a silent auction, dessert auction, raffles, entertainment and more. For \$30 per ticket you will receive a full buffet dinner with chicken, roast beef, potatoes, salad, bread and more. Plus, if you have children they can come to St. John's (for free!) for their very own Spring Social.

Social Hour starts at Turtle's at 5:30 pm and Dinner will be served at approximately 6:50 pm.

So, grab your family and friends for a fun night out!

We are starting to collect **silent auction items** for this year's spring social. If you have something that you'd be willing to donate, please see Beth Johnson, Jodi Schuler or fill out a donation form in the lobby. Donations can include things such as a special talent you may have, a homemade item, gift baskets, something you purchased or maybe you know a business owner that is willing to donate. **Donations are due April 23rd.**

Cherish All Children Ministry

The prophet Hosea reminds us that love and justice go hand in hand when he says *"Hold fast to love and justice and wait continually for your God."* (Hosea 12:6b) Our children are vulnerable and are being exploited in many ways in our society and there is often no protection for them. Cherish All Children is a national Lutheran ministry of prayer, education, relationship-building, and action that shows love and brings justice by preventing child sexual exploitation and advocating for justice for those who have fallen victim to the injustice of sex trafficking.

The prayer component of this ministry focuses on reconnecting with the youth in our congregations specifically by lifting them up in prayer. The beauty of this is that as we surround our children with prayer, we also deepen our relationship not only with the children but with our God as well. Consider what it would be like if every young person (birth to age 25) in our congregation was prayed for daily, intentionally, and by name by an adult member of our congregation. What transformation might be possible? What would the children think? Of what value would this be to the adults? How might it impact leadership?

Over the next month, you are going to be hearing more in worship about the Cherish All Children ministry and how you can become an important part in connecting with a child in our congregation, lifting them up in prayer, asking God to be with them to protect them, and helping them to feel loved and supported. At the same time, we'll be developing a new child safety policy for our congregation, including training for those who are involved with our children and youth ministries. Most organizations charged with care for young people have been doing this for many years. The church also needs to acknowledge the dangers that exist and take steps to insure parents that because children are cherished here, concrete steps are taken to ensure their safety in our nursery, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, music programs and youth ministries.

"Hold fast to love and justice and wait continually for your God." (Hosea 12:6b) This is the Bible verse chosen by St. John's Cherish All Children team to ground and focus our work. We hope that love and justice becomes each member's focus as well, and that all of God's children feel that St. John's is a place where they are cherished.

St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes - February 21, 2017

Council Members Present: Sandy McCullough, Nancy Berndt, Erik Allen, Mark McGraw, and Pastor Gary Kinkel, Renee Lea

Council Members Absent: Kathy Larson, Shelly Gehrman, Mollie Viola

Guest: Jim Hime

Meeting called to order: Sandy McCullough, President @ 7:05 *Renee Lea/Mark McGraw:* Motion to approve the agenda: *Carried*

Devotions (Scripture and Prayer): Pastor Gary Kinkel – Acts 3:11-31

Discernment (New Business):

- **God Squad Presentation** – Members of the St John's God Squad youth group made a presentation to the council for support of their upcoming proposed activities and fund raising plans.
- **Staffing and Salaries** – Council discussed the need to increase staff salaries to synod guidelines with gradual increases over a number of years and that staff reviews need to be given a priority.
- *Renee Lea/Nancy Berndt:* Motion to allocate \$1000 annual compensation for the bell choir director: *Carried.*
- **Properties Wish List** – Council discussed funding strategy for a list of improvements supplied by the properties board that need to be considered over the next few years.
- **Spring Social Funds** – Council discussed the possibility of targeting funds raised by the Spring Social for specific purposes. More discussion to follow.
- **Pastor Upcoming Events** – Pastor Gary informed council that the *Food For the Poor* organization would like to come to St. John's in May to lead services, present their cause and accept donations.
- *Sandy McCullough/Mark McGraw:* Motion to approve inviting representatives of *Food For The Poor* to come to St. John's in May to lead services and accept donations: *Carried*

Decisions (Old Business):

- *Erik Allen / Renee Lea:* Motion to approve the January 17 council minutes as well as the special council meeting of January 24 that revised the 2017 budget: *Carried*
- Erik Allen reported that January giving was up 8% over last year compared to the budgeted 6%.
- *Pastor Gary Kinkel/ Renee Lea:* Motion to approve treasurers report: *Carried*
- Mark McGraw agreed to write the committee report for the next newsletter
- *Mark McGraw/Nancy Berndt:* Motion to Adjourn: *Carried.*

Respectfully Submitted: Jim Hime, Acting Church Secretary

Financial Peace University

Does doing your taxes have you wishing you could improve your financial situation? Then please consider attending **Financial Peace University**, a 9 week course that will be offered at St. John's beginning April 23 on Sunday nights at 7:00pm. This is a great opportunity to learn how to take control of your finances with tools such as budgeting to help pay off debt and save more, while learning more about financial stewardship from the Bible. If interested, please reach out to Mollie Viola mollieviola@gmail.com or **952-393-3804** or visit the following website <https://www.daveramsey.com/fpu/classes/1040414> which will take you right to the registration page. The cost of the class materials is \$99 and are to be shared by a family. Assistance is available for those interested in attending and we will be offering a \$30 incentive for the first 5 participants. I look forward to seeing you there!

