



St. John's Lutheran Church

Mission Statement: "Growing disciples who eagerly share Christ's love!"

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Church News

Calendar

Council Minutes

Council Member for the Month of April

Kathy Tozer

Blessings to all,

My name is Kathy Tozer. My family consists of husband, Bert, two children and one step-daughter, ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. I am very active in their lives and love every minute of it. I have been a member of St. John's since our marriage in 1974. My husband was hospitalized from September 1979 until April 1980 with a rare virus. The congregation and council were very supportive during this ordeal. I can never thank everyone for all the support.

This is currently my second year on the council. It has definitely been an eye-opening and learning experience for me. The council was very supportive and understanding during my service as Treasurer my first year. As everyone knows, it was a trying year for the council and staff. With a lot of prayers and support from all, we can proceed with a new year.

Every opinion counts! All members are welcome to join us on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30. We have many discussions and don't always agree but all voices are heard.

God willing, I will fulfill my next two years on the Council.

Thank you all for your confidence in me as a member of St. John's.

God be with you,

Kathy



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Office number: 715-568-5446

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

Please Join Our Church Family

In Prayer



As we enter the month of April, please join our church family in prayer. Below you will find a list of those who we will be praying for. If you or someone you know would like to be added to one of the lists please stop by the church office, call the office at 715-568-5446, or email the information to:



stjohnsl-secretary@bloomer.net

Prayers of Healing for our Church Family

Marian Shipman, Donna Kerckhove (Pat Prill's daughter), Dean Hontz, Tom Buchner, Steve Stumm (friend of Krissy Mickelson), Harry Loew, Nylah Gust, Ilene Pingel, Carolyn Bergh, Willard Rogge, Zayden Blandin (Kathy Geissler's great-grandson), Alice Zinsmaster, Cindy Zakrzewicz, Kyle Ruffedt

Prayers for our Active Military

Danielle Shipman

Prayers for the Saints

Prayers for the week of April 7th: Pamela and Russ Dachel; Jason Dachel; Josh Dachel; Keenan, Samantha, Ivy James, and Jennings Dahl; Abbi, Tiffany, and Anya Dinger; James Doers; Judy and Teena Ellison

Prayers for the week of April 14th: Crystal, Michael, Chase Loew, Christian, Melanie, and Michael Jr. Erickson; Adam, Tricia, Connor, and Mason Ewings; Jackie and Thomas Ewings; Daniel and Kathleen Faschingbauer; Evelyn Ferstenou

Prayers for the week of April 21st: Jackie, Monty, Addison, and Brycen Fetting; Edith Fleming; Carlene Fox; Laura Franta; TamaraLynn Reetz and Gracelyn Ganther

Prayers for the week of April 28th: Michelle and Richard Gasper; Brenna Gasper; Travis Gasper; Sara Connor, and Gavin Gehrig; Donovan and Kathlyn Geissler; Jill, Steve, Lauren, Stephanie, and Jessica Gengler

Church News

WEDNESDAY MEALS In Lenten Season

Every Wednesday during lent, the families of the confirmation class will be providing delicious

HOT SOUP & SANDWICH meals.

Begins each Wednesday at 4:45 p.m.

The suggested amount for the meal is \$4.00 per person, or \$15 per family. Proceeds provide funding for camp, mission trips & youth activities.

COME & ENJOY!!

A Warm Welcome to our newest, youngest member of St. John's, newly baptized *Emersyn Lynne Eisenhuth*, daughter of Danielle Rihn & Steve Eisenhuth. Sponsors : Sonny Eisenhuth & Nicholle Tomasovich. Congratulations to *Emersyn Lynne* and her family, and ...

WELCOME!



Deadline for Newsletter

If you would like to submit anything for the newsletter please make sure to get it to the church secretary no later than the **23rd** of the month .



Please join us for Bingo on
April 14th @ 1:00 p.m.

Altar Guild



The Altar Guild is looking for more members. This fellowship is responsible for decorating and setting up and cleaning up for communion and 'behind the scenes' way of serving our church. Most of us work together in teams: i.e. with a friend, a spouse, or your children. We need helpers for our Sunday and Wednesday services. Please talk to Pastor Martin or call, text or email

Sue Nehring: 715-933-0181 suenehring@bloomer.net

Volunteers Needed for the BLOOMER COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT

Which takes place at St. John's on
Saturday, April 20th & Open to all Children!
A Pre-Event Sign up sheet is at the Welcome Desk
Help is needed with....

- + Counting & Bag plastic eggs
- + Solicit businesses for gift donations
- + Touch up paint of bean bag toss



All can be completed on your own time and
brought in by April 15

THANK YOU!!

