



St. John's Lutheran Church

St. John's Lutheran Church is a community of people united to God and to each other by faith in Jesus Christ, called by the Holy Spirit to bear witness to the love of God and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our Love of witness, proclamation, nurture, service, and outreach at home and abroad will occur through faithful use of the scriptures, the sacraments, and prayer. We are motivated by our gratitude to God for his abundant gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

We would like to thank the following volunteers that helped in many different ways over the Easter weekend!

Terri Bohl & family	Cheryl & Alana Helland	Evan Nitek
Samantha Nelson	Bill & Annie Bleskacek	Laura Bleskacek & family
Martin Halom & family	Wendy LaGesse	Melissa Sarauer & family
Kathy Tozer & grandkids	Domenic Meisner	Nancy Schindler
Tammy Peterson	Joe Lewis	Sindy Zakrzewicz & family
Candy Homme	Barb Ross	Laura Franta
Beth & Tyler Halverson	Aaron & Elijah Prill	Vicky Trinko
Tom Buchner	Marla & Pete Paulson	Mel Crisp
Pauline Stertz	Ted & Lisa Goettl	Brad Ruff
Rob Summerfield	Karen Anderson	Sue & Garrett Zwiefelhofer
Heidi Morning	Eva Rihn	Janice Naset
Shelly Lane	Shari Swartz	Gregg & Julie Anderson & family

Lyn Pank and Susie Seibel were here with us in spirit. Please forgive me for anyone that I may have forgotten. ~Tom Buchner



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Confirmation Faith Statements
- Message from the Bishop
- Church Council Minutes
- Church News
- Financial Report
- Youth and Family
- Preschool

INSIDE THIS

- Faith Statements 3
- Message from Bishop 5
- Council Minutes 6
- Calendar 8
- Church News 9
- Financial Report 10
- Youth and Family 12
- Preschool News 13

Office number: 715-568-5446

Like us on Facebook! St. John's Lutheran Church - Bloomer, WI

St. John's Website: www.Stjohns-bloomer.org



2016 Easter Egg Hunt



Confirmation Faith Statements

February 28, 2016

I have been attending Sunday school and church services here at St. John's for as long as I can remember. I wasn't always so happy about waking up that early, but when I got older and started understanding the things I was being taught and the sermon, It made a lot more sense. One thing that really helped me connect with the sermons was the children's bible. It made all of the biblical stories easier to understand. My favorite was The Good Neighbor in the children's bible. This story is normally called The Good Samaritan. I really liked the idea that the most unexpected person, ended up being most helpful to a man he did not even know. This story helped me to try and help anyone who needs it, regardless of their religion. God has blessed me with life and all kinds of opportunities and for that I believe I need to serve him and make him a big part of my life. At difficult times in my life, I look to God to somehow always have a solution, even if I don't know it. From Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you, ' declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'" The lord has a plan for me. I trust him because I know his plan is the best plan. I pray that he will guide me into this plan he has created for me, and I have not doubts in him. Thank you.

March 6, 2016

I am proud to say that I am a true believer! I believe Jesus Christ is my Savior. He sacrificed his life for us when he was tortured and died on the cross. I have a strong relationship with Jesus, and I feel I am a better person because of it. I learned of him at a very young age. I still have the books at home that my parents read to me.

There are times when I question God's decisions, like when I lose people very close to me. I lost two of my uncles at a young age, and I couldn't quite understand why we have to endure so much pain. This past summer, I couldn't understand why he had to take good friends of ours, it's hard to still see so much pain in their family and in our neighborhood. I just have to keep telling myself that God's plan is way greater, and I have faith that things happen for a reason. I truly believe that my loved ones are in a much better place, and I will once again be reunited with them. I know that they are now angels and see us through our day-to-day lives.

I don't attend church probably as much as I should, but that doesn't mean that my faith is any weaker. I still pray, and I am happy to know that there is always someone listening and understanding. I know that every prayer won't be answered, but God has his own answers and I believe he will do what's best. I believe in the Holy Spirit...it's the feeling of his presence that is always with us.

I am truly thankful for everything I have, and I'm proud to get confirmed and continue my faith through St. John's Lutheran Church.

