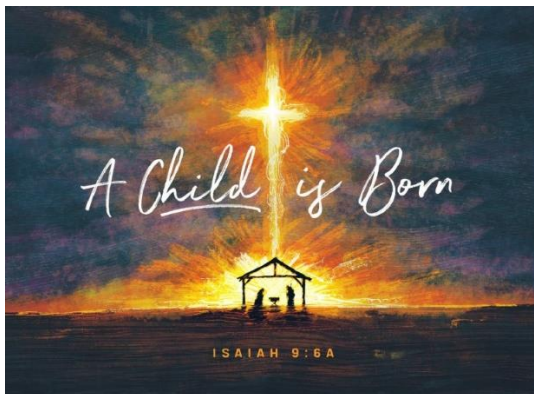


First Sunday of Advent December 2nd

Joint worship with El Remanente de Cristo Hispanic Church
@ 10:30 am followed by a potluck meal.

**No early (8:15am) worship service.*

Sunday School / Adult Education & music rehearsals will be at normal scheduled times.



Please join us for Christmas Services

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

Sunday, December 30th
9:00 am

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

pastorgary@stjohns-shakopee.com
pastorjerod@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,

A blessed Advent fast to you! Unfortunately, Advent is essentially invisible to our society. The general public treats the period from Thanksgiving (or maybe Halloween?) to Christmas as the “pre-Christmas” season. It is filled with festive music, parties and all the prep that we associate with Christmas, e.g., shopping, food hoarding (for upcoming overindulgence), and all the rest. But the truth about Advent and therefore about Christmas, too, tends to be set aside in favor of something else.

Advent is indeed a time of preparation. And it is even a preparation for Christmas, but not for “Chrissmess.” It is not really intended for preparation for self-indulgence and it is not for sentimentality. And let’s be honest, much of our observance of Christmas has devolved into selfish sentimentality and even nostalgia. But these things do not bear witness to the truth.

Advent is a time to focus on the truth, to hear the truth and to allow the light of truth to shine into the dusty, unexamined corners of our hearts and minds, our motives and designs, our deeds and words. Advent is a season of quiet reflection, meditation and repentance. The liturgical color blue announces that the King is coming and he is bringing his kingdom. But the pressing question of Advent is: Are you ready? Are you ready for the Day of the Lord? Or are there aspects of your life in which you are engaged knowingly in sin? These are the questions of Advent. Its call is to repent, to be transformed, to cleanse our garments, our deeds, our hearts and our minds.

I am starting a new feature in this newsletter. In this month’s column we will hear some classical Christian direction for Advent meditation. I invite you to prepare with me during Advent to celebrate the coming of the world’s one true King, to welcome him as the Savior and the real Boss of your own life.

In the grace of Jesus,

Pastor Gary

The Christian Life: Lutheran Style

Johann Arndt was a Lutheran pastor who lived from 1555 to 1621. He wrote a book over many years which he titled, *Vom Wahren Christentum*, which means, *On True Christianity*. This book is a classic of the Christian spiritual life. It was universally read among Lutherans for over 300 years. In Europe, it used to be that to have that book was the marker that you were a Lutheran. However, it is now virtually unknown among English speaking Lutherans. In this new column, I am going to translate each month a small portion of *On True Christianity*, by Johann Arndt. May it be for our growth in the life that is in Christ Jesus and may it serve our Advent meditation.

“When people call themselves Christians but do nothing Christ-like, then through them Christ is denied, despised, mocked, blasphemed, scourged, crucified, eradicated and killed...Since, where the Christ-life is not, there Christ is not, even if so many praise and speak highly of faith and of the doctrine. What is Christian faith without a Christian life? It is a tree without fruit. It is a bald fruitless tree, with which one now finds the world filled. Rightly, the Lord says, ‘When the Son of Man will come, will he find any faith at all on the earth?’ Luke 18:8.

“When the Lord spoke of faith, he did not mean what one sees now: the words of faith in the mouth, but deeds that deny it; tongues that profess to love Christ, but no deeds and no truth...No, where true faith is there is Christ and his holy life. Where a person does not follow Christ through faith in the real actions of his or her life, there is neither faith nor Christ, but rather Christ is eradicated and denied.”

