



Congratulations to St. John's 2018 High School Graduates!

On Sunday, June 10th, we will recognize and celebrate the high school graduates in worship. St. John's desires to lift up the following 2018 senior graduates from Shakopee High School (student information submitted as of this newsletter printing):

Rebecca June Dawley

Parents: Del Dawley & Sandy McCullough
Post HS Plans: Concordia College Moorhead -
majoring in Education

Mackenzie Anne Reeder

Parents: Jim & Melody Hime, Joseph Reeder & Sandra Voelker
Post HS Plans: MN State University Moorhead -
studying graphic design

Thomas Robert Dawley

Parents: Del Dawley & Sandy McCullough
Post HS Plans: Vocational training in carpentry

Allison Ann Roe

Parents: Chris & Kelly Roe
Post HS Plans: College of St. Benedict – majoring in Nursing

Mckenzyn Taylor Doty

Parents: Eric & Bonnie Doty
Post HS Plans: University of Wisconsin-La Crosse – majoring in Exercise Science/Occupational Therapy

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
Karen Van Sickle, Choir Director
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, Saturday and Sunday.

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From Pastor Gary Kinkel...

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Summer is here, and the weather is hot! Gardens are in, plans are made for getaways, outdoor activities beckon and we enjoy lakes, parks, art festivals and a host of other things. All these good things are from God who made them and gave them to us as gifts. God delights in them and wills that we should, too. It is so easy to step from there to the view that we should do whatever we want to do with the natural world. We talk and act as though the world is ours to do with as we please. But that is not what God wills. The creation accounts (there are two of them) in Genesis teach, as the great theologian of the Old Testament, Gerhard von Rad, wrote, that human beings are created to “tend God’s garden” in God’s name and for God’s sake. We are not created to use the earth (God’s garden) in our name and for our own purposes. No. We are called to represent God before the earth and to care for it, and all its creatures, in God’s way and according to God’s will.

The reality of sin in its cancerous malignancy disrupts and destroys our relationship to God, our relationships with each other, with ourselves and with the natural world. Therefore, it is not merely “souls” that are lost and need to be saved. The whole world is broken and in need of saving. Indeed, the old song by Bob Dylan is a true statement about the world: “Everything is Broken.” In fact, we, and all else, are so broken, we are so far gone, that we do not even see the brokenness. We do not note our own sickness. And until we know we are desperately sick, we will never seek healing and salvation.

The Church is here, in the summer, too, calling out the Word of the living God. Calling us to account for our sin and announcing God’s saving, healing grace. But without that Word we cannot even see things in the right way, cannot think in the right way about ourselves or the rest of the world. This summer I am preaching a series of sermons on the character of God. Who is the God we worship? How is God the All Determining reality in the universe? Please make sure to be here so you can come to know God better, love God more deeply and see things more clearly and truly. Without this preached Word we quickly lose our way AND our vision.

I’ll see you this summer!

In the grace of Jesus,

Pastor Gary

From Pastor Jerod Freeberg...

"I am the true vine, and my father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me." John 15: 1-4

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

Last week I spent my day off putting in the dock at our family cabin near Willmar, Minnesota, and I was immediately reminded of all the days spent visiting my grandparents. We would play card games, and go bowling; we would play outside, and of course go to church. I detested going to church with my grandparents it was small, unfamiliar, and we would be stuck there for two hours! Never-the-less it was my church home away from home, and over time that small country church began to take hold of a special place in my heart.

When I was little my parents always liked to celebrate the end of tax season by doing something fun together as a family. When we were little it was going to the Mall of America, and when we were a little bit older it was going to San Diego, and a couple of times over the years that meant celebrating Easter at La Jolla Lutheran Church. I wasn't always excited to go to church on vacation, but they would always hand us Easter Eggs full of candy, so it wasn't my least favorite place either, it was however an important part of my faith life.

In our Gospel lesson Jesus asks us to abide in him so that we might bear fruit for the vinegrower and reminds us that we cannot bear fruit unless we abide in him. This means taking the time to worship and pray, no matter what your circumstances in life may be. We rejoice when we are suffering and when we are happy; we rejoice when we are busy and when we are on vacation; and we rejoice when we are at home and when we are far away. We do this so that we might abide in the one who has died in order to set us free. So, remember whether you are at home or at the cabin, if you are at St. John's or somewhere else to abide in Jesus Christ and to make God a part of your summer, Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jerod



We are excited to announce this year's **Vacation Bible School** program will take place **August 5-10** and will be hosted by Good Earth Village.

