

What can I do about human trafficking?

5-7 PM

February 10, 2019

Beth Holger, Executive Director of The Link MN, and participants from their Passageways program will present a training they developed for the volunteers at last year's Super Bowl on how to recognize children and youth who are possibly being exploited and how to respond and assist them. A light supper will be served. A discussion will follow about our continued involvement with The Link. **Attendees are invited to bring a donation of \$10 gift cards** (Subway, McDonalds, Target or Cub Foods) for The Link to use in their programming to assist homeless youth and those recovering from exploitation. A box will also be in the narthex of the church to collect cards from the congregation. Youth and adults are welcome and encouraged to come and participate.

For more information, please contact Pastor Jerod Freeberg at pastorjerod@stjohns-shakopee.com, Beth Johnson at baj16@outlook.com, or Kay Kinkel at kinkel4@msn.com.

To RSVP or request child care, contact Beth Johnson.

Sponsored by the Cherish All Children Committee of St. John's Lutheran Church

Rev. Gary Kinkel, Senior Pastor
Rev. Jerod Freeberg, Associate Pastor
Sean Vander Veen, Worship Music Accompanist
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Office Hours: 8:00am-1:00pm Monday & Tuesday and 1:00pm-5:00pm Wednesday & Thursday
Closed – Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

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From Pastor Gary Kinkel...

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It is our natural bearing to think first and best about ourselves. It occurs to us automatically and without thinking to serve our own interests first and to seek what we believe will be best for ourselves. We are born responding to the world that way. There is a strong case to be made that this is an inborn survival mechanism, an evolutionary development that ensures that an infant will be cared for. Infants demand it! That is why the great Augustine, in the fourth century, identified infants as the very picture, the living proof, of original sin: Their entire existence is devoted to and revolves around themselves and their own egos. They are little tyrants; little authoritarians. They WANT. They DESIRE and therefore demand to be fed, held, kept warm and safe, and so on. As we grow, we gain social skills and learn to be less direct about our own desires and the wanting of our own way, but the reality of our ego is still there. Therefore, we adults, too, tend to think first and foremost about ourselves and what serves our own interests. We look to the needs and interests of others only after we make sure we have what we want. Then we may share some of our scraps with others.

That is one of the reasons the New Testament is such a shock to us (if we are paying attention). It is absolutely characteristic of Jesus, it is defining of his Way, when he says, “Deny yourself [in other words, say, “No,” to your own ego demands, to your own desires, to your own comfort, to your own happiness, to your making yourself and your own situation of first importance], pick up your **cross** and follow me in my way.” (Mark 8:34) In fact, Jesus makes it all the more emphatic by adding, “Everyone who wants to save and secure his or her own life, will absolutely lose it...” (Mark 8:35) That means, everyone who gives in to, or just goes along with, our built in tendency toward self-concern is not following Jesus and is, in truth, lost; wandering in darkness without the light of life.

Or, again, Jesus says, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” (Mark 12:31) is the second greatest commandment, the first being to love God [not ourselves] with every fiber of our being. To love my neighbor in the way I love myself means to make my neighbor into my first consideration. It means to seek the good of the other before seeking my own good. We do this with our children and more generally with our families. But Jesus’ call is for us to treat total strangers as if they are family to us; respond to children who may be in need as our own children; deal with adults who are struggling as our own parents, siblings, or children. The self is dethroned and displaced. To live Jesus’ Way, God must be in the central place and on the throne, other people must be a close second in consideration, and we ourselves must run a distant third. This is basic to Jesus’ message and to being his follower.

But that means our egos take a bruising. It means we must root out and constantly live against the grain of our natural tendency, because this natural tendency to self-love and self-concern is sin. This is why Paul says things like, “For by the Law I died to Law in order that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ. I myself don’t even live anymore, but Christ lives in me; and the life I live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loves me and delivered himself up on my behalf.” (Galatians 2:19-20) The fact that this is such a strong theme throughout the New Testament caused Luther to conclude that living by faith in the Gospel of grace means the death of the “dear little self” and its demands and desires. My attachment to the dear little self must end at the cross. My own ego must die—in fact, is already dead because of the cross of Jesus—and my ongoing mortal life must become more and more like my true life, which is Christ.

This is at the heart of what it means to be Christian. It is a key to faith: there is no faith that is not daily repentance and ongoing transformation. We could go on at great length about how this works out in various areas of life. Let’s briefly take one: our money and possessions.

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First, we belong to Jesus Christ, as Paul writes, “You were bought with a price, therefore glorify God with your mortal body.” (1 Corinthians 6:20) It follows that all I have, what I think of myself as possessing, belongs to God, since I myself am God’s. There is nothing that is in any real sense “mine.” Neither time, nor health, neither gifts nor skills, neither strengths nor capacities, neither wealth nor worldly goods; none of it is mine. As the apostle Paul asks, “What do you have that you did not receive?” (1 Corinthians 4:7) “We are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for good works...” (Ephesians 2:10) We are God’s and all that we have is God’s, given to us to serve the cause of God’s kingly rule, God’s mission to renew and redeem the whole creation.