Johann Arndt, **On True Christianity**



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

OWLS – December Meeting

The seniors of St. John's will meet on Wednesday, December 5th, at 10 a.m. 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!" Friends and neighbors are welcome!

For further information please call Del at 952-412-4917.

OWL are welcome!



Sunday School Christmas Program

The St. John's Sunday School will be presenting
their Christmas Program on

Sunday, December 9th at the 10:30am service.

From Pastor Jerod Freeberg...

But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." – Matthew 1:20-23

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ, Amen.

In the Parable of the Talents a man going on a journey summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away, when he returned he found that two of his servants had made a profit while the third had buried that which he had been entrusted to him in the ground. The master replied, "you wicked and lazy servant! You knew, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest."

When I was little I was taught to leave things better than I found them, and that is the message we receive in the Parable of the Talents. Jesus the master has entrusted us with that which belongs to him, and expects us to return to him more than was originally given over to our care. This is called stewardship, and it's something we need to talk about.

Traditionally the church has used the term stewardship as a way for us to think about our financial contributions, but that definition is too narrow for God's purposes. Everything that we have is a gift from God; not only are we stewards over financial resources, we are stewards of our time, and we are stewards of the church.

When I was still young, people would always tell me that I was the future of the church. Now we know better. Now we understand that young people aren't simply the future of the church, they are the church today. By naming children as the future of the church we have not only robbed our young people of their agency within the church we have deferred our own responsibility to be the church today. The future of the church is not solely the responsibility of the youth, it's our responsibility today. The church has been entrusted to us and we are stewards over it. We are the hope of the church.

We are the hope of the church, and hope is not passive. If you want an active church, be active. If you want to see more people in church, invite your friends and neighbors, and if you want to see the church change the world, be the change. God has entrusted us with the care of the church, and we are to be stewards over it. God did not redeem us from our sin from heaven above. God knows hope is not a passive thing, and God took action and became the hope of the world born in a manger, Emmanuel, God with us. Let's leave the church better than we found it. Amen.

Pastor Jerod

Confirmation News!

December Confirmation schedule:

- 12/05: Feeding the 5000
- 12/12: Birth of Jesus
- 12/19: Christmas Party
- 12/26: **NO** Confirmation (*Christmas Break*)

Simple Supper Helper schedule:

- 12/05: 8th Grade families
- 12/12: 7th Grade families
- 12/19: Christmas Party
- 12/26: **NO** Meal (*Christmas Break*)

Below is the schedule for worship helpers. Everyone will be helping once every couple of months.

**If you cannot be at your scheduled time, please reach out to your classmates to see if they will switch with you.*

	2-Dec	9-Dec	16-Dec	23-Dec
8:15 Service				
<i>Cross Bearer</i>	N/A	Josie Pond	Kaylin Anderson	Noah Brown
<i>Acolyte</i>	N/A	Hailey Sauer	Maddie Eslinger	Cecilia Lemke
<i>Communion Server</i>	N/A	Landon Vaupel	Hogan Vaupel	Colby Hahn
10:30 Service				
<i>Cross Bearer</i>	Seth Appert	Peter Swenhaugen	Kaylee Chappuie	Brock Koivisto
<i>Acolyte</i>	Olivia Hayer	Kylie Hahn	Emily Lindstrom	Martin Koivisto
<i>Communion Server</i>	Brinkley Garvey	Noah Lindquist	Daniel Eckers	Emily Stadler

	24-Dec	30-Dec
3:00pm Service		9:00am Service
<i>Cross Bearer</i>	Edie Schmidt	Garrett Hayer
<i>Acolyte</i>	Holly Schmidt	Jenna Koehn
<i>Communion Server</i>	Alexis Schuler	Olivia McCall
5:00pm Service		
<i>Cross Bearer</i>	Kady McGraw	
<i>Acolyte</i>	Luke Wilts	
<i>Communion Server</i>	Lindsay Schmidt	



Thanksgiving Worship Food Drive
St. John's collected 348 pounds of food for the CAP Agency!
Thank you to everyone that contributed.