The cost will be \$30/student and registration is **NOW** open, and students going into grades K-6 are invited to participate. This year's VBS program will run from 9:00am-4:00pm with the option for parents to drop-off students as early as 8:00am. We hope that this makes it more convenient for working families to participate in this exciting opportunity. You can register online at

<https://goodearthvillage.squarespace.com/shakopee> and drop your checks off to the church office. **Please make checks out to St. John's Lutheran Church and include VBS in the memo line.** Space is limited.

If you have any questions, please contact Jerod at

pastorjerod@stjohns-shakopee.com

News from Church Council

My name is Aimee Johnson and I am new to the council this year, serving as the spiritual formation team lead.

As a new member, I am busy learning the ropes and I am thrilled to be surrounded by so many wonderful people serving beside me. My husband Brian and I have been members of St. John's for the past 4 years. We have two young children - Cameron (11) and Atticus (7). Our boys love coming to St. Johns on Sunday. Our oldest has a servant's heart and he loves to help usher as often as possible. My youngest enjoys singing and socializing with his fellow first graders. My husband and I are very active in the Sunday school program at St. Johns. I, along with Sarah Baumgartner, run the Sunday School office and my husband leads the music with the kids.

Proverbs 22:6 reads *"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it"*. I have a passion for children's ministry in the church. I was raised in the Lutheran church with a wonderful community of believers and an active youth ministry program. I want the same for all the children at St. Johns. I want my children to see me serving and want to serve. I want my children and all children at St. Johns to be a part of a community that will teach them God's ways and support them throughout their journey. As they grow, I want them to feel connected with people of all generations.

I joined the church council to help grow programs that will nurture and build Christian families and Christian practices within families. I hope many of you will work with me in this effort and volunteer your time to serve and see what God has in store for you and St. Johns. We are off to a good start with the wonderful addition of Pastor Jerod and I am excited to watch what God has in store for the children and families of St. Johns. Blessings to you all.

In Christ,
Aimee

Council Retreat April 2018

The church council held a retreat the end of April. We opened and closed with worship. We spent time talking about God's mission. Pastor Gary led a discussion on council member expectations. We made suggestions of things that we thought were important. Pastor Gary will compile the list and create a council covenant. Nancy led an activity to highlight the importance of communication. We tried to complete a jigsaw puzzle; everyone had their own set of pieces and we needed to work together and share ideas to figure out what the puzzle was. We also learned that if someone is not at a meeting, they still have important 'pieces of the puzzle' that need to be shared with others. We included the congregation in our activity and noted the importance of communicating with all church members. Pastor Jared followed up with a discussion about the need for transparency. Two things that we currently do are publish the council meeting minutes and hold open council meetings.

We had a conversation about the executive committee meetings. Members felt that it may be a good idea to keep the executive meeting as a format to have more in-depth discussions since the committees haven't gotten up and running yet. We will have a follow up discussion at the council meeting. If this committee meets, it would be 30 minutes prior to the council meeting.

Pastor Gary led a discussion about getting the committees started.

Nancy Berndt, Council President

Congratulations to our 2018 Confirmation Class!



The following twelve youth affirmed their baptism on Sunday, May 6th:

Anthony Asmus, Katelyn Buth, Avery Garvey, Katelyn Lindquist, Jacob Meyer, Jordan Miller, Westin Nascene, Nicholas Rubash, Alicia Shepard, Jacob Skogrand, Barrett VanHorn and Jessica Vermeulen

St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes March 13th, 2018

Gathering

The March 13, 2018 meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Nancy Berndt. Shelley Gehrman agreed to be the timekeeper. Scott Wilts made and Pastor Gary seconded a motion to approve the agenda.

Pastor Gary led the council in a continuing study of the book of Acts, highlighting verses 8-15 of Chapter 6. He pointed out that even though Steven was not an apostle, he acted like one. Like Jesus, Steven did not respond to the accusations of blasphemy leveled against him by false witnesses. We find similar behaviors in our churches today in that people who are not strong enough to stand up for their beliefs agitate others into action.