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Thanks to Cheriej Palko (See Matthew 14:24-33)
PETER FINDS HIS FAITH TO BE MUCH
STRONGER IN THE WINTER



Please join us for quilting.

April 23rd @ 1:00 p.m.

Thank you!

April 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 9:00 AM Worship Service - Baptism, Eisenhuth 10:15 AM Faith Formation 10:15 AM Worship Committee Meeting	1 8:00 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Boy Scout Meeting - Dining Hall	2 4:00 PM Staff Meeting	3 2:00 PM Bible Overview Study 4:45 PM Wednesday Night Meal 5:30 PM Faith Formation & Confirmation 5:30 PM Fed & Forgiven 6:45 PM Worship	4 5:30 PM Pre-school Board Meeting	5 11:30 AM Women's Bible Study	6 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM Bloomer Women's Club-District Meeting
7 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Faith Formation 10:15 AM Fellowship Committee Meeting	8 8:00 AM Bible Study	9 5:30 PM Church Council Meeting	10 2:00 PM Bible Study 4:45 PM Wednesday Night Meal 5:30 PM Faith Formation & Confirmation 6:45 PM Worship	11 Pastor Conference 1:30 PM WELCA Meeting	12 11:30 AM Women's Bible Study	13
14 9:00 AM Palm Sunday Worship Service - Children Sing 10:15 AM "Faithful Innovations Network" Meeting 10:15 AM Faith Formation 1:00 PM Bingo	15 8:00 AM Bible Study	16 4:00 PM Staff Meeting	17 2:00 PM Bible Study 3:30 PM Make communion bread	18 NO PRESCHOOL 11:30 AM Golden Agers Dinner 1:00 PM Worship Service 6:45 PM Worship Service	19 NO PRESCHOOL 1:00 PM Good Friday Service at United Methodist 6:45 PM Good Friday Tenebrae Worship Service	20 10:00 AM Bloomer Community Easter Egg Hunt
21 6:30 AM Sunrise Easter Service 7:30 AM Easter Breakfast 9:00 AM Worship Service	22 NO PRESCHOOL	23 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Quilting	24 9:30 AM Foundation Meeting 4:45 PM Wednesday Night Meal 5:30 PM Faith Formation & Confirmation 6:45 PM Worship - Children's Voices	25	26 11:30 AM Women's Bible Study	27 F.I.N. Retreat-Pastor Martin
28 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Faith Formation	29 8:00 AM Bible Study 5:00 PM Youth Committee Meeting	30 4:00 PM Staff Meeting	1 2:00 PM Bible Study 3:00 PM Flower Sale 5:30 PM Faith Formation & Confirmation 6:45 PM Worship - Celebrate Children	2	3 11:30 AM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM - 12:00 AM 5th grade to senior high LOCK-IN event	4

Church Council Meeting

March 12, 2019

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 5:30 PM by President Suzi McInnis.

Opening Devotion: by Lisa Prill – “Called by God to Serve” Chapter 22.

Discussed looking toward the future, setting goals and following through.

Plan to invite others to meetings; will ask Victoria to post dates in bulletin and on screen.

Will work with Discipleship Committee to devise a schedule for groups/committees to take turns at an Information Station table in the back of church after worship. Looking to increase participation by making one to one contact and being able to answer questions and provide information about volunteer opportunities.

Prayers: Prayed for children of the world; farmers who have suffered loss; members who have left the church; those who have recently passed on; those with health struggles.

Approval of the Agenda: A motion was made by Barb Ross, seconded by Driah Zakrzewicz, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Approval of February meeting minutes: A motion was made by Terri Smith, seconded by Barb Ross, to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Issues/Information

Listening Campaign / FIN

Discussed forming a group of 5-7 members who would attend the FIN Training.

Pastor will reach out to Erin Nelson, facilitator, about speaking at St John's, possibly after worship on Palm Sunday (April 21st)

Staffing

Discussed staffing scenarios and updating job descriptions.

Committee Reports: (submitted via email – see attached)

Pastor's Report: (see attached)

Membership Update: *Transfer to Church Triumphant Jane Schmock and Elmer Ferstenou.*

A motion was made by Barb Ross, seconded by Driah Zakrzewicz, to approve the membership update. Motion carried.

Financial Report:

Lydia is working on making reports easier to understand.

Reports will be emailed in advance to council members to review before council meeting.

A motion was made by Tom Ewings, seconded by Barb Ross, to approve the financial report. Motion carried.

