

The graphic features a dark, starry night sky with a bright star at the top. Below the sky, a silhouette of a small house with a lit window sits on a hill, with three figures walking towards it. The text "CHRISTMAS EVE" is written in large, white, serif capital letters, with "Worship Schedule" in a smaller, white, serif font below it. At the top of the graphic, a line of text reads "day in the town of David a savior has been born to you".

CHRISTMAS EVE
Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve Worship
Tuesday, December 24th
4:00 pm & 6:00 pm

Sunday Morning Worship
December 29th 9:00 am
(no education)

Please contact the church office for specific prayer requests or if a home or hospital visit is needed.

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

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

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From Pastor Gary Kinkel...

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Advent begins the new year for the Christian Church! The season reminds us insistently that a key element of being Christian is learning to wait patiently while keeping vigilantly awake. That is a sentence that demands careful unpacking! Unfortunately, we do not have the space to do that here. In brief, it means we are to press toward the future, trusting Jesus even when things look their darkest, and faithfully doing the things that our Savior and Master says to us (that is how we “keep awake”), and patiently enduring, continuing to trust him and to love with his love, even when things continue to be unjust, without grace or mercy, full of lying and unrighteousness and rejection of him and his way. In relation to this world we are called to bear a cross just as our Savior did.

But what I want to note is that this season highlights something very practical. It calls us to be formed inwardly so that we live and act in certain ways outwardly. Indeed, the Church and its liturgical seasons would “discipline” or train us, perhaps we might say “coach” us, to learn how to practice life in a way that is different from the world around us. It is central to the pastor’s job, or calling, to be about the business of training, forming and coaching Christians in a particular congregation to learn how to practice life in this different way at odds with the world and worldliness. There are a host of issues that make this almost impossible today, and so make it difficult to be the Christian Church at all.

One of them is, of course, the willingness of many so called “churches” to be just as worldly as the world—sometimes to be even more worldly than the world itself! There are “churches” that work hard to mirror the values, ideas and practices (religiously, ethically and politically) of our surrounding society in such a way that people are not formed, challenged, trained or called to take a cross and follow the Lord Jesus Christ. That means, people can always find a “church” that will do and say the things that make them happy and tell them what they desire to hear—agree with the things they already think. But such “churches” are not authentically Christian and do not make disciples of Jesus Christ. The fact that they call what they do “worship,” read short bits from the Scriptures and refer to Jesus does not make them Christian.

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Their very existence makes it harder to be the authentic Church of the crucified and risen Savior, because many people feel they do not need or want discipline. Instead, they want the Church to do and say what THEY want. They do not believe they need to grow, to learn, or to be trained to practice the Christian life more faithfully. They do believe that based on their current understanding, the Church should do what they want. If their Church does not meet their demands, it is easy today to find one that will.

But the Gospel is still the truth. The Word of God still needs serious and skilled interpreters and preachers. That is my calling and that is what St. John's Lutheran Church is about and will continue to be about. Six or seven years ago I found myself sitting at a table with some strangers at a wedding reception. I had been the officiant at the wedding. A man about a decade older than I am looked at me and said, "It must be a tough job trying to keep so many people happy." He was taken aback when I responded, "It is not my job to make anybody happy. It is my job to help make them Christian." That is still true. God is at work among us. May we humble ourselves and make ourselves available to the Lord for the Lord's purposes.

Please join us this Advent in learning patient waiting for Christ.

In the grace of Jesus,

Pastor Gary



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

December 4th at 10:00 a.m. is the OWLS Christmas Party!

Wrap up those white elephants and bring your best Christmas goodies.

Circle the date on your calendar. It's going to be a party!

Door prizes too, come and join the fun. *OWL are welcome!*

For more information, contact Becky Sexton at 952-445-4002



Quilts for Sale!

Brrr...it's cold outside, so the Martha Circle will have a display of quilts which are available for purchase on Sunday, December 15th during both worship services.

***ALL proceeds from the sale of quilts will go to the Brian & Aimee Johnson Family who lost their home in a fire.**

Confirmation News!

December Confirmation schedule:

12/04: Israel

12/11: Magi

12/18: Service of carols

12/25: NO Confirmation (*Merry Christmas!*)

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.

	1-Dec	8-Dec	15-Dec	22-Dec	29-Dec
8:00 Service					* 9:00 Service
<i>Cross Bearer</i>	Ethan Sauer	Kayla Kostelac	Mitchell Blenkush	Amber Stadler	Cannon Miller
<i>Acolyte</i>	Hailey Sauer	Blake Menden	Hogan Vaupel	Seth Appert	Caitlin Swenson
<i>Communion Server</i>	August Duehr	Payton Ofstehage	Kerris Vaupel	Olivia Hayer	Noah Brown
10:00 Service					
<i>Cross Bearer</i>	Paige Anderson	Tanner Briggs	Cecilia Lemke	Cameron Johnson	
<i>Acolyte</i>	Logan Garcia	Grace Breeggemann	Alexis Schuler	Kady McGraw	
<i>Communion Server</i>	Cassia Garvey	Brodie Sullivan	Jacen Skogrand	Josie Pond	



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

This Advent season we will be decorating the sanctuary with poinsettias purchased from the
Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women's Shelter.

