



Wednesday Evening Lenten Services

ALL are welcome to share in a meal and join us for worship on Wednesday evenings during Lent.

Community Soup & Sandwich meal @ 6:00pm
Lenten Worship @ 7:00pm

Every week something different!

- **Ash Wednesday, March 6, 7:00 pm** – Traditional Ash Wednesday Service
- **March 13, 7:00 pm** – A Service built around some recent music, featuring a guest band.
- **March 20, 7:00 pm** – An Emerging Church Service, featuring lots of opportunity to interact with each other around Lenten themes.
- **March 27, 7:00 pm** – A quiet service of meditation and prayer. The model for this is traditional Quaker practice. There will be a handout to help you know what to do with the time and silence.
- **April 3, 7:00 pm** – Pastor Gary is editing and adapting a Fourth Century Christian Liturgy for this service. We are going OLD (as in ancient) school!
- **April 10, 7:00 pm** – A Spoken Word Service led by Joe Davis, who has led this kind of service in many ELCA churches and at our Synod Assembly.

For the sake of your faith don't miss a single week!

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,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ! We are on the verge of Lent. Ash Wednesday is next week. But just what are these things? The word "Lent" comes from the old Anglo-Saxon word "Lencten" which simply meant "spring." The observance of Lent began very early among Christians. It is much older than the observance of Christmas. Irenaeus (born 135-ish and martyred in 202) refers to the practice of Lent, as does Tertullian (145-220). Originally it was a fast lasting 40 hours before Easter. Then it expanded to Holy Week. By the year 325 the Council of Nicea recognized Lent as a 40 day observance. Ash Wednesday became part of the practice in the seventh century.

Lent reflects the 40 days Jesus fasted in the desert, enduring trial by the devil. It is 40 days (not counting Sundays—the Lord's Day) in which we are called to remember, and participate in, the self offering, suffering, and death of Jesus, and to prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate his resurrection from the dead. During this participation Christians are called to deepen their devotion—not just for Lent, but in a way that carries on after Easter. It is a period of completing our conversion to Christ; of transforming our lives so that we conform to him; in other words, it is a time of completing our baptism. Lent is a remembering of our baptism and what it means and a conscious and deliberate living into our baptism: claiming God's promise in Jesus Christ for ourselves and responding with the faithful offering of our lives—our whole selves—to him.

This offering of our lives to Jesus Christ for his purpose, for his cause, involves every aspect of who we are and what we have. To the extent that we exempt some features of ourselves we are not following him. The world around us constantly tells us that it does not matter. There is nothing really at stake. It only has something to do with whether we feel happy, or fulfilled, or some such thing. But the New Testament and Jesus himself say otherwise. It is a matter of life and death. It is a matter that resounds in eternity and for eternity. Whether I go with Jesus or not, whether I give myself to him entirely or hold something back, decides whether I am living in darkness or light; whether I follow the path of death or of life; whether I am lost or found. I urge you in love to seek the light. Come to the light. Come into life, and that means, among other things, putting my pocketbook, my bank account, my time and my strength in the hands of God. A good Lenten question for meditation is: How does my giving reflect my faith? Am I presenting my whole self to Jesus in my offering? Or am I holding back, fearful of the future? My offering is a real world incarnation of my faith. It is a witness to whether my faith is real or just some words I say. During this Lent let's you and me, together, make our faith real by taking the simple yet profound step of giving more to St. John's for the sake of Jesus. Whatever I have given in the past, I will give more.

In the grace of Jesus,

Pastor Gary

Confirmation – Our Rite of Confirmation will be part of our 10:30 service on May 5th, and we would like to extend a special welcome to friends and family on this day of celebration.

First Communion Workshop April 6th – We will be holding a First Communion Workshop on Saturday April 6th from 9:30 until Noon. We invite all 5th graders and their families to come and learn more about the sacrament of Communion in preparation of their First Communion.

First Communion – First Communion will be part of our Maundy Thursday service, which will be held on April 18th at 7:00 pm.

Pastor Jerod



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

OWLS – March Meeting

Wednesday, March 6th @ 10:00 am

At the OWLS February gathering we made old fashioned Valentines for our spouses, grandkids, and shut-ins. Paul Youngs will join us on March 6th.