1 Timothy 4:12 Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

"AS THE FATHER HAS SENT ME, I AM SENDING YOU."

JOHN 20:21, NIV



Confirmation Faith Statements

March 13, 2016

Faith is a big part of my family and who we are. This makes me able to have the privilege to call myself a Lutheran. I spent most of my younger years going to church and Sunday school as well as playing with toys. When I was first introduced to Jesus and the bible it was at my Baptism, when I was very young, from there I was taught about how important faith would be to me.

What Faith means to me is that I will always have something or someone there for me. It also means I will have a way to know I will be forgiven for my mistakes and always loved. Welcoming is a great benefit to being a Lutheran because, if you were homeless but had a strong belief in God you would be welcome at any time to worship and, would not be judged but treated as equally to any other person. This puts strength into my faith because it shows that it doesn't matter who you are you can believe in Christ. When I am stressed I know that Jesus will be there for me. That makes me feel like I have a shield protecting me from the bad things in life, so this lets me talk more about my faith in ways to make people want to go to church. There are also some things that make me have some difficulty in faith like how many arguments are started over religious beliefs.

There are many ways to interpret the meaning of faith. One is the literal definition, but I believe there is a much deeper story of faith and the bible. When I think of a way to say faith in other words is that Jesus is Our Savior and God is the Father, but it also means that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is a basis that we follow. This makes me know that I need to do my part to repay Jesus and God for their sacrifices. By going to church, embracing my religion, and sharing it with people around me.

I am thankful to be surrounded by all the people of my church and the things my church has taught me. Amen. Psalm 16:8 I keep the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.



Worship Service for Sunday, May 1st will be held at Luther Park Bible Camp.

In conjunction with the Confirmation Retreat on Saturday, St. John's will be having a Camp Style Service at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 1st. Everyone is welcome and bring a guest for a time of worship and fellowship. A lunch will be served at 11:00 a.m. with a free-will offering.

Carpooling will be available. If you need a ride, please sign up on a slip in the back of church or call the church office. If you can provide transportation that would be great, let us know that also. We will be leaving the church parking lot at 9:00 a.m. Pray for a beautiful day and come join us!

For the 34 years I served as a parish pastor, I maintained a love/hate relationship with Easter.

I loved the Easter morning crowds, the aroma of Easter breakfasts, the energy of the musicians, the children in Easter finery, the drama leading in from Holy Week, and, the story.

I hated the pressure. The Easter sermon always seemed more important than that of any other Sunday. And yet, the pressure to say something more important than any other Sunday, was never a pleasant experience.

34 Easter Sermons. I can only remember one. How's that for a failure rate? Thousands of people heard me preach over those many years, and I wonder, how many of them remember a single word I said.

Since becoming a bishop, I've had two years off. Two years off of Easter that is. But this year, I have been invited to preach in one of our congregations on Easter morning. And, as I write this, 3 1/2 weeks out, I'm already beginning to fuss. On any other Sunday, I don't start fussing until a couple of days before.

Easter matters. And because it matters, I'd like to think my fussing is not about my own frailties and failings, but rather about my need to not mess this one thing up. This one thing: That God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that all who believe in him will never perish.

That message matters. And it matters not only for Easter preachers, but for every person we love (and don't love) that is a part of our lives. And because it matters, we who believe in God's love, are ALL preachers! I can't, and don't have to, do this alone. God has sent a veritable army of preachers into the world on every Easter morning. And me, I am just one, still, small voice. I like that. I like not having to carry the entire load on Easter morning. I like being a part of the church. An imperfect gathering of saints and sinners that fail more than most, but still, believe that God loved them enough to die and rise for them.

Maybe this year, I will love Easter, and leave the hate behind. 1 out of 35. That's not too bad.

Bishop Rick Hoyme,
Northwest Synod of Wisconsin -ELCA



Council Meeting

March 8, 2016

Meeting called to order by President Rod Johnson at 6:30p.m.

Opening Devotion and Prayer by Lynette Pank

Agenda Amendment: Amend agenda to include advertisement opportunity to New Business. Motion made by Tyler Halverson to approve amended agenda - seconded by Janice Naset. Motion carried.

Approval of February minutes: Motion made by Adam Ewings to approve minutes – seconded by Lynette Pank. Motion carried.