Stewardship Team

The Stewardship team is looking for members to join in the conversation! Please join us the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm in the library to discuss stewardship at St. John's. Our next meeting will be April 11th. Please reach out to Mollie Viola mollieviola@gmail.com or **952-393-3804** with any questions.

Pledge Campaign

Rise Up and Be Renewed! during this Lenten season! Lent provides for a time of reflection and prayer. Below you will find an example of this year's pledge card. During this time, please pray and discuss your pledge to St. John's with your family. In the coming weeks, please watch for additional information regarding the pledge campaign, which will conclude with collection of pledge cards at the end of Lent.

St. John's 2017 Rise Up and Be Renewed!

Name _____

I/We pledge to give \$ _____ to St. John's.

I/We will do so

___ Weekly

___ Monthly

___ Annually



Which of the following is God calling you to participate in?

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship Renewal Team | <input type="checkbox"/> Care Teams | <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Peace University |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday School | <input type="checkbox"/> Loaves and Fishes | <input type="checkbox"/> Funeral Support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Confirmation | <input type="checkbox"/> Property Upkeep | <input type="checkbox"/> Decorating |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Altar Guild | <input type="checkbox"/> Coffee Fellowship | <input type="checkbox"/> Music –Choir, Hand Bells |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Study | <input type="checkbox"/> Book Study | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Chain |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Readers, Ushers, Greeters and Servers/Altar Teams | <input type="checkbox"/> Highway clean up | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events (Spring Social, Rally Sunday) | |

Name _____

Email or Phone _____

APRIL 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9:00 AM AA *
2 8:15 AM Worship 9:25 AM Sunday School/ Adult Education 10:30 AM Worship & Whaylen Baptism 3:00 PM Hispanic Church	3 7:00 PM AA* District Meeting	4 5:30 PM Loaves & Fishes @ St. Mark's Church	5 10:00 AM OWLS 12:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study 6:00 PM Lent Soup Supper 6:00 PM HG Rehearsal 6:30 PM Confirmation (Large Group only) 7:00 PM Lenten Worship 8:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	6 7:00 PM AA*	7	8 9:00 AM AA *
9 PALM SUNDAY HOLY WEEK BEGINS 8:15 AM Worship 9:25 AM Sunday School/ Adult Education 10:30 AM Worship & Mendez Baptism 3:00 PM Hispanic Church 5:30 PM Luther & Lager @ Badger Hill Brewing	10	11 7:00 PM Stewardship Team	12 12:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study 1:00 PM Quilters	13 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Worship & First Communion 7:00 PM AA*	14 7:00 PM Good Friday Worship	15 9:00 AM AA * 6:00 PM Hispanic Church
16 EASTER SUNDAY 8:15 AM Worship 10:30 AM Worship 3:00 PM Hispanic Church	17	18 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting	19 12:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study 6:00 PM Simple Supper 6:30 PM Confirmation 7:30 PM Summit Worship 8:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	20 1:00 PM Martha Circle 7:00 PM AA*	21	22 9:00 AM AA *
23 8:15 AM Worship 9:25 AM Sunday School/ Adult Education 10:30 AM Worship 3:00 PM Hispanic Church 7:00 PM Financial Peace University	24	25	26 12:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study 6:00 PM Simple Supper 6:30 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Higher Ground 7:30 PM Summit Worship 8:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	27 7:00 PM AA*	28 5:30 PM Spring Social @ Turtle's Social Center	29 9:00 AM AA * 10:00 AM Confirmation Rehearsal & Brunch
30 8:15 AM Worship 9:25 AM Sunday School/ Adult Education 10:30 AM Worship & Hoppenstedt Baptism 1:00 PM Affirmation of Faith Celebration 3:00 PM Hispanic Church 7:00 PM Financial Peace University						

* - "AA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution..."

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The Eagle is a publication of St. John's Lutheran Church. It is published monthly and mailed to its members.

The Eagle welcomes news and features from its readers. We reserve the right to edit submitted material for content and length. All newsletter materials are due in the church office on the 20th day of the month preceding publication.

All addressing changes and mailing inquiries should be directed to the church office at 952-445-5666 or info@stjohns-shakopee.com.

The Mission of St. John's
Called as children of God
Comforted and **Challenged** by the Holy Spirit
Committed to serve **Christ** in the world