He will speak on "After Life Giving". He is with Edward Jones.

Paul and his wife, Kirsti are very active members at St. John's.

In April the OWLS will meet Joan Freeberg, Pastor Jerod's mother.

Joan is a recent seminary graduate and will speak to us on "Vocations for Seniors".

I am very much looking forward to hearing Joan's message.

Remember OWL are welcome! For information call Becky Sexton 952-445-4002



Sunday, March 3rd 4:00 – 6:30 PM

Mardi Gras, French for Fat Tuesday, like its similar counterparts, Carnival or Shrove Tuesday, has evolved from the practice in the early church of using up all fats and sweets in the household so no one will be tempted to eat them during the solemn weeks of Lent. Traditions vary from country to country and have changed over time. Masks and costumes are often part of the festivities and are symbolic of hiding yourself as we often do in our daily lives. The celebrations conclude by winding down the festivities, taking off our masks as the solemn, self-reflective season of Lent begins.

At St. John's, we'll gather together and make festive Alleluia banners and glittery sequined masks to the tune of Dixieland music. Then we'll enjoy a pancake and sausage supper. After supper, we'll roll up the Alleluia banners and "bury" them in back of the Fellowship Hall as Alleluia is not spoken throughout Lent until Easter morning. We'll also take down our masks, share a short, reflective reading, and begin Lent by burning last year's palm branches to be used for the Imposition of Ashes on Ash Wednesday. The Alleluia banners will be brought out again on Easter morning, announcing the news of Jesus' resurrection that shattered the tomb and brought us eternal life.

Please join us! You can also sign up near the sanctuary entrance if you want to be involved by bringing food to share at the supper or helping to set up, prepare the meal, or clean up.

A Prayer for God's Church

Thank you, holy God, for the gift of your church.

Thank you for teaching St. John's to be generous as you are generous. Make us a congregation that gives as we are taught to give by setting aside the first one-tenth of our income for you.

Thank you for the warm, comfortable building you have given us where we worship you, learn more about you, and teach our children to know and love you as we do. Help us to be generous with our resources to maintain this building so we may continue to serve you.

Thank you for the gift of the sabbath. Thank you for setting aside an entire day for us to worship you. Teach us to rejoice in the time we spend worshipping you and keep us hungry for more opportunities to spend in your presence.

Thank you for the gift of your word. Help us to seek greater knowledge of you in Bible study and education. Thank you for our rich Lutheran traditions that teach us about your gift of grace and your love for every one of your children.

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for giving us this church where we can obey the commandments you gave us: to love God and love one another. In this church we love and worship you. In this church we serve our neighbors. Help us make your church a sanctuary for those in need.

Help us remember that in this church we do not serve or worship ourselves. We are here for you.

Wednesday Evening Lent Soup/Sandwich Meal & Services

Community Soup & Sandwich meal @ 6:00 p.m. with Lenten Worship @ 7:00 p.m. following.

Confirmation Large Group Class with Pastor Jerod will meet @ 6:30 p.m. (will end just prior to Lenten service starting. 9th grade confirmation class will work on their stoles).

ALL are welcome to share in a meal and join us for worship on Wednesdays during Lent. Please see the schedule below for when your Sunday School or Confirmation class is scheduled to serve.

Lenten Soup & Sandwich Supper Serving Donation Schedule:

- March 6th: 1st and 4th grade students/parents
- March 13th: 3rd and 5th Grade students/parents
- March 20th: 2nd and 6th Grade students/parents
- March 27th: 8th Grade Confirmation students/parents
- April 3rd: 7th and 9th Grade Confirmation students/parents
- April 10th: Church Council

Please Bring:

- 10-12 Sandwiches (meat & cheese, about one loaf) **OR**
- 1 dozen of bars or cookies

If you are helping with set-up, please arrive before 5:00 p.m.

Please have the food at the church between 5:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Students and parents should plan to help serve and clean up.

