



***Interested in making a difference in your community & beyond?***

*Please consider joining the Social Ministries Committee!*

Mark your calendars for **Sunday Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:15am** which will be our first meeting! This committee is in the beginning stages but will be focused on representing St. John's through volunteer opportunities. Have questions or need further information?

Please see Kirsti Youngs - cell: 952-239-3856 or email at: [kirstifree@gmail.com](mailto:kirstifree@gmail.com).



## **Worship Hours**

**Sunday Worship – 8:00 & 10:00am**

**Adult Education – 9:10am**

**Sunday School – 10:20am**

***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

[pastorgary@stjohns-shakopee.com](mailto:pastorgary@stjohns-shakopee.com)  
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**Office Hours:** 8:00am-1:00pm Monday & Tuesday and 1:00pm-5:00pm Wednesday & Thursday, closed – Friday

**St. John's Lutheran Church 119 West Eighth Avenue, Shakopee, MN 55379**  
**952-445-5666 [www.stjohns-shakopee.com](http://www.stjohns-shakopee.com)**

## **From Pastor Gary Kinkel...**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The celebration and remembrance of the birth of our Savior is in the rearview mirror. Ash Wednesday is approaching fast. The solemn worship in which we engage on Ash Wednesday raises profound questions about us. Or, perhaps we should say, it places us in question. What are we really doing with our lives, and why? What life project are we trying to carry out? Are we keeping in mind that we are mortal—from dust we are created and to dust we will return. But that means that all our thoughts and efforts, all that we build, all that we try to accumulate, all our status—all of it—will also crumble into dust. And not only are we mortal and finite, but we are also sinners. Therefore, while we share this mortal life for such a fleeting moment, we mostly think about ourselves. We mostly do not ask things like, given this brief and fragile life, how should I live so that when I come to the end (and the end will come, suddenly or slowly, to all of us without exception at an hour we do not know) I do not have to have the horrible realization that I wasted this precious time that I can NEVER get back; I wasted this inestimable gift—a life, I squandered it in selfish concerns and shallow pursuits, I missed the point.

The center, the burning, holy, mysterious Reality—the REALLY Real--that burns at the heart of the universe and moment by moment grants being to all that is, is the place from which we have come forth and to which we will return, before whom we are accountable and who longs for relationship with us—but who will not force or coerce us. The truth and righteousness of our lives are measured and judged by that Living, Transcendent Truth, which is at the same time Eternal, Fiery, Omniscient Righteousness.

But we cannot find or know that Real One on our own, by our own capacities. After all, we are finite and mortal. But we are also in open rebellion against the Holy One's will and purposes for us and for the world. But we joyfully hear the Word, every Sunday, that this Holy One, whom we call "God," has taken radical action to save us and reclaim us, to heal and remake us. In Jesus Christ, God has descended into the tumult and noise of our history, shared our life under all its conditions, taken our sins and failures, indeed sin itself and evil itself, into his own body and nailed it to the cross—again, in his own body. He has overthrown the very Power of Evil itself and the Power of Death itself for us. We can know and experience his love for us. We can enter into the forgiveness of every sin and the promise of life with him beyond and untouchable by death. Faith is the reception of Jesus Christ and his life. Better, faith causes us to be incorporated into his prior and much BIGGER life!

*(continued on page 3)*

But this faith in Jesus Christ gives us a new orientation in our day to day existence. It changes how we think about ourselves, our neighbors, our lives and goals, our hopes and our material possessions. It is granted to us by faith to live a new life. In this new life, we love our Savior above all else and we seek to center everything in our lives around him; to please him in all that we think, do and say. Indeed, we seek to be as he was in the world. That said, we are also oriented in a new way toward the church. The church is not a mere voluntary society. It is the gathering of my sisters and brothers in God's great project of redeeming and healing the world. It is the place where I am continually reminded of who I am and who I am called to be. I need it desperately because the world tries to distort me into its mold daily and relentlessly. I realize, too, that for the church to carry on it needs my gifts, my time and commitment, my engagement and my material goods. How much am I giving to the mission into which we are called? Is that all I think God's project, God's healing, God's grace is worth? My giving of time, effort and money proclaims how much God's grace is worth to me. It offers thanksgiving and praise for what God has done and is doing. If I think about my offering of my self and my money, I must be honest with myself: does my offering suggest that God's grace and kingly rule is the most important thing in my life? Or does it point to the truth that I may be living by regarding lots of other things as more important than God's gracious work for us in Jesus Christ? Am I following him? Or am I casting a casual glance in his direction now and then, while my real life is actually about something else?