Discernment - The following topics were presented:

- A. VBS - Good Earth Village will run a full day program called Day Camp Plus. There will be a ratio of 8 campers per counselor.
- B. Spring Social Update - Jenny Pudwill made and Aimee Johnson seconded a motion that all funds from the silent auction, live action, raffle, ticket sales, and games be distributed as follows: 100% to the Fund in Need--designated for our Children, Youth and Family Ministry. Motion carried.
- C. Fundraising Activity - Council members agreed that sponsoring "Bingo Night" at the Brew Hall in Shakopee would be a fun and well-attended activity. No date for the event has been determined.
- D. Executive Committee Meetings - There may no longer be a need for this committee to meet. The council will address the topic at its upcoming retreat.
- E. Easter Worship—Community Worship - Ads should be placed in the newspaper alerting and inviting the public to our church activities.
- F. Church Pew Inserts - Scott Wilts presented samples of pew inserts that would benefit both members and visitors worshipping at St. John's. One insert could say "I give electronically." A second could identify a prayer request. Pastor Gary would like a third pew insert developed that would address Lutheran worship specifically.
- G. Church Fellowship Area Updates - It is hoped that additional chairs and other amenities will be in place by Easter.

III. Decisions (Old Business)

- A. Motion to approve council minutes: Council members will receive a copy of the February minutes via e-mail. Each will let Nancy know of either his or her approval or any necessary additions or corrections to be made.
- B. Reports: There were no questions regarding written reports from Pastor Gary, Pastor Jerod, Council President, or St. John's Team Leaders. Erik Allen sent the Treasurer's Report via e-mail. Jenny Pudwill made and Nancy Berndt seconded a motion to approve the report as printed. Motion carried.

IV. Sending - The next council meeting is at 7:00 PM on April 17, 2018. Tonight's meeting closed with prayer and was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes April 17th, 2018

Members present: Jenny Pudwill, Nancy Berndt, Erik Allen, Renee Lea, Aimee Johnson, Shelley Gehrman, Pastor Gary, Pastor Jerod, Kathy Larson
Members absent: Scott Wilts

I. Gathering

- A. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by Nancy Berndt. Renee Lea agreed to be the timekeeper.
- B. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Kathy Larson and seconded by Renee Lea. Motion carried.
- C. Pastor Gary led the council in a continuing study of Acts 7:1-8. Although it appears the main character in Stephen's story is Abraham; in truth, Stephen is preaching about Jesus. Council members agreed that Jesus remains the only savior here at St. John's Lutheran Church.

II. Discernment (New Business)

- A. Council Retreat: is set for April 28th from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM here at the church. Focus topics will include:
 - Maintaining open and transparent communication
 - Setting council goals
 - Determining need for/purpose of Executive Council
 - Energizing the congregation
- B. Pastor Jerod's Installation:
Pastor Jerod will be installed at each of the services on April 22, 2018. All members and friends will be invited to the reception scheduled between the two services. Aimee Johnson will co-ordinate all food and decoration responsibilities for the event. Pastor Jerod reminded council members to honor God rather than him during this memorable occasion.
- C. Vacation Bible School:
Renee Lea made and Nancy Berndt seconded a motion to schedule VBS for August 6 – August 10 from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM. Motion carried. The cost per child will be \$60 with financial and contractual details to be determined at a later date. St. John's church will provide lunches for camp counselors each day and provide lunch for all campers on August 10th as well.
- D. Synod Assembly Delegation:
Pastor Jerod, Pastor Gary, and 3 lay members of St. John's will attend the Synod Assembly. Nancy Berndt made and Jenny Pudwill seconded a motion to pay all registration fees out of St. John's budget. Motion carried.
- E. Youth Gathering:
Jenny Pudwill made and Aimee Johnson seconded a motion to pay all Pastor Jerod's out-of-pocket expenses for the youth gathering in Texas. A discussion was held regarding already completed events and future fundraising plans to offset expenses for attending the gathering. Envelopes for donations are posted in the entryway. Funds are available from the MWAM Bake Sale and Spring Social; and a Bingo Night will be held at the Shakopee Brew Hall.