If you are interested in donating soup, please see the sign-up sheet in the kitchen or contact Janis

Judd at jjudd@sacsschools.org

March Confirmation Schedule

3/06: No Confirmation – Ash Wednesday Service

3/13: The Sacraments

3/20: The Lord's Prayer

3/27: The Apostle's Creed

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.*

8:15 Service	3-Mar	10-Mar	17-Mar	24-Mar	31-Mar
<i>Cross Bearer</i>	Ella Doty	Olivia McCall	Edie Schmidt	Nicholas Briggs	Colin Kostelac
<i>Acolyte</i>	Maddie Eslinger	Madison McGraw	Holly Schmidt	Daniel Eckers	Noah Lindquist
<i>Communion Server</i>	Garrett Hayer	Emily Stadler	Luke Wilts	Brinley Garvey	Maya Mitchell
10:30 Service					
<i>Cross Bearer</i>	Jenna Koehn	Abigail Swenhausen	Gabby Anderson	Colby Hahn	Sierra Nascene
<i>Acolyte</i>	Brock Koivisto	Emma Swenson	Lillian Allen	Kylie Hahn	Emily Listrom
<i>Communion Server</i>	Martin Koivisto	Lindsay Schmidt	Molly Anderson	Gavin Holm	Kaylin Anderson

Musicals with a Mission presents...



Spring Social Silent Auction Items

This year's Spring Social is Friday, April 26th at Turtle's Social Hall.

The social committee needs help in collecting gift cards, big & small ticket items, baskets and/or cash to purchase items for the silent auction and raffle. *Your help is needed to make this year a success!*

Any questions, please contact Patti Hayer @ 612-723-9734.



A Note from the President

Council began a new year in February with all new officers and one new team lead. New beginnings in the church remind us that God promises to make all things new—even us, God's favorite and most troublesome creation.

God blesses us so generously that we mistakenly begin to think that we deserve it all and have no obligation to share. We are misers with our time, talent, and treasure, heedlessly breaking commandments even as we sit in our pews for worship.

Some of us resent getting up on Sunday mornings and will seek any excuse to skip worship. We check our watches and roll our eyes when the service drifts over the 60-minute line. Having put in our obligatory hour, we rush off to our busy-bee lives in service to ourselves, having neglected to put God first or keep the sabbath holy.

We think our busy lives don't allow us to use our talents to serve God. We ignore calls for volunteers, thinking someone else will do the job and creating a heavy burden for a few people. In 2018 St. John's nominating committee approached 16 members of the congregation to fill a single council position. All said no. Nominating committee members filled two council positions.

Our spiritual and cultural roots teach us traditions like tithing and first fruits: setting aside the first one-tenth of our goods for God. In churches across the country, giving has become much less intentional. We do it as an afterthought, and this miserly response to God's generosity to us has left the church bereft of resources, unable to maintain buildings, participate in ministry, or aid those in need.

The question is do we really want to be disciples of Christ? If we do, then we have a lot of changing to do. God is good at changing things—like plain old water into wine. It's a renewal process, and St. John's is ripe for renewal. So watch out! The holy spirit can come like a mighty wind. And God is calling everyone one at St. John's to Rise Up and Be Renewed!

Sandy McCullough, Council President

St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes - January 15, 2019

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

Council Members Absent: Erik Allen, Renee Lea, Pastor Jerod Freeberg

Visitors: Paula Brennan, Jesse Rients, Carmela Nascene, Jim Hime, and Sandy McCullough

I. Gathering

- a. Meeting called to order: Pastor Gary Kinkel @ 7:03
- b. Assign Time Keeper: Aimee Johnson
- c. *Motion to approve agenda: Scott Wilts/Aimee Johnson Carried*
- d. Scripture and prayer: The Council in the Word Acts 9:1-9

I. Discernment (New Business)

- a. Report of the Nominating Committee: Sandy McCullough, Jim Hime, and Carmela Nascene present.
When the Nominating Committee was first formed, there were 3 positions open: Vice President, Community Relations, and Secretary
Then the positions of Treasurer and President opened up also.
Going forward: Vice President will be Jesse Rients, Community Relations Kirsti Youngs
Secretary will be Paula Brennan, Treasurer position remains unfilled at this time.
President position remains unfilled at this time.
- b. Consideration of 2019 Budget
Council discussed information gathered from Erik Allen, Treasurer.
Overall giving for 2018 was less than the projected amount.
Stewardship questions: What is the process/steps if a congregant wants to change their Simply Giving amount?
Stewardship needs to be a focus early in the calendar year.
Council will defer to Erik Allen and further discussion will occur on Thursday, Jan. 17th.
UPDATE: Erik Allen sent the proposed 2019 budget to council members via email on January 23, 2019.
Majority of council members approved the budget via email votes.
Motion to proceed with the 2019 budget outlined in the treasurer's (Erik) report based on \$274,399 offering target. Scott Wilts/ Jenny Pudwill carried
- c. Logistics of Annual Meeting
Pastor Gary is willing to be the leader of the annual meeting.
Council members should be prepared to answer questions.
There needs to be enough congregants present to be able to vote.
Lisa will create a sign in / attendance sheet.