Church Council Minutes

Action Items

SAM's Club credit card status: Pastor will cancel.

Innovative actions: Committees will report back next month.

Ways to Implement our new Mission Statement "*Growing disciples who eagerly share Christ's love.*": Ideas from last month Brainstorm session:

Pastor will speak with Victoria about including our Mission Statement in our ad in the Bloomer paper. Committees are encouraged to print statement on agenda.

Lisa will apply for a Thrivent Grant to have T-shirts printed with mission statement, to be made available to purchase; free to those who volunteer.

Who is responsible for shoveling before services? Donny Stoik is hired to clear sidewalk but is unavailable for a period on Sunday morning. Tom will take to Property Committee.

Security Issue: Policy is to keep doors locked, with exception of west entry door into reception area. Report any incidence of unlocked doors to Pastor.

Staff Handbook review: Pastor, Suzi and Lisa will meet at 3:30 on Monday, March 18th.

What would make 2019 a "successful" year: Increase in attendance; adding activities to bring energy and create excitement.

What is God up to: Shaking things up with new people, new ideas, new format.

Discuss Council Covenant:

A motion was made by Melissa Sarauer, seconded by Driah Zakrzewicz, to approve Council Covenant as is. Motion carried.

Fund Raising Ideas:

A "craft area" where members can donate projects to be sold by honor system.

Members could share/sell produce before/after service, with proceeds donated.

Quilt raffle. Suzi will look into getting a quilt.

Fall Harvest type festival with donated baskets to be raffled.

Lisa will check on raffle license and what needs to be printed on tickets.

Charcoal Chicken Fundraiser for Benevolence Fund:

Lisa will speak with Wendy, tentative date: Sunday, April 28th.

Could use a Thrivent Grant for supplies for Chicken Fundraiser

Lydia is in charge of a basket to raffle at the event.

Will make use of "Information Station" to recruit volunteers, once date is set.

Suzi, Barb, Lisa and Lydia will head up committee.

Fat Tuesday fund discussion: Will continue discussing and decide at next meeting.

Easter Egg Hunt: Fellowship Committee will set up a meeting (with Marla) to work out details and recruit volunteers.

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:56 PM by Melissa Sarauer, seconded by Driah Zakrzewicz. Motion carried. The meeting closed with the 'Lord's Prayer' led by Pastor Martin.

Lisa Prill, Secretary

Present: Pastor Martin, Suzi McInnis, Melissa Sarauer, Lydia Blaha, Kathy Tozer, Barb Ross, Tom Ewings, Adam Anderson, Terri Smith, Driah Zakrzewicz, Lisa Prill. Absent: Pauline Stertz.

Pastor's Report—Devotion Schedule

PASTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

I CELEBRATE

Pseudo lock-in for confirmation and high school youth. We baked 8 trays of cookies and bars to donate to the benefit for the Fossum family who lost their home to a fire last month. A well-attended "Fat Tuesday on a Wednesday" with several more ministry activities for families to participate in.

People I've encouraged and RESOURCED

Helping the preschool board consider their elected positions for next year.

Ways I've helped us GO DEEPER with our Mission, Vision, Values, and Goals

Inviting committee members and staff to attend the synod event, Walking Together.

I'm currently WORKING ON

Proofing the pictorial directory.
 Developing the midweek Lenten series on self-care.
 Convening the Discipleship Committee and Dream Team to consider the 2019 listening campaign.
 Identify personal ministry goals
 Finalizing membership roster
 Updating the St. John's Lutheran Church Personnel Handbook

I'm LEARNING & EXPLORING

I could use your HELP with and your PRAYERS for

Finding additional help with our Communion visitation ministry.
 Finding help for the Community Easter Egg hunt on April 20.

Additional comments

I'm now helping 7-8 scouts attain their religion badge as a service to the community.
 Membership updates: Transfer Jane Schmock and Elmer Ferstenou to the Church Triumphant.

Devotion Schedule for 2019 from "Called by God to Serve":

April – Terri Smith, Chapter 23	May – Barb Ross, Chapter 24	June – Suzi McInnis, Chapter 25
July – Tom Ewings, Chapter 26	Aug – Driah Zakrzewicz, Chapter 27	Sept – Melissa Sarauer, Chp. 28
Oct – Pauline Stertz, Chapter 29	Nov – Lydia Blaha, Chapter 30	Dec – Adam Anderson, Chapter 1
Jan – Kathy Tozer, Chapter 2		

Youth Committee Notes

Youth Committee Notes

February 19, 2019

Present: Marla, Pastor Martin, Melissa Sarauer, Kathy Tozer, Lisa Prill, Beth Halverson and Leo 😊

Review...