Congregational concerns: Would St John's incur any cost with hosting Bloomer Chamber Easter Egg Hunt. If there would be any cost it would be very minimal. St John's fellowship and youth ministry committees were approached by the Bloomer Chamber in regard to hosting/participation with the event at the church.

Chair Report:

Voting by Council Chair: Prior procedure was set that the Chairperson voted to break a tie vote.

“Robert's Rule” the Chair has a right to vote as a member. Motion to allow Chairperson to vote as a member was made by Tom Buchner – seconded by Nick Zakrzewicz. Motion carried.

Financial Report: As of 3/8/16

Building loan balance: \$71,674.

Line of Credit Loan balance (bathroom renovation): \$4,843.83

Thrivent Choice Dollars: Motion made by Phil Skaar that undesignated choice dollars will go into general funds – seconded by Tyler Halverson. Motion carried.

The Lorne Hassemer family donated \$1,200.00 to put towards the cost of the new carpet/flooring.

Motion made by Tom Buchner to approve financial report – seconded by Nick Zakrzewicz. Motion carried.

Ministry Committee Reports:

Fellowship: February Bingo was well attended. A survey was taken in regard to suggestions to new future events along with Bingo for community fellowship opportunities. Fellowship Ministry will be participating in hosting the Bloomer Chamber Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday March 26th at St John's.

Property: “Take Pride in your Church Day” spring clean-up day scheduled for April 23rd from 8:00a.m. - 12:00p.m. *Show your pride in your Church Home...volunteer!*

A suggestion of having a sign-up sheet for designated areas around the exterior of the church building that need to be maintained through the season and asking members of St John's to sign up for an area that they would be interested in maintaining.

Carpet replacement bid of \$1,524.00 from MJ Anderson Flooring in Chetek has been accepted and an install date is being worked on. There are some walls that need to be painted and we would like to have that done before new carpet is installed. We will also be doing some tile replacement in the sacristy and furnace room.

Social Ministry: Meeting scheduled for Sunday March 13th.

Worship/Music: Easter schedule completed. May 1st service will be held at Luther Park at 10:00a.m. This is the Confirmation Retreat weekend. There will be lunch following service with park clean-up event to follow lunch.

Youth/Family: Working on Mission Trip details. Youth/Family received a generous donation of \$2,000 (anonymous) to pay for utilizing a bus for transportation for the mission trip. There are currently eleven youth and two adults registered for trip. “Hunger Awareness Meal” brought in \$843 to be passed onto ‘ELCA World Hunger.’ The Youth/Family ministry will be participating in hosting the Bloomer Chamber Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday March 26th at St John's.

Dream Team: Mission Statement revision work in progress.

Council Meeting

Pastor Report:

Membership: Membership by baptism-Lawson Simmons and Gabriella Lewis. Transfer to Church Triumphant- Duzzy Carlson. Motion made by Tom Buchner to accept membership update – seconded by Lynette Pank. Motion carried.

Counseling/Visits: Continued private pastoral care, baptism counseling, premarital counseling, visits of members in Eau Claire and Chippewa care facilities and medical recovery visits and walk-in with needed pastoral counseling.

Pastor's scheduled absences: April 1- 3, participating in "Healthier Leaders for Healthier Congregations" at Luther Park. April 10th, will be guest preacher at English Lutheran in Bateman.

Tag Line: "Come and See" Bible reference John 1:45-46 was discussed and agreed that it would be a good addition to St John's mission and growth.

Old Business:

Projector: A projector was donated to St John's for a temporary fix. A big "Thank you" to Phil Skaar for locating it and working with Paul Javener (donated projector) The council had decided that at this time a temporary fix will give St John's time to plan future financing for permanent replacement of the projector.

Gift Policy: In progress.

Walking Together: March 12, 2016 at Davies Center in Eau Claire.

Nominating Committee: Looking for volunteers

Mission Statement discussion: Council members researching mission statement revision.

Council retreat recap: Three congregations from the area attended. Those that attended from St John's enjoyed the retreat and thought that it was very inspirational/ uplifting and helpful.

Preschool director update: Michelle Gasper, St John's Pre-school Director/Administrator will be retiring at the conclusion of the 2016 school year. Ads for her replacement are being placed in several different places including newspapers, area colleges/universities, and standard St. John's communications.