Ash Wednesday and Lent presses these questions upon us.

In the grace of Jesus,

***Pastor Gary***



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

The OWLS will meet on February 5<sup>th</sup>.

We have a great line up of guest speakers and Bible Study leaders from February thru June. They include: Pastor Gary, Sandy McCullough, Pastor Jerod and Sheila Duddy, a grief counselor and representative from Beacon.

Please cut this out and keep it as a reminder of the upcoming events.

*OWL see you in February!* Becky Sexton 952-445-4002.



### **Volunteer Opportunities**

Mark your calendars for the next

**Feed My Starving Children (FMSC)** meal packing opportunity!

*This is a fun volunteer event for the whole family (age 5 & older)!!*

**When:** Friday, February 21, 6:00-7:30pm

**Where:** FMSC - 18732 Lake Drive E, Chanhassen, 55317

Contact Social Ministry Committee member Kirsti Youngs to register,  
phone: 952-239-3856 or email: [kirstifree@gmail.com](mailto:kirstifree@gmail.com)

# Confirmation News!

## Weekly Schedule:

2/05: Article Three

2/12: The Call of Saul

2/19: The Road to Emmaus

2/26: No Confirmation – Ash Wednesday

## Worship Helper Schedule:

	2-Feb	9-Feb	16-Feb	23-Feb
<b>8:00 Service</b>				
<i>Cross Bearer</i>	Brodie Sullivan	Jacen Skogrand	Josie Pond	Hogan Vaupel
<i>Acolyte</i>	Kerris Vaupel	Amber Stadler	Jacob Radke	Molly Anderson
<i>Communion Server</i>	Mitchell Blenkush	Seth Appert	Hailey Sauer	Nicholas Briggs
<b>10:00 Service</b>				
<i>Cross Bearer</i>	Noah Brown	Olivia Hayer	Cannon Miller	Daniel Eckers
<i>Acolyte</i>	Cecilia Lemke	Cameron Johnson	Peter Swenhaugen	Brinley Garvey
<i>Communion Server</i>	Alexis Schuler	Kady McGraw	Caitlin Swenson	Gabby Anderson

# St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

## Council Meeting Minutes – December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Council Members present: Pastor Gary Kinkel, Pastor Jerod Freeberg, Sandy McCullough, Jim Hime, Jenny Pudwill, Aimee Johnson, Paula Brennan.

Council Members absent: Kirsti Youngs, Jesse Rients.

### I. Gathering

- A. Call to order 7:07pm – Sandy McCullough
- B. *Motion to approve agenda Pastor Gary Kinkel/Paula Brennan; carried.*
- C. Scripture and prayer: Pastor Gary Kinkel – The Council in the Word: Acts 12:11-17

### II. Discerning Our Mission

- A. Pastors' Reports – Pastor Gary Kinkel led a worship service at Friendship Manor, officiated two funerals and had 60 pastoral visits in addition to regular worship. Pastor Gary is also very involved in Families Moving Forward and the Beacon Project to build Supportive Housing in Shakopee.  
Pastor Jerod Freeberg – promoting the summer mission trip will happen in earnest in January.  
Confirmation and youth group continues to grow and be well attended.
- B. Sunday Morning Schedule – checking in on the new schedule and hearing from families, teachers and staff. Seeking feedback from all involved, perhaps forming a group.
- C. Capital Campaign consideration – Sandy McCullough spoke with the James Group regarding a capital campaign. They advised St. John's has things to work on – long range planning and goals, before the congregation is ready to engage in a capital campaign. Early in 2020, the James Company is willing to have a representative come in to give us guidance and direction.  
*Motion to empower Sandy McCullough to speak with the representative from the James Company to come (without cost) to a council meeting to explain what they do and how they can help St. John's with a capital campaign. Pastor Gary Kinkel/Jim Hime; Carried.*

