



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

Each Wednesday evening during Lent we will gather for worship in the fellowship hall in the basement. Our worship will take a different form than it does on Sunday mornings.

It was Luther's practice during Lent to preach his way through the *Catechism*.

We do not have enough services to do that in detail, as Luther did.

But each Wednesday we will take up a different section of the *Catechism*.

In the spirit of worship and prayer we will sit at round tables so that we can talk together in small groups. We will share our experience and understanding, and we will learn from each other.

The schedule for Lent is this:

- **Wednesday, March 4** – The Ten Commandments
- **Wednesday, March 11** – The Apostle's Creed
- **Wednesday, March 18** – The Lord's Prayer
- **Wednesday, March 25** – The Office of the Keys
- **Wednesday April 1** – The Sacraments (or The Christian Mysteries)
- **April 9 is Maundy Thursday**

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

St. John's Lutheran Church 119 West Eighth Avenue, Shakopee, MN 55379
952-445-5666 www.stjohns-shakopee.com

From Pastor Gary Kinkel...

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ! By the time you receive this, Lent will have begun. Just a day or two ago we gathered in solemn worship for Ash Wednesday. We were called upon to remember that we are dust and to dust we will return and received ashes on our foreheads in the sign of the cross. This mark witnesses at the same time to our mortality--the brevity and fragility of this precious gift of life--and our sin, our willful refusal to be the creatures God created and calls us to be. But the sign of the cross also directs us to the Savior who suffered and died for us in order that we might be forgiven and participate in God's own life. In God's judgment against us lies also our salvation, the grace that saves us through the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Sisters and brothers, these are serious matters. They concern the reality of death, both Jesus' and ours, the reality of our own wicked self-assertion not only against each other—but against the living God, and raises the question of the proper form of, the authentic aim of, human life. Yes, these are serious matters, indeed. And they call for reflection, meditation, self-examination, repentance, and prayer.

But we live in a society that is systematically arranged and ordered to keep us from serious self-reflection, meditation, repentance and prayer. These things require time, a measure of solitude and a turn away from what is commonly thought that a good life might be. They require the formation of an inward determination to be a different kind of person and to live a different way for different purposes. None of this is quick or easy. It is not breezy or pleasant. It is something quite different.

For our society, entertainment has become the model for how people believe things ought to be done. The expectation of entertainment shapes our political life, our leisure, and the way we approach and think about our faith. Tragically, the entertainment model is terribly and essentially destructive of serious discourse, discussion and thought. Entertainment stays on the surface of things, has easy solutions to problems, moves the mind quickly from one thing to another (with no dead air in between for thought or consideration), and by all means keeps things amusing and pleasant.

Neil Postman, in his important book, *Entertaining Ourselves to Death*, quotes then executive director of the National Religious Broadcasters' Association, who said, "You can get your share of the audience only by offering people something they want." (p. 121)

(continued on page 3)

Postman continues, “You will note, I am sure, that this is an unusual religious credo. There is no great religious leader—from Buddha to Moses to Jesus to Mohammed to Luther—who offered people what they want. Only what they need. But [entertainment] is not well suited to offering people what they need. It is ‘user friendly.’ It is too easy to turn off...It does not accommodate complex language or stringent demands. As a consequence, what is preached [in the entertainment shaped church] is not anything like the Sermon on the Mount. [Entertainment churches and their services] are filled with good cheer. They celebrate affluence. Their featured players become celebrities. Though their messages are trivial [they attract big crowds]—or rather, because their messages are trivial...

I believe I am not mistaken in saying that Christianity is a demanding and serious religion. When it is delivered as easy and amusing, it is another kind of religion altogether.” (p. 121) Indeed, Postman is right. And when it takes the form of entertainment it quickly becomes something that may have some vague historical relationship to Jesus and to being Christian—but it is itself, not Christian.