St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes October 23rd, 2018

Council Members Present: Nancy Berndt, Pastor Gary Kinkel, Pastor Jerod Freeberg, Erik Allen, Jenny Pudwill, Scott Wilts, Melody Hime

Council Members Absent: Shelly Gehrman, Aimee Johnson, Renee Lea

I. Gathering

A. Meeting called to order: Nancy Berndt, President @ 7:01

B. Devotions (Scripture and Prayer): Pastor Gary Kinkel lead us in scripture and prayer with "The Council in the Word" Acts 8:2-13

C. *Scott Wilts / Jenny Pudwill* : Motion to approve council agenda: *Carried*

II. Discernment (New Business)

A. New format for committee reports (Nancy and Melody)

a. Melody will send a reminder to council members 7-10 days before the scheduled council meeting.

i. Reminder to submit committee reports to the Google document or to Melody to place in the Google document.

ii. Reminder to submit agenda items to Nancy Berndt

B. Spring Social 'comp' tickets (Nancy)

a. Email from spring social committee wanting discernment about who receives comp tickets.

b. Church council agrees to support whatever the social committee decides.

c. Nancy B. will follow up with the social committee.

C. Wi-Fi update? Is it working?

a. It is up and working. Some equipment was able to be returned. Good wi-fi coverage. Works for the Children's Area TV in the basement. Scott will put a write up in the Eagle.

D. Pop Machine (Jenny)

a. Pop machine has not been kept up to date. Cans have a longer shelf life than plastic bottles. Product has been expiring before it is purchased. Machine has been unplugged sometimes. Corey Pudwill has been in charge of keeping it up to date in the past. The process for collecting the money has not been official. Corey has a key for the pop machine but not for the storage room where the supply of pop is kept. Jenny will coordinate the connection between Corey and Scott W.

E. Cherish All Children

a. Presented a packet of information regarding background checks for all volunteers working with children and youth.

i. Protect my Ministry – Kay Kinkel and Beth Johnson are proposing Program 2, which provides electronic login, 50 background checks and storage of all records electronically at a cost of \$299 per year. This company is recommended by our congregation's insurance company, Brotherhood Mutual.

ii. Church Council recommends that each January 1 everyone completes the background check process.

b. *Jenny Pudwill/ Pastor Jerrod* Motion to approve Program 2 through Protect my Ministry for Cherish All Children. *Carried*

F. Pastor Jose Luis (Pastor Gary)

a. Pastor Jose Luis has been receiving 10 extra hours of pay each month for doing outside work. He would like to continue receiving the 10 extra hours of pay each month to continue doing extra inside work.

b. Perhaps a "wish list" of tasks could be formed between the congregation and Pastor Jose Luis.

c. Tentatively approve Pastor Jose to continue with the 10 extra hours. Scott will connect with Pastor Jose for clarification. Erik will explore what the current arrangement with Pastor Jose is (# of hours he works as custodial and more, what that includes).

III. Decisions (Old Business)

A. Motion to approve council minutes: *Pastor Jerrod/Nancy Berndt*: Motion to approve September council minutes with the changes discussed. Nancy will get the approved minutes to Lisa: *Carried*

B. Reports – any questions?

a. Pastor's Report

i. Pastor Jerrod reported on his activities this week. He held the first meeting for people interested in the Mission Trip to Puerto Rico in June 2019.

ii. Pastor Gary reported that the past couple of weeks have included time for people having health emergencies and conducted a funeral service.

b. President's Report

i. Nancy Berndt, President, received a resignation late this afternoon (via email) from Shelly Gehrman, Vice President, effective immediately.

Nancy read the resignation aloud to the council. Church council accepts the resignation. Nancy will check with Sandy McCullough, Nominating Committee Chairperson, to see if there is anyone to cover that position for the rest of the calendar year until the annual meeting in January.

