

Please join us for Christmas Services

Sunday morning Dec. 24th 9:00am

**Christmas Eve Worship
3:00pm & 5:00pm**

Sunday morning Dec. 31st 9:00am



St. John's calls New Associate Pastor

The call committee announces with joy and thanksgiving that St. John's has voted to call Jerod Freeberg to the post of Associate Pastor. Pastor Jerod grew up in Maple Grove and graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College and Luther Seminary.

Please extend a warm welcome to Pastor Jerod as he joins God's congregation of St. John's in our mission to serve God and our neighbor.



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

pastorgary@stjohns-shakopee.com
vanderveen.sean@gmail.com
kvansick@shakopee.k12.mn.us
info@stjohns-shakopee.com

Office Hours: 8:00am-1:00pm Monday & Tuesday and 1:00pm-5:00pm Wednesday & Thursday
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,

Advent is upon us! We are entering exciting days at St. John's! Advent is the season of fasting and reflection that marks the beginning of the new church year. Advent is a season of patient waiting. In the Christian life we are disciplined and trained to wait and to wait in the right way.

We have tended, under the influence of our society, to blend Advent together with Christmas. As a result, many think of Advent as a kind of extended Christmas and try to fill it with the feverish joy they apply to Christmas. There are Christmas parties and Christmas gatherings during Advent; Christmas greetings and Christmas specials; Christmas decorations and Christmas shopping—all during Advent. Somehow, Advent has been lost in the shuffle of the season. But Advent has an importance all on its own.

During Advent, Christians are called to prepare for the coming of our King and to wait. Advent is a great symbol of the whole Christian life. We are to learn how to slow down and use the present wisely. But to use the present wisely means to take proper stock of ourselves, to become more aware of who we are and how we are before the Presence of the coming King. It requires us to reflect on our lives, our plans and hopes, and to allow them to be reshaped by his having come in Bethlehem of Judea and by his coming again in the future. Advent calls us to the discipline of waiting with patience. The coming of the King is not according to our timetable or our desires. Waiting with patience means being about the King's business in the meantime. It means living as citizens with the saints in the midst of the present world. It means taking the King's priorities for my own and the King's values as the ones by which I live. It means, to use the words of the apostle Paul, to live as God's temple in the midst of "this present evil age," to live as one who "doesn't even live anymore, but Christ lives in me." During Advent I am called to fast and reflect, asking, "Am I like that? If not, why not?" I am called to repent and pray, waiting and preparing for the coming of the King.

Moving toward the joy of Christmas, let's not skimp on Advent. A key component of Advent waiting is worship, shaped by the great readings of Advent. Come join us and enter into the season. Enter into Life Eternal now, in the present life! I look forward to seeing you there!

In the grace of Jesus,

Pastor Gary



LOAVES & FISHES

Loaves and Fishes will be on **Tuesday, December 5th, 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.



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

OWLS – December Meeting

The seniors of St. John's will meet on Wednesday, December 6th at 10:00am.

Each year at our Christmas party for the seniors of St. John's we bring gifts for a "White Elephant" exchange. So, wrap it up and surprise someone! Also, please bring a sample of your favorite Christmas treat. Together we will focus on a much-loved Christmas carol. All in all, we will host a joyful event and wish each other an early Merry Christmas!

For further information please call Del at 952-412-4917 or 952-237-1989.
OWL are welcome!



CHRISTMAS PLANTS

I (we) would like to order _____ plant(s) to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas services.

____ 4" Poinsettia \$ 3.50 each ____ 6" Kalenchoe \$ 9.99 each

____ 6" Poinsettia \$ 6.25 each ____ 6" Cyclamen \$ 9.99 each

Given by:

In memory:

(or) To Honor:

Plants may be taken home after the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service on Sunday, December 24th.

Please turn in form and payment to the church office by Sunday, December 10th.



Sunday School Christmas Program

The St. John's Sunday School will be presenting their Christmas Program on **Sunday, December 10th at the 10:30am service.** The program this year will involve all students (3yr olds – 6th grade.) Practices will be during the Sunday School music time. For further information please contact the Sunday School office at stjhnsundayschool@gmail.com.

Musicals with a Mission News!