New Business:

The Bloomer High School will be presenting the play "Beauty and the Beast." St John's received information on an advertising opportunity in the play's programs. Ellyn Hudacek will take this opportunity to the Social Ministry committee.

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Nick Zakrzewicz – seconded by Tyler Halverson. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned and closed at 8:27p.m. with the "Lord's Prayer" led by Pastor Martin.

Pauline Stertz/Secretary

Meeting attended by Pastor Martin, Rod Johnson, Adam Ewings, Tom Buchner, Lynette Pank, Ellyn Hudacek, Janice Naset, Tyler Halverson, Phil Skaar, Nick Zakrzewicz, Pauline Stertz. Absent: Alice Zinsmaster

APRIL 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 6:30 AM Sunrise Service 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM Easter Breakfast 9:00 AM Worship Service	28 - 9:30 AM No Bible Study	29 11:00 AM Staff Meeting	30 4:45 PM Wednesday Night Meal 5:30 PM Youth Faith Formation 6:45 PM Worship	31	1 4:00 PM Youth Encounter Departure	2
3 9:00 AM Worship Service with guest preacher, Martha Libersky 10:15 AM Property Committee Meeting 10:15 AM Youth Faith Formation 3:30 PM Youth Encounter Pick-up 6:00 PM Mission Trip Meeting	4 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Bible Study	5	6 4:45 PM Wednesday Night Meal 5:30 PM Youth Faith Formation 6:45 PM Worship Service with guest preacher, Martha Libersky	7 6:00 PM Preschool Board Meeting 6:30 PM Foundation Committee Meeting	8 12:00 PM Women's Bible Study in Library	9 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM Parents Nite Out
10 9:00 AM Worship Service with guest preacher, Roger Skatrud 10:15 AM Social Ministry Committee Meeting 10:15 AM Youth Faith Formation	11 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Bible Study 6:15 PM Youth Committee Meeting	12 11:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Church Council Meeting	13 4:45 PM Wednesday Night Meal 5:30 PM Youth Faith Formation 6:45 PM Worship 7:30 PM Camp Promo	14	15 Newsletter Article Deadline 12:00 PM Women's Bible Study in Library	16
17 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Camp Promo 10:15 AM Youth Faith Formation 1:00 PM Bingo	18 No Preschool 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Bible Study	19 No Preschool 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Quilting	20 4:45 PM Wednesday Night Meal 5:30 PM Youth Faith Formation 6:45 PM Worship	21 Preschool field trip to Children's Museum 8:45 AM Conf. of Pastors in Eau Claire	22 No Preschool 12:00 PM Women's Bible Study in Library	23 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM Take Pride in Your Church Day
24 Mission Trip Bake Sale 9:00 AM Worship Service & Mission Moment 10:15 AM Youth Faith Formation	25 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Bible Study	26 11:00 AM Staff Meeting	27 4:45 PM Wednesday Night Meal 5:30 PM Youth Faith Formation 6:45 PM Worship Service & Mission Moment	28	29 12:00 PM Women's Bible Study in Library	30 Confirmation Retreat at Luther Park

Church News

From the Property Committee:
Happy Spring!

Our next meeting is on Sunday April 3 immediately following church in the library. Anyone is welcome to attend.

On Saturday, April 16 we will be painting the stairways going up from the basement bathrooms and the small, upstairs furnace room. We still need two more people willing to help paint for a couple of hours.

Saturday, April 23 is TAKE PRIDE IN OUR CHURCH day. We are asking for volunteers to help with a few church improvements and lawn clean-up. A complete list of projects will be in the bulletin after the Apr. 3rd meeting. Please come and help us do some Spring Spruce-Ups! We will be finished by noon.

The carpet between the basements bathrooms, up the stairs and including landings will be installed either the last week of April or the first week of May. It will be installed by M. Anderson Flooring & Design at a cost of \$1524.00. She came in at the lowest bid and, thanks to some contributions already made to the carpet fund, we nearly have enough to pay for this project!

The under-sink water heaters have been replaced in the bathrooms, but the plumbers are still waiting on one part to come in.