Live plants that raise funds to save lives!

Instead of purchasing a plant you can contribute towards the cost in honor or memory of loved ones.
Contribution forms are in the Sunday bulletins and near the church front entrance.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes – October 22nd, 2019

Council members present: Pastor Gary Kinkel, Pastor Jerod Freeberg, Sandy McCullough, Jesse Rients, Kirsti Youngs, Aimee Johnson, Paula Brennan.

Council members absent: Jim Hime, Jenny Pudwill

Council Meeting Agenda for October 22, 2019, at 7:00PM

I. Gathering

- A. Call to order 7:03pm
- B. *Motion to approve agenda: Pastor Gary Kinkel/Paula Brennan; carried.*
- C. Scripture and prayer: Pastor Gary Kinkel - The Council in the Word: Acts 11:19-30

II. Discerning Our Mission

- A. Pastors' Reports
- B. Snow Removal - St. John's is looking for a new company to take care of the sidewalks and parking areas.
- C. Martha Circle - Discussing reupholstering the pew cushions.
- D. Poinsettias - Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women sells poinsettias as a fund raiser. They are beautiful plants and the cost includes delivery to the church. Unanimous agreement. *Motion carried.*
- E. Needs and Dreams/Capital Campaign - St. John's will research companies that provide the service of preparing and implementing a successful capital campaign.

III. Giving Thanks

- A. *Motion to approve council minutes: Kirsti Youngs/Pastor Jerod Freeberg; carried.*
- B. Treasurer's Report - sent via email.
Motion to approve Treasurer's report: Aimee Johnson/Pastor Gary Kinkel; carried.
- C. Reminder - Pumpkin Palooza at Shakopee Brew Hall on Saturday, Oct. 26, trick-or-treating, handing out backpacks and donated items from the fellowship committee.

IV. Sending

- A. Review action items established - next council meeting date is **November 17, 2019**
- B. Assign report for newsletter - Sandy McCullough
- C. Closing Prayer
- D. Adjournment – *Motion to adjourn: Pastor Gary Kinkel/Pastor Jerod Freeberg 8:52pm.*

December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 1st Sunday of Advent 8:00 AM Worship 9:10 AM Adult Education 9:15 AM Bell Choir & Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship 1:00 PM Hispanic Church	2 7:00 PM AA* District Meeting 7:00 PM Hope Al-Anon 7:00 PM Gemeinschaft	3 6:00 PM Hispanic Church Bible Study	4 10:00 AM OWLS 12:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study 6:00 PM Simple Supper 6:30 PM Confirmation 6:45 PM St. John's Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Worship	5 6:00 PM Beacon Launch Meeting 7:00 PM AA*	6	7 9:00 AM AA*
8 2nd Sunday of Advent 8:00 AM Worship 9:10 AM Adult Education 9:15 AM Bell Choir & Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship & Baptism 10:20 AM Sunday School 1:00 PM Hispanic Church	9 7:00 PM Hope Al-Anon 7:15 PM Discipleship Team	10 6:00 PM Hispanic Church Bible Study	11 12:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study 1:00 PM Quilters 6:00 PM Simple Supper 6:30 PM Confirmation 6:45 PM St. John's Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Worship	12 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM AA*	13 5:00 PM Hispanic Church	14 9:00 AM AA*
15 3rd Sunday of Advent Quilt Sale 8:00 AM Worship 9:10 AM Adult Education 9:15 AM Bell Choir & Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship 10:20 AM Sunday School 1:00 PM Hispanic Church	16 7:00 PM Hope Al-Anon 7:00 PM Gemeinschaft	17 6:00 PM Hispanic Church Bible Study 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting	18 12:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study 6:00 PM Simple Supper 6:30 PM Confirmation 6:45 PM St. John's Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Worship	19 11:30 AM Martha Circle Christmas Lunch (<i>offsite</i>) 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM AA*	20	21 9:00 AM AA* 1:00 PM Amadeus Piano Recital
22 4th Sunday of Advent 8:00 AM Worship & Baptism 9:10 AM Adult Education 9:15 AM Bell Choir & Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship 1:00 PM Hispanic Church	23 7:00 PM Hope Al-Anon 7:15 PM Discipleship Team	24 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship	25 Merry Christmas! <i>(office closed)</i>	26 7:00 PM AA*	27	28 9:00 AM AA*
29 9:00 AM Worship 1:00 PM Hispanic Church	30 7:00 PM Hope Al-Anon	31 6:00 PM Hispanic Church Bible Study				

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

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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