Musicals with a Mission would like to thank everyone involved in the November production of **"*Esther: Malice in the Palace*"!**

A huge thank you to all of you who took the time to attend a production and donate to our charity. **We are proud to announce that we were able to donate \$700 to Santa's Angels to provide Christmas gifts to foster children, \$675 to the St. John's General Fund and \$1500 to the Jeremiah Program!!!!**
Let's keep using our God given talents to change the lives of others for the better!

MWAM's Spring Musical will be...

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"

Rehearsals will be on Sunday afternoons and Monday evenings starting January 7th. Performances April 13th-18th, 2018! Come and be a part of this colorful, hilarious, extravaganza that tells the Biblical story of Joseph of how he uses his talents of interpreting dreams to show forgiveness and love. Contact Kari Vaupel with any questions at theatremd@gmail.com.

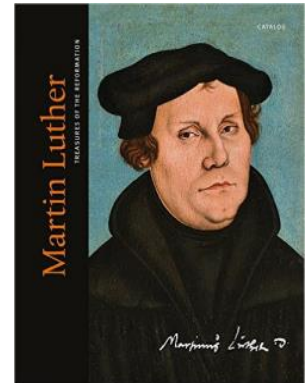


LUTHER & LAGER

JOIN PASTOR GARY FOR THE NEXT
SESSION OF LUTHER & LAGER ON
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10TH @ 5:30PM

NEW LOCATION:

SHAKOPEE BREW HALL
124 FIRST AVE E, SHAKOPEE



We believe God is engaged in mission for the sake of the world.
God has called us and therefore, here at St. John's, we aim to grow in faith together, deepen
our love for God and one another and learn to live in the hope that is in Christ Jesus.

We are learning to be Jesus' disciples in the world and for the sake of the world.
So as we learn, we join God's mission for the world and learn to serve in his name.

We will be receiving new members on Sunday, December 10th at the 10:30am worship service.

Please let the church office (952-445-5666) or Pastor Gary know if you would like to join.

*Over the coming weeks, we invite you to celebrate in the receiving of
new members to St. John's and invite them to share in God's mission with us.*

Fall Pledge Campaign

Thank you everyone for your participation in the 2017 St. John's Pony Express Pledge Campaign!
As we bring the campaign to a close, please return your bag to your station manager if you are in
possession of it as of **December 2nd**. Remember, their contact information is listing on the route
list on the outside of the bag. Again, thank you for everyone's participation and we hope you had
fun getting to know some other members better.

St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes – October 17, 2017

I. Gathering

- A. The council meeting held on October 17, 2017 was called to order by Sandy McCullough at 7:10PM. Council members Mollie Viola, Erik Allen, Renee Lea, Mark McGraw, Pastor Gary Kinkel, Nancy Berndt, Shelley Gehrman and Kathy Larson were present. Call Committee Representatives Becky Sexton and Aimee Johnson were also in attendance.
- B. The agenda was modified to accommodate a Call Committee report.
- C. Scripture and Prayer: Pastor Gary asked council members to focus on the fifth chapter of Acts; verses 17 through 26. Council then discussed how God made it possible for the early church apostles (referred to as "Sent Representatives") to fulfill their mission of preaching and healing in the temple in spite of being imprisoned by the religious leaders.

II. Discernment (New Business)

- A. Call Committee Presentation: Becky Sexton submitted a photo of Pastor Jerod Freeberg and shared a power point presentation detailing Pastor Jerod's background, special interests, and areas of expertise.
 - Renee made and Erik seconded a motion to schedule a Congregational Meeting to vote on extending a call to Pastor Jerod. Motion carried.
 - Pastor Gary, Sandy, and Lisa will meet to schedule the specific date and time of that Congregational Meeting.
 - Members of St. John's will be notified through an e-mail blast, inserts in the Sunday bulletins, an article in the upcoming newsletter, and as a post on the church website.
- B. Erik presented the Treasurer's Report, highlighting that current congregational giving is at 96% of budget. He presented future possibilities for increasing key staff salaries to levels more in sync with synod guidelines and for increasing St. John's missional giving. Shelley moved and Mark seconded a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report.
- C. Pastor Gary reported on pastoral care this past month. He's visited with families who may make St. John's their church home, frequently held services and brought communion to residents at St. Gertrude's, and eased the transition of one resident from the nursing home back to her own home in Albert Lea, MN. That resident left a kind letter expressing her gratitude to Pastor Gary.