Butter Braid Pastry Sale:

Person with NSF check for \$48 contacted Marla with plans to repay but didn't follow through.

Will offer grace this time and the \$48 and NSF charges will be paid by St John's.

Future sellers will collect payment from customers and offer a single payment to St John's when orders are turned in.

9th Grade Confirmation breakfast and service:

Not many 8th graders volunteered to serve, but when opened to the congregation, others stepped up and served.

Considering doing a Sunday brunch next year.

Fellowship Committee may be able to help in the future.

Youth Quake in Wisconsin Dells:

Good time and great feedback! Kids want to go back next year.

Many made friends there and were able to reconnect.

Discussed ways to use Social Media to share events i.e. Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter...

Need to decide who would facilitate social media access and post live (would need photo consent forms filled out.)

Action City – Confirmation Fellowship Event (Winterfest):

Good feedback. Many parent chaperones (10).

Confirmation Restructure:

Guides need more time with small group.

Youth seem to be participating more without option of having cell phones.

Halloween wrap up:

No coupons were redeemed for bibles.

Hope to try a Trunk or Treat event, possibly the Sunday before Halloween. Members of congregation could decorate trunks after worship according to a theme.

Would need to advertise and plan in advance.

Super Bowl Pizza Sale:

No one stepped forward to chair, so due to lack of interest wasn't held.

Many members asked about the sale and were disappointed it wasn't held.

Next year, if youth and families haven't organized the sale, 6-8 weeks prior to the event it could be offered to the congregation to see if there is interest in taking over.

Youth Committee Notes (continued)

Youth Committee Notes (continued) February 19, 2019

Getting the Word Out:

Ads can be put on the Bloomer TV page for free.
Discussed posting on St John's website fundraiser information, using "Ticklers"
Discussed using Sign Up Genius or another online site.
Hoping to make better use of Social Media.

Upcoming Events...

Brat Sale:

No one has stepped up to chair so far, therefore no date has been set.
If someone decides to do the brat sale, one suggestion is to hold the sale on a Sunday, from 10:00-2:00, to take advantage of the large number of customers at Shadicks. Best site is right at the entrance of the parking lot, near Main Street.
Marla will write up an announcement that help is needed if Brat Sale is to happen.

Flower Sale:

Will take place May 1st – May 12th.

VBS:

Scheduled for July 15-18th, 12:00-5:00.
Marla will contact Kobussen to see about dropping off after summer school.
Will be led by Luther Park counselors (honoring our payment from last year.)
Will need volunteers to set up snack and clean up.
Will need housing for counselors.
Middle school youth will help with crafts, etc.

Wednesday Faith 5 new group:

Will meet in Theater Room.
Have paperwork for all but one.
Composing a parent letter to address need for help with groups,
Discussed issues with cross generational learning groups: age specific vs blended.
One suggestion was to leave Wednesday cross generational and designate Sunday for age specific groups.
Looking at new curriculum for next fall, which might be a good time to reconsider groupings.
Along with new program, we will need to ask for volunteers and helpers.

Youth Committee Notes (continued)

Youth Committee Notes February 19, 2019

Youth In Action:

Onefest is July 26-28th In Chippewa.

LifeFest is July 11-14th in Oshkosh. Open to Senior High and Middle School youth. Plan is to take a coach on Saturday and return the same evening. Marla will get quotes from Kobussen and Lamers. Event is also open to adults and can be advertised on Bloomer TV.

Park Display project: This will be a summer project, to be finished before Christmas displays are put up in the park. Need adults to help with design, construction, materials. Nicholas will share information at worship.

8th Grade kidnapping plans will be changed up to keep them guessing 😊 8th graders will be invited to participate in YIA by current members.

1st Grade Bibles and Children's Voices:

Will reschedule distribution of bibles.

Weren't prepared to sing due to time missed because of snow days.

Senior High and Middle School Lock In (February 22-23):

Only 4 kids signed up and no adults.

Fat Tuesday on Wednesday (February 27th):

Will ask Council where to donate funds raised.

Christ Jam (Saturday, March 9th):

For middle school youth, held in conjunction with Synod's Walking Together event at UWEC.

High school youth are welcome to attend Walking Together, which is free of charge for them.

Community Egg Hunt (April 20th):

Balloon person and juggler are booked.

Need egg counters, egg hidiers, face painters, help with crafts, games, caricatures?

Looking for a Thrivent Grant to purchase Scholastic Books to give to participants.

See if Fellowship committee can help.