The loan at the bank for the Bathroom Project is nearly paid off. The balance as of 3-15-16 is \$4800.00. With a little help from everyone we can get this loan paid very soon. Please consider contributing to the Bathroom Fund in April. Thank You!

Looking ahead to May, we will be planning a Saturday for planting flowers. Anyone that is interested in helping please contact Tom Buchner or myself. We will plant the large planter in the front of church, the two wooden planters in the back, and possibly several more. The date will be announced as it gets closer and will be based on the weather.

We will also be looking for people interested in helping to keep our landscaping looking beautiful. A sign-up sheet will be posted in June for volunteers to pull some weeds, pick-up any trash, and do some watering. If enough people are willing to help we may not need to have the landscaping company come and do their Spring and Fall clean-ups, which will save some money that could go towards other projects.

Thank you,
Nadine Bresina
Chairperson

Wednesday Night Meals

April 6, 2016

Chicken, Biscuits, and Salad

April 13, 2016

Hamburger Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable, Salad, and Rolls

April 20, 2016

Scallop Potatoes, Ham, Vegetable, and Salad

April 27, 2016

Chicken Nuggets and Cheese Potatoes





Bingo will be held the third Sunday of each month at 1:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to meet at St. John's Dining Hall. Bingo will be held Jan – April, Oct and November. *We will be hosting Bingo on April 17, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.*

Quilting will meet on April 19, 2016 from 1-4 p.m. All are welcome to participate!



Financial Report-2016

	2015	2016	BUDGET 2016
Beg. Balance - Jan. 1	\$2,143.00	\$4,401.00	
Income - March	\$43,321.00	\$38,599.00	\$52,524.00
Expenses - March	\$49,182.00	\$47,371.00	\$52,524.00
Balance - March 15	(\$3,718.00)	(\$4,371.00)	
Loan - Security Financial	\$78,747.00	\$71,354.00	General Fund
Loan - Security Financial		\$4,844.00	Bathrooms

“Take Pride in Your Church”

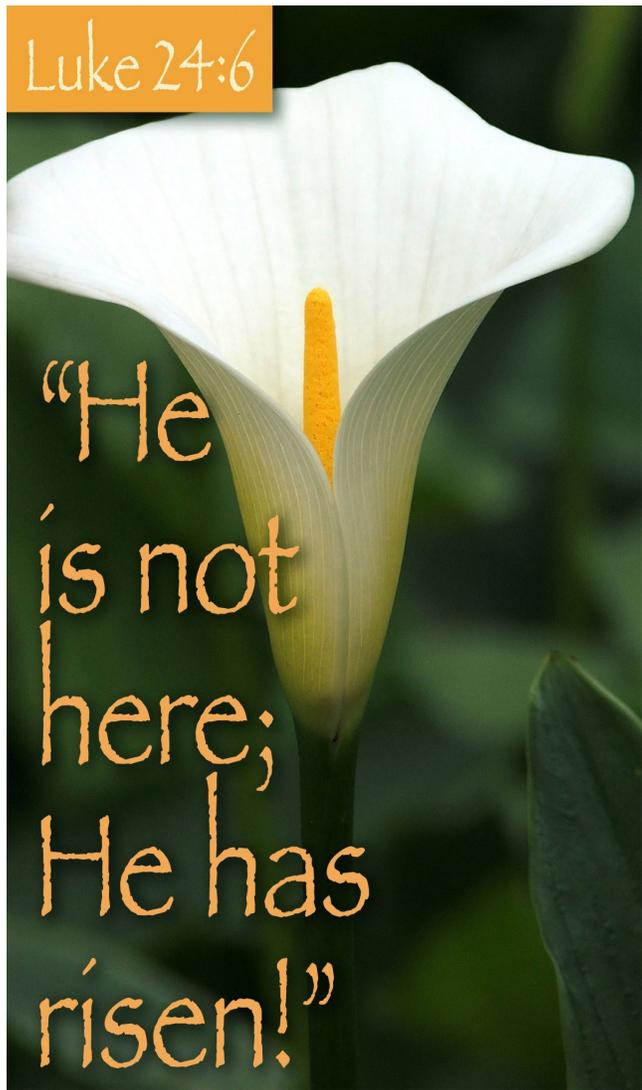
The Property Committee is organizing 2 volunteer opportunities in the month of April. We hope you can find time to lend a hand!!