That means that what I do with my body and what I do with the things that have come to me (money, possessions, time, skills, etc.) is a spiritual matter. It is an expression of my worship of the One God and an avenue in which to follow Jesus faithfully. It is the place where things get real. It challenges me with a fundamental question: Am I a follower of Jesus (and therefore, a believer)? Or am I merely a fan of Jesus; someone who stands at a distance and thinks, “How nice,” but who does not actually ante up? Am I giving what I have to Jesus for his purpose, or am I “enjoying” Jesus for myself without actually making myself and my “stuff” available to him?

These are serious spiritual questions to ask ourselves. They matter greatly. What is at stake in your giving to St. John’s is not really the future of St. John’s Lutheran Church. The church is God’s, and God will really and truly take care of it. What is at stake, in part, is your faith and your participation in God’s kingly rule. Remember what Luther says in the *Small Catechism* about the petition for God’s kingdom in the Lord’s Prayer: “God’s kingdom comes on its own without our prayer, but we ask in this prayer that it may also come to us.” One of the ways it comes to us is in our determination to give of our worldly “stuff” to God’s cause in and through the church. Do you tithe (give one tenth of your income) to God’s mission? Do you give more than a tithe? Do you set aside some percentage of your income each month to give to God’s purpose? If not, might it perhaps be time to start? If you already do give a percentage, how might you increase your percentage? This is a deeply spiritual matter. I encourage you to pray about it. God will guide you.

In the grace of Jesus,

Pastor Gary

Reading from Johann Arndt’s *True Christianity*, a Lutheran spiritual classic.

“A Christian should not rejoice in temporal things, but rather in God and the things of eternal life. But one should also not grieve all too much over temporal matters; but rather a lost soul—lost eternally—is a life-long sorrow...”

“Blessed is the person whose sadness is truly godly, in that case a person can also experience truly spiritual and heavenly joy. There is no truer freedom and joy than that which occurs in the fear of God with a good conscience. But there can be no good conscience apart from faith and a holy life. Faith and godly contrition through the Holy Spirit daily improve the human affliction.”



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

OWLS – February Meeting

Wednesday, February 6th @ 10:00 am

The OWLS will meet on February 6th at 10:00 a.m. While having coffee and treats we will be planning the year ahead and having some old school days fun. If you have not been to OWLS before, that's OK. I'm new too.

OWL be looking forward to making your acquaintance!

For information call Becky Sexton 952-445-4002

OWL are welcome!

Confirmation News!

February Confirmation schedule:

- 2/06:** Conclusion
- 2/13:** The Last Supper
- 2/20:** Benefits of Communion
- 2/27:** Ask the Pastors

Simple Supper Helper schedule:

- 2/06:** 9th Grade families
- 2/13:** 8th Grade families
- 2/20:** 7th Grade families
- 2/27:** 6th Grade families

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.*

	3-Feb	10-Feb	17-Feb	24-Feb
8:15 Service				
<i>Cross Bearer</i>	Seth Appert	Landon Vaupel	Josie Pond	Hogan Vaupel
<i>Acolyte</i>	Colin Kostelac	Gavin Holm	Jacob Radke	Cecilia Lemke
<i>Communion Server</i>	Noah Lindquist	Olivia Hayer	Hailey Sauer	Jacen Skogrand
10:30 Service				
<i>Cross Bearer</i>	Maya Mitchell	Cameron Johnson	Peter Swenhaugen	Alexis Schuler
<i>Acolyte</i>	Sierra Nascene	Cannon Miller	Mitchell Blenkush	Brinley Garvey
<i>Communion Server</i>	Emily Listrom	Kady McGraw	Jordyn Blenkush	Noah Brown

St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes - December 18th, 2018

Council Members Present: Pastor Gary Kinkel, Pastor Jerod Freeberg, Scott Wilts, Melody Hime, Aimee Johnson, Jenny Pudwill

Guests: Paula Brennan, Julie Litzenberger

Council Members Absent: Renee Lea, Erik Allen

I. Gathering

- A. Meeting called to order: Pastor Gary Kinkel @ 7:02
- B. Assign Time Keeper: Aimee Johnson
- C. *Motion to approve agenda: Aimee Johnson/ Scott Wilts Carried*
- D. Scripture and prayer: The Council in the Word Acts 8:26-40

II. Discernment (New Business)

- A. Council Reports for Congregational Annual Report
 - a. Please be working on reports and get them to Lisa as soon as you can.
 - b. Reminder: Annual meeting is January 27, 2019