Sub Committees:

Would like to create for Faith 5; Christmas Pageant; VBS; Summer Stretch; Mission Trips...

Would be a "one time" type of commitment.

Would spread the work.

Marla announced her plan to retire July 31, 2020, after the next learning year. God's blessings!

Next meeting is Monday, March 18th at 5:00. Beth will provide pizza 😊

(I wrote this up out of habit...but would like to pass the torch to another member...Thanks!)

~Lisa

2019 Easter Message

May I have your attention please!
 MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION for an important announcement!
 MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION FOR AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT, NOW, PLEASE!!!!

What do we have to do to get the world's attention? We've got good news, great news, the best news, but we can't seem to get the attention of those who need to hear it the most.

For a few years in my former parish I sent out postcards and Facebook posts hoping to catch the attention of those who weren't members of my church and invite them to EASTER WORSHIP.

I used cute designs from OUTREACH.COM. My favorite was a photo of a fuzzy blue stuffed toy bunny with the caption: **Is the true meaning of Easter a little fuzzy?** On the other side of the card was an invitation to worship at Trinity, the church I served. This year they have a photo of an adorable baby wearing floppy fuzzy bunny ears and the caption reads: **Have you heard the real story of Easter?** They also have a post card with the photo of a green field filled with colorful Easter eggs ready for the Easter Egg hunt. The caption reads: **Hunting for more this EASTER?** These clever cutesy cards are designed to get the attention of the world and invite non-members to come to their worship services. It is not a terrible idea to send a postcard in the mail or post on social media inviting people to visit your church, but it is it working? Does sending a card capture the world's attention?

What does it take to get the attention of the world? What does it take to get the attention of the family that lives in the yellow house across the street from your church building?

Some seems to be so distracted, busy, engaged in daily living, or just getting by. Others seem anesthetized by mind numbing virtual reality activities on their computer, phone or TV screens. A few find time to worship at the gym, yoga class, running, or biking. Sometimes I just want to yell, HEY! LISTEN UP, I've got good news. But I know they won't be able to hear me over the din of daily life.

So what do we do? We know that guilt, shaming, and judging doesn't work. Should we just...Give up. Shut up. Close up? Nope. I'm too much of an optimist for that. I think there is one thing we as a church can do that might get the world's attention. We can sneak up and love them up.

I don't mean sneak up like stalking, that's illegal. What I mean is act like you love your neighbor in little ways so that eventually without you really knowing it, you DO love your neighbor and you can be in a relationship in such a way that you can invite them to know and love Jesus, the real Jesus, the Jesus of Easter.

Maybe the first step is caring enough about the folks that don't know the story about Jesus life death and resurrection to send them a silly post card. Maybe a baby step is caring enough about the children who won't hear the Easter story in Sunday school and inviting them to come to your church for an Easter egg hunt and before it begins tell them about Jesus in some simple way. Maybe you could care enough to get to know the name of the church neighbor in the yellow house and who knows where it will go from there. Care enough to get to know your neighbor, the Muslim family from Somalia that lives next to the grocery store. Care enough to get to know your immigrant neighbor, the Latino family that lives across the street from the school.

Maybe the only way to get someone's attention is to love them. That's how God got my attention.

God sneaks up on us, loves unconditionally, loves the world so much that he gave his only Son, and on the third day he rose from the dead, so that we might have life. That's the real meaning of Easter. That's the good news the world is dying to hear. They just don't know it yet. Maybe YOU can love someone enough to tell them about it.

It's Easter. Let's go love-in Jesus' name,
 Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

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PASTORAL/ CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Need a visit? Yearning for Holy Communion? Have a problem?
Want to suggest ways we can be of more help to you and your
family? Feel you'd like to pray with someone?

CALL: Pastor Martin Halom

Church #715-568-5446, extension 11
Home #715-568-1515
Cell #517-505-6509

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

- April 14, Palm Sunday: 9:00 a.m. Worship Service
 10:15 a.m. Faithful Innovations Network Meeting (FIN)
 10:15 a.m. Faith Formation

- April 18: 11:30 a.m. **GOLDEN AGER'S DINNER**
 1:00 p.m. Worship Service
 6:45 p.m. Worship Service—5th grade **FED & FORGIVEN**

- April 19: 1:00 p.m. Good Friday Service at United Methodist
 6:45 p.m. Tenebrae Worship Service

- April 20: 10:00 a.m.—noon *Bloomer Community Easter Egg Hunt*

EASTER SUNDAY:

- 6:30 A.M. SUNRISE EASTER SERVICE
- 7:30 A.M. EASTER BREAKFAST
- 9:00 A.M. EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE