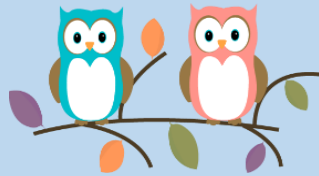
All that we do at St. John’s, all that I do in ministry, is dedicated to *being Christian*, to offering our whole lives in worship to the service of the Triune God, to following Jesus in all that we do and say and think. But to follow Jesus means we have to learn to attend to things Jesus actually said and did, to the things Jesus was most concerned about in his earthly ministry—because those are the same things he is concerned about now. That is why I am zeroed in like a laser on the Scriptures and why I am pushing St. John’s to get more deeply engaged with Scripture, to read it more and to hear it taught and preached, and to regard it as most important—even more important than the time worship might take on any particular day. The Word of God demands real attention and engagement, and disciplined interpretation, not a breezy glance at a couple of lines that one soon enough forgets or ignores.

This is a hard business. There are those who would turn away and seek more entertaining ways to spend their time. What Soren Kierkegaard once wrote is always true: “There is no special difficulty connected with being a Christian in the imagination; but to *exist* as a Christian is an extremely strenuous task, because existence itself constitutes a hindrance and an objection.”

We are about the business of life and death every time we gather at St. John’s. We are about the “strenuous” business of following Jesus as he is preached in the New Testament. For the sake of your soul, please come join us when we gather.

In the grace of Jesus,

Pastor Gary



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

The OWLS will meet on Wednesday, March 4th

Our guest that morning will be Sandy McCullough and she will be speaking about GOSSIP. As you know, Sandy has been a very active member of St. John's and could easily fill more than an hour on her past commitments and futures desires for St. John's. But she will tackle a topic we all know about or do we. Who gossips more; men or women? Who gossips to get into a group? Who gossips to stay in a group? How does social media fit into all this? What does the Bible say about this topic? It should all be very interesting.

Please come, OWL are welcome.

For more information call Becky Sexton 952-445-4002.



Interested in making a difference in your community & beyond?

The next Social Ministry Committee meeting will be between services at 9:15 a.m. in the church library on Sunday, March 8th!

Please join us!

We are meeting every 2nd Sunday of the month & need people to help volunteer in the community!!

Have questions?

Please contact Kirsti Youngs - cell: 952-239-3856 or email at: kirstifree@gmail.com.

Confirmation News!

Weekly Schedule:

3/04: 9th Grade – bible verse; 6th – 8th Grades - Lent

3/11: 9th Grade – faith statement; 6th – 8th Grades - Lent

3/18: 9th Grade – faith statement; 6th – 8th Grades - Lent

3/25: 9th Grade – faith statement; 6th – 8th Grades – Lent

Worship Helper Schedule:

	1-March	8-March	15-March	22-March	29-March
8:00 Service					
<i>Cross Bearer</i>	Colby Hahn	Sierra Nascene	Logan Garcia	Ethan Sauer	Alexis Schuler
<i>Acolyte</i>	Kylie Hahn	Landon Vaupel	Kayla Kostelac	Brodie Sullivan	Amber Stadler
<i>Communion Server</i>	Gavin Holm	Paige Anderson	Blake Menden	Kerris Vaupel	Josie Pond
10:00 Service					
<i>Cross Bearer</i>	Colin Kostelac	Grace Breeggemann	Cassia Garvey	Mitchell Blenkush	Jacen Skogrand
<i>Acolyte</i>	Noah Lindquist	Tanner Briggs	Payton Ofstehage	Noah Brown	Seth Appert
<i>Communion Server</i>	Emily Listrom	August Duehr	Kaden Olson	Cecilia Lemke	Olivia Hayer

Musicals with a Mission presents...



St John's Lutheran Musicals with a Mission will be presenting *Children of Eden* on Friday, April 17th at 7:00pm and Sunday, April 19th at 4:00pm at St John's.

The cast and crew will also be performing on Saturday, April 18th at 5:30pm at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Redwood Falls and Sunday, April 19th at 9:00am at American Lutheran Church in Windom.