--Saturday April 16th we are looking for 3 or 4 people with a talent for painting that would be available from 8am until noon.

--Saturday April 23rd We would like any who can to come and join us for a general church clean up @ 8am. We plan on being done by noon and a continental breakfast will be served during the morning.

Please contact Gregg Anderson 568-3328/933-0658 or Nadine Bresina @ 288-6278.

Thank you for your time!!



Would you like to help make the altar more beautiful? Why not put flowers on the altar for a special occasion, in memory of a loved one, or just because you want too. There is a flower chart on the bulletin board in the narthex to sign-up on.



He who kneels before God can stand before anyone!
~God’s Little Acre



Strength doesn’t come from what you can do. It comes from overcoming the things you once thought you couldn’t

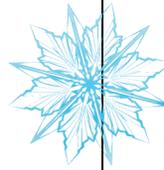
~God’s Little Acre

We are looking for Confirmation pictures from 1983 – 1993. We do currently have the picture from 1991. Please contact the church office if you have a picture that we could copy. Thank you!



WEATHER ALERT!

Parents and youth, rule of thumb for St. John's Lutheran, when school is cancelled due to bad weather all learning events, scheduled (preschool, elementary, middle school, & Sr. high) are cancelled as well.



**SPRING FLOWER SALE
MAY 2016**

Dates & Times To Be Announced



FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULES

10:15 am Sunday, April 3, 10, 17, 24
Preschool through 3rd Grade

5:30 pm Wednesday, April 6, 13, 20, 27
Preschool: Ages 3, 4, & 5
Kindergarten-2nd Grade: Rotation Workshop
3rd Grade Explorers
4th & 5th Grade Bible 101
6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Confirmation



**BRAT STAND
SHADICK'S PRICE RITE**

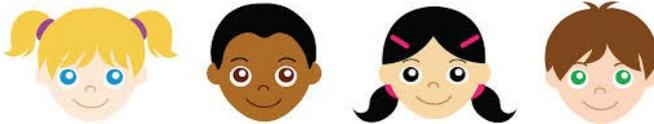
MAY 13-14

*SPONSORED BY
SR. HIGH YOUTH AND PARENTS*



CELEBRATE CHILDREN WEDNESDAY, MAY 4

Children's voices at 6:45 pm worship
Pot luck meal @ 5:30 pm for all members to enjoy.
Hot Dogs and beverage provided. Everyone welcome.



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
LUTHER PARK CAMP STYLE**

WHEN: JUNE 27-30
WHO: KINDERGARTEN-5TH GRADE
WHERE: ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
TIME: NOON-5:30 PM

TO REGISTER: Email childs' name & age & parents name & phone number to stjohnsl-marla@bloomer.net.

ALL CHILDREN & FRIENDS WELCOME

SUMMER CAMP AT LUTHER PARK

Programs for 5K through Sr. High, Family Camp, Grandparents/Kids and more. Brochures available at Welcome Station & counter outside Main office. Get complete camp info at www.LutherPark.org. Enjoy a great week where faith is nurtured through Holy Play. Info & Registration materials available in dining hall after worship April 13 & 17.



PARENT'S NITE OUT

Saturday, April 9

Child care provided for children up to 4th grade. Please call 715-568-5446 for more info or to sign up for a night out with adults.



Preschool News

We were busy in March, with our pajama parties, Easter celebrations and story time with Ms Kathy. And then we had a spring break, and returned the day after Easter. We're looking forward to our big field trip in April, and hopefully some outdoor time if the weather is nice.

We'd like to thank everyone who has directed Thrivent Choice Dollars to the preschool recently: Eric Lambert, Gloria Lambert, Mary Poirier, Kay Baier, Elmer & Evelyn Ferstenou, Rodney Johnson, Magdalen Olson, Marlene Windsor, and Nylah Gust. We are very appreciative of your thoughtfulness! Funds directed to our program from these individuals totaled \$625.00! Every dollar helps to enhance our educational programming for the children.

We are currently taking registrations for the upcoming school year. We have openings for three and four year olds. If you'd like more information, or to set up a visit – please call Michelle at 715-568-1060.