III. Decisions (Old Business)

- A. Nominating Slate for 2018: Erik Allen intends to remain as Treasurer for the next two years. Mark McGraw will not be running for re-election. Kathy Larson intends to remain on the board. Each of the other council members should let Sandy know of their intentions to run/not run within the next two weeks.
- B. Properties: Mark McGraw provided an update from the Properties Committee. A new couch is now in the welcoming space. All other improvements should be completed by the end of the year. Ryan Lundquist and Damon Schuler would like to repurpose a few of the old church pews. Council members did not feel a motion was required, but simply agreed to their request.
- C. Stewardship Campaign Update: The Stewardship Committee has prepared for a successful campaign this fall. Church members will complete pledge cards detailing their time, talent, and financial commitments. "Pony Express" bags will gallop through the congregation and progress will be monitored by volunteers designated as "Round Up" leaders. The actual stewardship campaign will run from October 29th through November 19th. Pastor Gary emphasized that the Stewardship Committee has been working very hard and is doing a great job! Mollie added that the project will be fun, interactive, and provide a chance for members of the St. John's community to connect with one another.
- D. Custodial Position: Mollie moved and Renee seconded a motion to hire Pastor José Luís as the custodian for St. Johns. Motion carried. Sandy and Gary will write the job description for this position together.
- E. Nancy made and Mollie seconded a motion to approve the amended minutes for September, 2017. Motion carried.
- F. Mark McGraw will submit a properties' report to Lisa for inclusion in the next newsletter.

IV. Sending.

- A. The next Council Meeting date is November 14, 2017.
- B. Sandy led the council in a prayer of thanksgiving.
- C. The Council Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

DECEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 9:00 AM AA *
3 8:15 AM Worship 9:25 AM Bell Choir 9:25 AM Sunday School/ Adult Education 9:30 AM St. John's Choir 10:30 AM Worship/Baptism 2:00 PM Hispanic Church 4:00 PM MWAM Rehearsal	4 5:00 PM Bread & Bread (HS & College Youth) 7:00 PM AA District Meeting*	5 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes @ St. Mark's Catholic Church	6 10:00 AM OWLS 12:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study 6:00 PM Simple Supper 6:15 PM Higher Ground 6:35 PM Confirmation- Large/Small Group 7:15 PM Worship 8:00 PM St. John's Choir	7 7:00 PM AA*	8	9 9:00 AM AA *
10 8:15 AM Worship 9:25 AM Bell Choir 9:25 AM Sunday School/ Adult Education 9:30 AM St. John's Choir 10:30 AM Worship & S.S. Christmas Program Receiving New Members 2:00 PM Hispanic Church 5:00 PM MWAM Cast Party 5:30 PM Luther & Lager	11 5:00 PM Bread & Bread (HS & College Youth)	12	13 12:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study 1:00 PM Quilters 6:00 PM Simple Supper 6:15 PM Higher Ground 6:35 PM Confirmation- Large/Small Group 7:15 PM Worship 8:00 PM St. John's Choir	14 7:00 PM AA*	15	16 9:00 AM AA * 1:00 PM Amadeus Academy Piano Recital
17 8:15 AM Worship 9:25 AM Bell Choir 9:25 AM Sunday School/ Adult Education 9:30 AM St. John's Choir 10:30 AM Worship 2:00 PM Hispanic Church	18 5:00 PM Bread & Bread (HS & College Youth)	19 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting	20 12:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study 6:00 PM Simple Supper 6:15 PM Higher Ground 6:35 PM Confirmation- Large/Small Group 7:15 PM Worship 8:00 PM St. John's Choir	21 1:00 PM Martha Circle 7:00 PM AA*	22	23 9:00 AM AA *
24 9:00 AM Worship 2:00 PM Hispanic Church 3:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS! (office closed)	26 (office closed)	27 12:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study (No Simple Supper or Confirmation)	28 7:00 PM AA*	29	30 9:00 AM AA *
31 9:00 AM Worship 2:00 PM Hispanic Church						

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

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www.stjohns-shakopee.com
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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