Free-will offering will go to Kaitlyn's Klostet, which provides basic daily necessities to single mothers. Come and support these hard-working youth as they perform this Broadway musical!

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes – January 21st, 2020

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

Guests: Mike Laurel, Erik Vangsness

I. Gathering

- A. Call to order 7:00pm 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 12:18-25

II. Discerning Our Mission

- A. Pastors' Reports – Pastor Gary and Pastor Jerod each submitted written reports.
 - Pastor Gary has received a request for the wedding of a couple who are not members. Proposed a group form to write a policy and list of requirements in order to be married at St. John's.
 - Hazardous liquid has been discovered in the church that needs to be removed.
 - Eric Vangsness would like to be nominated as Treasurer with the condition of purchasing Aplos software.
- B. Poinsettia funds – there is \$300-350 surplus from 2019 to be used for purchasing poinsettias in 2020.
- C. Capital Campaign consideration update – Sandy McCullough - There is no cost for an initial meeting with a representative from The James Group and the council and/or the congregation. Sandy suggested perhaps inviting him to the spring retreat meeting.

III. Giving Thanks

- A. Treasurer's Report – Jim Hime –
Motion to approve Treasurer's Report: Jenny Pudwill/Jesse Rients; carried.
Next Year's Budget – Jim Hime –
Motion to approve 2020 housing allowance as \$30,000 for Pastor Gary Kinkel and \$24,000 for Pastor Jerod Freeberg. Jenny Pudwill/Jim Hime; carried.
Motion to approve proposed 2020 budget reflecting a 15% increase in giving and 5% increase in clergy salaries. Aimee Johnson/Kirsti Youngs; carried. Pastor Gary Kinkel and Pastor Jerod Freeberg recused themselves from the vote.
- 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 **February 17, 2020**
- B. Assign report for newsletter and reports for Annual Report
- C. Closing Prayer – Sandy McCullough
- D. Adjournment - *Motion to adjourn: Jim Hime/Jenny Pudwill; 9:22pm carried.*

Respectfully Submitted,
Paula Brennan, Council Secretary

March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 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	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 5:45 PM Quartet Rehearsal 6:00 PM Lenten Supper 6:30 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Lent Worship 7:45 PM St. John's Choir Rehearsal	5 6:30 PM MWAM Rehearsal 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM AA*	6 6:00 PM Hispanic Church Prayer Service	7 9:00 AM AA*
8 <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i> 8:00 AM Worship 9:10 AM Adult Education 9:15 AM Bell Choir & Choir Rehearsal 9:15 AM Social Ministry Committee 10:00 AM Worship 10:20 AM Sunday School 12:00 PM MWAM Rehearsal 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 5:45 PM Quartet Rehearsal 6:00 PM Lenten Supper 6:30 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Lent Worship 7:45 PM St. John's Choir Rehearsal	12 6:30 PM MWAM Rehearsal 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM AA*	13 6:00 PM Hispanic Church Prayer Service	14 9:00 AM AA*
15 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	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 5:45 PM Quartet Rehearsal 6:00 PM Lenten Supper 6:30 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Lent Worship 7:45 PM St. John's Choir Rehearsal	19 1:00 PM Martha Circle 6:30 PM MWAM Rehearsal 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM AA*	20 6:00 PM Kerry Murphy Piano Recital	21 9:00 AM AA*
22 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	23 7:00 PM Hope Al-Anon 7:15 PM Discipleship Team	24 6:00 PM Hispanic Church Bible Study	25 12:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study 5:45 PM Quartet Rehearsal 6:00 PM Lenten Supper 6:30 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Lent Worship 7:45 PM St. John's Choir Rehearsal	26 6:30 PM MWAM Rehearsal 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM AA*	27 6:00 PM Hispanic Church Prayer Service	28 9:00 AM AA*
29 8:00 AM Worship 9:10 AM Adult Education 9:15 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship 12:00 PM MWAM Rehearsal 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 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