C. Treasurer's Report

a. Erik passed out packets of information. Currently we are about \$11,000 under the budget. \$6,000 was the predicted deficit for the month. Actual deficit is \$3,000. Building repairs are under budget, total giving under budget, \$4000 savings in staffing currently. Giving is down, but our net is only off by \$2500. At present, we have a cash balance of \$36,000. Offering giving is down \$3000 year to date compared to last year. Total giving is down \$11,000 compared to year to date. However, timing and expense savings has led to \$2500 planned deficit.

b. Stewardship – Erik suggests the word be spread that our giving is down some compared to 9 months ago. Pastor Gary will be starting to discuss this in the future. Erik recommends a communication plan for the Stewardship group.

D. *Pastor Gary/ Jenny Pudwill* Motion to approve Treasurer's Report: *Carried*

E. Reminder – newsletter article due October 26th. Scott Wilts volunteered to write the article for the newsletter.

F. Banner for Pastor Jose Luis's church service each Sunday.

a. Pastor Gary revisited the proposal of a banner for the El Remanente de Cristo Church to be hung on the front of the building. Pastor Jerod added about seeing youth in the community reading the sign in the past and being interested in attending.

b. *Scott Wilts/ Nancy Berndt*: Motion to approve a banner for the El Remanente de Cristo Church to be hung on the front of the building. *Carried*

IV. Sending

A. Next council meeting date is **November 20, 2018 (Thanksgiving Week)**

B. Closing Prayer – Pastor Jerrod closed the meeting in prayer.

C. Adjournment at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:
Melody Hime, "Interim" Council Secretary

DECEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9:00 AM AA * 7:00 PM MWAM Performance
2 1st Sunday of Advent 9:25 AM Sunday School/ Adult Education 9:30 AM BIBBS 9:30 AM Bell Choir/Choir 10:30 AM Joint Worship with Hispanic Church 11:30 AM Potluck Meal 3:00 PM MWAM Performance	3 7:00 PM AA* District Meeting 7:00 PM Gemeinschaft	4	5 10:00 AM OWLS 12:00 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM Simple Supper 6:30 PM Confirmation- Large/Small Group 6:30 PM Higher Ground 7:30 PM Worship 8:00 PM Choir	6 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM AA*	7	8 9:00 AM AA * 6:00 PM Hispanic Church Band Rehearsal
9 2nd Sunday of Advent 8:15 AM Worship 9:25 AM Sunday School/ Adult Education 9:30 AM Bell Choir/Choir 10:30 AM Worship & SS Christmas Program 1:00 PM Hispanic Church 1:00 PM MWAM Auditions 5:30 PM Luther & Lager	10	11	12 12:00 PM Bible Study 1:00 PM Quilters 6:00 PM Simple Supper 6:30 PM Confirmation- Large/Small Group 6:30 PM Higher Ground 7:30 PM Worship 8:00 PM Choir	13 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM AA*	14	15 9:00 AM AA * 2:00 PM Piano Recital 6:00 PM Hispanic Church Band Rehearsal
16 3rd Sunday of Advent 8:15 AM Worship 9:25 AM Sunday School/ Adult Education 9:30 AM Bell Choir 9:30 AM Choir 10:30 AM Worship 1:00 PM Hispanic Church	17 7:00 PM Gemeinschaft	18 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting	19 12:00 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM Simple Supper 6:30 PM Confirmation- Large/Small Group 6:30 PM Higher Ground 7:30 PM Worship 8:00 PM Choir	20 1:00 PM Martha Circle 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM AA*	21 8:00 PM High School Youth Lock-In	22 9:00 AM AA * 6:00 PM Hispanic Church Band Rehearsal
23 4th Sunday of Advent 8:15 AM Worship 9:25 AM Adult Education (No Sunday School) 9:30 AM Bell Choir 9:30 AM Choir 10:30 AM Worship 1:00 PM Hispanic Church	24 3:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship (office closed)	25 <i>Merry Christmas!</i> (office closed)	26 <i>*No Confirmation</i> (Christmas Break)	27 7:00 PM AA*	28	29 9:00 AM AA * 6:00 PM Hispanic Church Band Rehearsal
30 9:00 AM Worship 1:00 PM Hispanic Church	31					

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

119 West Eighth Avenue
P.O. Box 178
Shakopee, MN 55379
Phone: 952-445-5666
www.stjohns-shakopee.com
Address Service Requested

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
P A I D
Shakopee, MN
Permit No. 18

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