III. Decisions (Old Business)

- A. *Motion to approve November council minutes: Scott Wilts/ Aimee Johnson Carried*
- B. Reports – any questions?
 - a. **Pastor Gary**
 - i. Erik Allen spoke with ELCA Synod regarding being the financial agent of the Southwest Latino Ministry and assist them with their back office needs. He is recommending that we proceed with the necessary steps.
Motion to approve Scott Wilts/ Jenny Pudwill Carried
 - ii. In addition, the 2019 budget should be available for discussion sometime next week (Dec. 24-30th).
 - iii. Regular church services on Sunday, Dec. 23. No Sunday School
Dec. 24th - two services, 3:00 and 5:00 pm.
Dec. 30th - one service at 9:00 am.
 - iv. Pastor Gary introduced the idea of Families Moving Forward. Cross of Peace is currently involved and are seeking assistance. More information to follow in January 2019.
 - b. **Pastor Jerod**
 - i. Youth Lock-In on Friday, Dec. 20th
 - ii. Mission Trip to Puerto Rico, June 2019. Update: 2 youth are currently signed up. 3 adult chaperones in addition to Pastor Jerod. A significant down payment was required.
 - c. Team Reports
 - i. Aimee Johnson – Spiritual Formation
 - 1. Fellowship meeting: Thanksgiving service was successful with attendance of about 70 people. Approximately 300 pounds of food for the CAP Agency was collected that evening.
 - 2. Fellowship: Has been discussing restarting small group gatherings, such as Dinners for Six.

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**St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes - December 18th, 2018**

3. Eagles Nest to partner with Building Committee to get refreshed and updated.
 4. Sunday School – not purchasing winter curriculum this year. As a money saving measure.
 5. Sunday School Christmas Service – went well, look to improve communication with Pastors and Sean Vander Veen going forward.
 - ii. Scott Wilts – Management (Properties, Technology, & Communications)
 1. Christmas decorations were done inside the church as well as outside.
 2. Tree trimming around the flag pole. Scott worked closely with Pastor Jose Luis.
 3. Pastor Jose Luis and others from his congregation has washed the front sanctuary wall and is now painting the same wall.
 4. Beginning to clean and update the Eagles Nest.
 5. Would like to get a group together in February to perhaps get a Capital Campaign started to gather ideas for building improvements.
 - iii. Jenny Pudwill - Finance
 1. Money counters would still like a new, updated computer. Jenny will get more information about what kind of computer system is required to meet their needs (ex. Chromebook, laptop, etc.).
- C. Reminder – newsletter article due – December 28th
 - a. Jenny Pudwill will submit the article.

IV. Sending

- A. Next council meeting date is **January 15, 2019**
- B. Closing Prayer – Pastor Gary lead us in the Lord's Prayer
- C. Adjournment at 8:40

Respectfully Submitted
Melody Hime, "Interim" Council Secretary

FEBRUARY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 9:00 AM AA * 6:00 PM Hispanic Church Band Rehearsal
3 8:15 AM Worship 9:25 AM Sunday School/ Adult Education 9:30 AM Bell Choir/Choir 9:30 AM B.I.B.B.S 10:30 AM Worship 12:30 PM MWAM Rehearsal 1:00 PM Hispanic Church	4 6:30 PM MWAM Rehearsal 7:00 PM AA* District Meeting 7:00 PM Gemeinschaft	5	6 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	7 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM AA*	8	9 9:00 AM AA * 6:00 PM Hispanic Church Band Rehearsal
10 8:15 AM Worship 9:25 AM Sunday School/ Adult Education 9:30 AM Bell Choir/Choir 10:30 AM Worship 12:30 PM MWAM Rehearsal 1:00 PM Hispanic Church 5:00 PM Cherish All Children Event	11 6:30 PM MWAM Rehearsal	12	13 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	14 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM AA*	15	16 9:00 AM AA * 6:00 PM Hispanic Church Band Rehearsal
17 8:15 AM Worship 9:25 AM Sunday School/ Adult Education 9:30 AM Bell Choir/Choir 10:30 AM Worship & Baptism 12:30 PM MWAM Rehearsal 1:00 PM Hispanic Church	18 6:30 PM MWAM Rehearsal 7:00 PM Gemeinschaft	19 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting	20 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	21 1:00 PM Martha Circle 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM AA*	22	23 9:00 AM AA * 6:00 PM Hispanic Church Band Rehearsal
24 8:15 AM Worship 9:25 AM Sunday School/ Adult Education 9:30 AM Bell Choir/Choir 10:30 AM Worship 1:00 PM Hispanic Church 6:00 PM MWAM Rehearsal	25 6:30 PM MWAM Rehearsal	26	37 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	28 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM AA*		

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

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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