



# Interim Pastor Gary Rehborg To Serve St. John's Church



St. John's Missouri Synod Lutheran welcomed Interim Pastor Gary Rehborg to serve their congregation. Pastor Rehborg lives in rural Osage, MN. He will be staying in the church parsonage at times. Rehborg will be with St. John's for the next 12 months. They will transition toward calling a permanent pastor during the year.

**By: Karen Carpenter**  
St. John's Missouri Synod Lutheran Church has a long heritage in Barnesville. The church was

formally organized 73 years ago on May 13, 1947. The congregation is now looking toward the future. They have just

welcomed an interim pastor to serve them as they go through a transition stage before calling a permanent pastor.

Pastor Gary Rehborg has been involved in Intentional Interim Ministry since retiring from full time pastoral duties in 2013.

For the past three months, the pulpit at St. John's has been served by fill-in pastors.

Pastor Thomas Eaves had been the minister for St. John's congregation since August, 2010. He left on November 24, 2019 to pursue another call in Illinois.

St. John's had two interim pastors serve for a year before calling Pastor Eaves. They were Pastor Arthur Weidner and Pastor George Krueger. Reverend John Knierim was spiritual leader at St. John's for 11 years prior to that time from 1998 to 2009.

A new era now begins for the 261 members of St. John's Missouri Synod Lutheran in Barnesville.

A Minnesota native, Pastor Rehborg was raised in rural Ottertail County.

He and his wife, Joyce, have four children, Matthew, Osage, MN; Becky, Park Rapids, MN; Michael, Becker, MN; Rachel, Isanti, MN. Joyce is a Wheaton, MN native.

After receiving his bachelor's degree Rehborg went on to four years in seminary. "During my years in the ministry I have had the privilege to engage in an advanced degree program in missiology, the study of missions, through which I earned a Master of Sacred Theology degree," said Pastor Rehborg.

Pastor Rehborg has served in the ministry since 1985. All of his churches were in Minnesota.

He served Missouri Synod Lutheran churches in Tracy, Windom, Lake George, Elk River, and Crown, in rural St. Francis, where he retired from full-time work in 2013.

"My wife and I purchased land and make our home in rural Osage, MN," Rehborg said. "We own a nice hobby farm of 20 acres, just enough for a couple horses, cats and dog."

"I also had the opportunity to receive training in equine therapy and special training in Intentional Interim Ministry."

Upon retirement he was asked to enter into Intentional Interim Ministry work at Zion Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, MN, St. John Lutheran Church, Elizabeth, MN and Zion Lutheran Church, Ada, MN.

"I have used my skills in short term ministries in Perham and Moorhead, and at present I am engaged in Interim Ministry at St. John Lutheran Church in Barnesville," said Pastor Rehborg.

"I have found the folks in the church in Barnesville to be good wholesome small town/country folks who are Minnesotan, i.e., down to earth good folks."

"Although I will not be working full time in the congregation, the folks are very kind to permit me to stay in the parsonage the nights I am in town."

The objective during the time together with St. John's congregation, is to work forward through a time

of transition from Pastor Eaves' ministry. This is accomplished by assessing and planning for the future ministry as needed and desired by St. John's Church. The end result will be calling a full time pastor.

"I am looking forward to the dynamics and enthusiasm of working with these fine people to the God pleasing completion of my work with them," continued Pastor Rehborg.

"As every pastor with a mission, I cordially invite everyone to hear the saving message of our dear God and Savior. Come, hear and be part of the greatest story ever told to His glory and our eternal peace," said Rehborg.

Pastor Gary Rehborg will be ministering for the next year to St. John's congregation.

St. John's Missouri Synod Lutheran Church members recognize their heritage but eagerly look toward the future.



Pastor Gary Rehborg is the new interim pastor at St. John's Missouri Synod Lutheran Church in Barnesville. The church was established in 1940 and was located on Third Street NE. St. John's congregation built their new church home at 1103 Fourth Ave NE in Barnesville in 1990.

## Early Childhood Education Through Community Ed

**By: Chris Ellefson**  
Early Childhood Screening is important for all three- to five-year-old children

Minnesota law mandates Early Childhood Screening for all children before they can enter Preschool/Kindergarten. Schools are to inform parents that they are required to have children screened before school entrance, preferably around age three-and-one-half. This is to guarantee that all young children in Minnesota are well equipped and ready for learning. A record of screening and results needs to be on file prior to preschool and kindergarten enrollment.

The scheduled dates for Early Childhood Screening for the Barnesville School District are May 11, 12, 13 and 14 during the day. If parents/guardians of children age three-and-one-half to four-and-one-half do not receive information by April 24, they should contact the Community Education office at 354-2638. The Community Education office will schedule the time and date for your child to be screened. Remember: All children must go through the screening before they can enter preschool and kindergarten. The ideal age for the screening is three-and-one-half to four years old.

If you have any questions about the upcoming screening, please call the Community Education office at 218 354-2638 or the District Office at 354-2217. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have about the screening process. We hold the screening at the high school in the Preschool Room.

Preschool Registration for the 2020-21 school year will take place online this year on Tuesday, April 14

We will have Preschool Registration on Tuesday, April 14, for parents who are interested in having their three-, four- or five-year-old children participate in the 2020-21 preschool program. All parents will register online starting at 6:00 p.m. on the 14th. Parents who are not unable to register online can bring their registration forms to the Community Ed office on Wednesday, April 15. A registration packet will be mailed to parents with students who will be three, four and five years of age as of September 1, 2020. If you have a child in this age category and you do not have the packet by the end of March, please call the Community Education office at 354-2638 or email Chris at [cellefson@barnesville.k12.mn.us](mailto:cellefson@barnesville.k12.mn.us).

This will be the first year we are trying the online registration process. We will put kids into classes after the registration time-frame, which will be explained in the packet.

The 2020-2021 preschool options include the Senior Preschool 1 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:15-11:15 a.m.; and Senior Preschool 2 on Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:15-3:15 p.m. The senior classes are for students who are four or five as of September 1, 2020, and not in kindergarten. We have a Junior Preschool class on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:15-11:00 a.m. for students who are three by September 1, 2020. The Tuesday and Thursday

afternoon classes will be either another senior class or a second junior class depending upon the registration numbers. Julie Johnson is the preschool teacher and Gloria Lee is the preschool aid. Preschool classes are held in the high school.

Community Education is looking to start up a Kids Club up beginning June 1, 2020. Previously, the school has offered a school-aged childcare program. We held the program at the elementary school and had very good numbers for the first couple of years. Due to declining numbers, we discontinued the program. There were other groups that held the program for a few years. Presently, there appears to be a need to re-start the program.

Barnesville Public Schools will be offering a Summer Kids Club program, which will start June 1. Registration information will be included in the Summer Recreation brochure that will go out to families in April. The program will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and be housed at the high school.

We are currently working on details regarding the program, and hope to have everything finalized in the next few weeks.

If you have a school-aged child who would be needing child care this summer, please watch for information to be coming out with all of the program details and how to register.

Please contact the Community Education Office at 354-2638 or Chris at [cellefson@barnesville.k12.mn.us](mailto:cellefson@barnesville.k12.mn.us) with any questions.

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