### III. Giving Thanks

- A. Treasurer's Report/Next Year's Budget – *Motion to approve Treasurer's Report: Jenny Pudwill/Aimee Johnson; carried.*  
Next year's budget - discussion to rely on a forecast of a 10% increase in giving and proposing a flat expenditure. *The council approves Jim Hime preparing a budget based on 2019 YTD actuals that will reflect a 10% increase in giving and 0% increase in expenditures. Paula Brennan moved to amend the motion to include possible discussion of salary increases; Jenny Pudwill/Pastor Gary Kinkel; carried.*
- B. *Motion to approve council minutes: Jenny Pudwill/Jim Hime; carried.*
- C. Request for Team Reports for Annual Report.

### IV. Sending

- A. Review action items established—next council meeting date **January 21, 2020**
- B. Assign report for newsletter and reports for Annual Report – Jenny Pudwill, Aimee Johnson, and Kirsti Youngs.
- C. Closing Prayer
- D. Adjournment – *Motion to adjourn: Jim Hime/Pastor Gary Kinkel; carried. 9:13pm.*

Respectfully Submitted,  
Paula Brennan, Council Secretary

# February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> 9:00 AM AA*
<b>2</b> 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 12:00 PM MWAM Rehearsal 1:00 PM Hispanic Church	<b>3</b> 7:00 PM AA* District Meeting 7:00 PM Hope Al-Anon 7:00 PM Gemeinschaft	<b>4</b> 6:00 PM Hispanic Church Bible Study	<b>5</b> 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	<b>6</b> 6:30 PM MWAM Rehearsal 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM AA*	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9:00 AM AA*
<b>9</b> 8:00 AM Worship 9:10 AM Adult Education 9:15 AM Bell Choir & Choir Rehearsal 9:15 AM Social Ministries Committee 10:00 AM Worship 10:20 AM Sunday School 12:00 PM MWAM Rehearsal 1:00 PM Hispanic Church	<b>10</b> 7:00 PM Hope Al-Anon 7:15 PM Discipleship Team	<b>11</b> 6:00 PM Hispanic Church Bible Study 6:00 PM Beacon Meeting	<b>12</b> 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	<b>13</b> 6:30 PM MWAM Rehearsal 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM AA*	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9:00 AM AA* 2:00 PM Hispanic Church Event
<b>16</b> 8:00 AM Worship 9:10 AM Adult Education 9:15 AM Bell Choir & Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship 12:00 PM MWAM Rehearsal 1:00 PM Hispanic Church	<b>17</b> 7:00 PM Hope Al-Anon 7:00 PM Gemeinschaft	<b>18</b> 6:00 PM Hispanic Church Bible Study 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting	<b>19</b> 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	<b>20</b> 1:00 PM Martha Circle 6:30 PM MWAM Rehearsal 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM AA*	<b>21</b> 6:00 PM Feed My Starving Children Event @ Chanhassen Site	<b>22</b> 9:00 AM AA*
<b>23</b> 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 12:00 PM MWAM Rehearsal 1:00 PM Hispanic Church	<b>24</b> 7:00 PM Hope Al-Anon 7:15 PM Discipleship Team	<b>25</b> 6:00 PM Hispanic Church Bible Study	<b>26 Ash Wednesday</b> 12:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study 5:45 PM Lenten Supper 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Worship	<b>27</b> 6:30 PM MWAM Rehearsal 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM AA*	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9:00 AM AA*

\* - "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 20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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