II. Decisions (Old Business)

- a. *Motion to approve December council minutes: Aimee Johnson/Scott Wilts Carried*

III. Reports – any questions?

- a. **Pastor Gary**
Discussed the possibility of re-forming an Altar Guild.
Families Moving Forward will possibly present at the February Council Meeting.
Would like the council to consider helping Augustana church in Mpls.
- b. Team Reports
 - i. Aimee Johnson – Spiritual Formation
 1. Fellowship meeting January 16 to discuss the Church Social for 2019.
 2. Sprucing up the Eagles Nest and emptying the small conference room.
 - ii. Scott Wilts – Management (Properties, Technology, & Communications)
The worship space is being painted by Jose Luis. Looks great!
 - iii. Reminder – newsletter article due – January 24th
- c. Scott Wilts will submit the article.

IV. Sending

- A. Next council meeting date is **February 19, 2019**
- B. Closing Prayer – Pastor Gary led us in the Lord's Prayer
- C. Adjournment at 9:12

Respectfully Submitted,
Melody Hime, "Interim" Council Secretary

MARCH 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 B.I.B.B.S 10:30 AM Worship 12:30 PM MWAM Rehearsal 1:00 PM Hispanic Church 4:00 PM Mardi Gras Celebration	4 6:30 PM MWAM Rehearsal 7:00 PM AA* District Meeting 7:00 PM Gemeinschaft	5 6:30 PM MWAM Rehearsal	6 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 10:00 AM OWLS 12:00 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM Lenten Soup & Sandwich Supper 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Worship Service	7 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM AA*	8	9 9:00 AM AA * 6:00 PM Hispanic Church Band Rehearsal
10 <i>Daylight Savings Starts</i> 8:15 AM Worship 9:25 AM Sunday School/ Adult Education 10:30 AM Worship 12:30 PM MWAM Rehearsal 1:00 PM Hispanic Church 5:30 PM Luther & Lager	11 6:30 PM MWAM Rehearsal	12 6:30 PM MWAM Rehearsal	13 12:00 PM Bible Study 1:00 PM Quilters 6:00 PM Lent Soup Supper 6:30 PM Confirmation 6:30 PM Higher Ground 7:00 PM Lenten Worship 8:00 PM Choir	14 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM AA*	15	16 9:00 AM AA * 10:00 AM MWAM Rehearsal & Set Assembly 6:00 PM Hispanic Church Band Rehearsal
17 8:15 AM Worship 9:25 AM Sunday School/ Adult Education 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM MWAM Rehearsal 1:00 PM Hispanic Church	18 6:30 PM MWAM Rehearsal 7:00 PM Gemeinschaft	19 6:30 PM MWAM Rehearsal 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting	20 12:00 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM Lent Soup Supper 6:30 PM Confirmation 6:30 PM Higher Ground 7:00 PM Lenten Worship 8:00 PM Choir	21 1:00 PM Martha Circle 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM AA*	22 7:00 PM MWAM Performance	23 9:00 AM AA * 7:00 PM MWAM Performance
24 8:15 AM Worship 9:25 AM Sunday School/ Adult Education 10:30 AM Worship 1:00 PM MWAM Performance 4:30 PM MWAM Performance	25	26	27 12:00 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM Lent Soup Supper 6:30 PM Confirmation 6:30 PM Higher Ground 7:00 PM Lenten Worship 8:00 PM Choir	28 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM AA*	29	30 9:00 AM AA * 6:00 PM Hispanic Church Band Rehearsal
31 8:15 AM Worship 9:25 AM Sunday School/ Adult Education 10:30 AM Worship 1:00 PM Hispanic Church						

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

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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