III. Decisions (Old Business)

- A. Council Minutes:
February 2018 Council Minutes were amended to clarify that all funds from the Spring Social would be awarded to Youth Ministry at St. John's—50% to the Sunday School and 50% to be divided between expenses for the Youth Gathering and expenses for Vacation Bible School. This represents a different allocation of funds from that of past years.
- B. Treasurer's Report:
Erik Allen reported that we have \$65,000 in the checking account. At present we are at 99.5% of projected giving—leaving us slightly ahead of our budgeted deficit funds. Shelley Gehrman made and Aimee Johnson seconded a motion to approve the budget. Motion carried.
- C. President's Report:
Pastor Gary Kinkel's performance review will be held during the month of May. Reviews for Sean Vander Veen, Karen Van Sickle, and Mitch Evett will be scheduled during the month of June.
- D. Team Reports:
Sunday School students and their friends, teachers, and families will be going bowling during the month of May.

IV. Sending

- A. Newsletter Report: Shelley Gehrman will write an article for the May issue of the newsletter. Aimee Johnson will write an article for the June newsletter.
- B. Council members held hands and prayed the Lord's Prayer together.
- C. Jenny Pudwill made and Shelley Gehrman seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM

JUNE 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 4:00 PM Piano Recital	2 9:00 AM AA * 12:00 PM Hispanic Church
3 9:00 AM Worship (Baptism) 1:00 PM Hispanic Church 6:00 PM MWAM Rehearsal	4 7:00 PM AA* District Meeting 7:00 PM Spiritual Growth Team	5	6 12:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study	7 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM AA* 7:00 PM Hispanic Church	8	9 9:00 AM AA * 3:00 PM Hispanic Church
10 <i>(Graduates Recognition)</i> 9:00 AM Worship 1:00 PM Hispanic Church 5:30 PM Luther & Lager 6:00 PM MWAM Rehearsal	11	12	13 12:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study	14 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM AA* 7:00 PM Hispanic Church	15	16 9:00 AM AA *
17 9:00 AM Worship 1:00 PM Hispanic Church 6:00 PM MWAM Rehearsal	18 7:00 PM Spiritual Growth Team	19 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting	20 12:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study	21 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM AA* 7:00 PM Hispanic Church	22	23 9:00 AM AA *
24 9:00 AM Worship Outdoors 1:00 PM Hispanic Church 6:00 PM MWAM Rehearsal	25	26	27 12:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study	28 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM AA* 7:00 PM Hispanic Church	29	30 9:00 AM AA *

JULY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 AM Worship 1:00 PM Hispanic Church 6:00 PM MWAM Rehearsal	2 7:00 PM AA* District Meeting 7:00 PM Spiritual Growth Team	3	4 <i>(office closed)</i>	5 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM AA* 7:00 PM Hispanic Church	6	7 9:00 AM AA *
8 9:00 AM Worship 1:00 PM Hispanic Church 5:30 PM Luther & Lager 6:00 PM MWAM Rehearsal	9 6:30 PM MWAM Rehearsal	10 6:30 PM MWAM Rehearsal	11 12:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study	12 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM AA* 7:00 PM Hispanic Church	13	14 9:00 AM AA *
15 9:00 AM Worship 1:00 PM Hispanic Church 6:00 PM MWAM Rehearsal	16 6:30 PM MWAM Rehearsal 7:00 PM Spiritual Growth Team	17 6:30 PM MWAM Rehearsal 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting	18 12:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study	19 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM AA* 7:00 PM Hispanic Church	20	21 9:00 AM AA *
22 9:00 AM Worship 1:00 PM Hispanic Church 4:00 PM MWAM Rehearsal	23 6:30 PM MWAM Rehearsal	24 6:30 PM MWAM Rehearsal	25 12:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study 7:00 PM MWAM Performance	26 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM AA* 7:00 PM Hispanic Church	27 7:00 PM MWAM Performance	28 9:00 AM AA * 10:00 AM & 12:30 PM MWAM Performances
29 9:00 AM Worship Outdoors 1:00 PM Hispanic Church	30	31				

* - "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