



# St. John's Lutheran Church

## Mission Statement:

*"Growing disciples who eagerly share Christ's Love!"*

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Church News  
Calendar
- Pastor's  
Monthly Report
- Youth & Family  
Announcements
- 9th Grade Faith  
Statement

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## 9th Grade Faith Statement- April

I went to a meeting a few months ago and was told I needed to pick a Bible verse that "speaks to me", or that represents my faith in God. I was also to write out a statement of faith, which you are currently reading now. Most of my classmates around me seemed intimidated at the mention of writing out a whole page or multiple pages. That didn't trouble me as I enjoy writing, but what caused worry was having to pick a single Bible verse. How was I supposed to pick a verse when there were 31,102 to choose from? I didn't want to pick one of the most popular ones or just any random one. I wanted to search for one, and get it right.

In order to find the perfect Bible verse to represent and connect to my faith, I needed to come to terms with what exactly my faith consisted of. I decided that I am not a perfect disciple or child of God. I will admit I don't pray before every meal, I don't read the Bible every night, and I don't always make it to church every week. John 1:9 says "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I felt undeserving of God's forgiveness and everlasting love as I looked around at all the people volunteering more, being more compassionate, praying more often, and just overall being more involved in the church. I found myself only turning to God in rough times or when I really needed his guidance. I felt a sense of guilt because I knew that I should thank Him for everything He's given me rather than praying only when I'm in a tough situation.

Regardless of how rarely I read the Bible, or how many times I've been selfish, or just sinned in general, He has always seemed to be there when I needed Him the most. Realizing this, I figured that my faith is centered around the idea that God will always be present in my life, no matter how busy I get or how many times I sin. It's centered around God's forgiveness.

I have grown from that selfish habit and now pray not just for his help but to thank Him for everything He's given me. For my healthy family, my supportive friends, my access to education, the warm home I return to at the end of the day, the meals at home, everything I took for granted and didn't give a single thank you for. Getting confirmed, to me, means that I will continue to grow with my faith and hopefully become a better person and a better child of God.

After looking through hundreds of verses I came upon the perfect one related to my faith. It reassures me of his presence and significance in my life. It makes me hopeful for the future and any tough time I might have to overcome. Isaiah 41:10 says, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Office number: 715-568-5446

Like us on Facebook! [St. John's Lutheran Church - Bloomer, WI](#)

St. John's Website: [www.Stjohns-bloomer.org](http://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 list please stop by the church office, call the office at 715-568-5446, or email the information to: [stjohnsl-secretary@bloomer.net](mailto:stjohnsl-secretary@bloomer.net)



### Prayers of Healing for our Church Family

Donna Kerckhove, Rene Kerckhove, Tom Buchner, Ilene Pingel, Carolyn Bergh, Willard Rogge, Maggie Olson, Mike Ruffedt, Dick Gladitsch, Merv Marquardt, Brian Bleskacek, Alice Zinsmaster, Arlene Christianson, Friends and Family of Lee Prill.

### Prayers for our Active Military

Jacob Dachel, Jacob Johnson, Danielle Shipman, Kelsey Leavens, Trenton Beaudette, Ryan Heiss

### Prayers for the Saints

Prayers for the week of April 5<sup>TH</sup>: Carolyn Bergh; Jill, Mark, Karsten & Madi Bergh; Matthew, Melissa, Claire & Tyler Berlin; John, Brittany, Jack & Laikyn Beyer.

Prayers for the week of April 12<sup>TH</sup>: Dale & Rita Bitney; Albert, Merlene & Mark Blaha; Steve, Lydia, Chase & Reagan Blaha; Bill & Annie Bleskacek.

Prayers for the week of April 19<sup>TH</sup>: Brian, Laura, Jake, John, Jonah & Leah Bleskacek; Nathan, Joselyn, Lauren & Ryan Bleskacek; Larry, Annie & Nicole Boese.

Prayers for the week of April 26<sup>TH</sup>: Bryan, Mary & Tenley Boese; Herman & Patricia Boettcher; Adam Bohl; Terri, Zach, Aubrie & Kaitlyn Bohl; Andrew, Alicia, Alexis, Colton & Kiley Bonczyk

# Church News



Please join us for quilting.  
April 21st 1:00-4:00 p.m.  
(Tentative)

**BINGO**

Sunday, April 19th is our  
next fun-filled B-I-N-G-O !  
(tentative)

Each 3rd Sunday of the month at 1 p.m. come and  
enjoy this light-hearted activity with us.  
We look forward to seeing you there!!

## UPDATE ON CHURCH ACTIVITIES DUE TO GOVERNMENT MANDATED SOCIAL DISTANCING

For now, we have kept April Events on our calendar with a positive and hopeful outlook on a quick and healthful resolution to the crisis the world is facing with this pandemic. In order to stay up-to-date on the status of these calendar events, keep checking the St. John's Lutheran website, where the *calendar* is updated daily.

To all, remain healthy, fear not, and call the office for any of you or your family's spiritual needs as we move through this season of deep reflection and prayer.

Jesus suffered, died, and rose for our salvation. In this Lenten and Easter season, we are reminded in a very unique way the privilege we enjoy of our freedom to worship and praise our Lord without fear of persecution or death. Let us be ever so grateful for our blessings.

## FINANCE UPDATE

Year-To-Date as of March 27, 2020

Year-To-Date:	
Weekly Contributions	\$ 45,860.74
Other Raised Funds	<u>5,302.95</u>
<b>Total Received</b>	<b>\$ 51,163.69</b>
Expenses	<u>\$ 56,027.54</u>
<b>Total remaining after expenses</b>	<b>\$ -4,863.85</b>

## Lost & Found

(Across from bathroom near Church Office)

There are many items in our Lost & Found area that need to be reunited with their owners. Please take some time this month to take a look and see if you recognize anything. The week following Easter, all items will be donated to the Clothes Closet.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME!**

## Deadline for May Newsletter

If you would like to submit anything for the newsletter please make sure to get it to the church secretary no later than April 23rd . Thank You!!

Volunteers needed to fold our  
monthly newsletters. Contact  
the office if interested and able  
to assist! 568-5446  
Stjohnsl-secretary@bloomer.net

*THANK YOU!*

April 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>29</b> 9:00 AM Personal Prayer Hour - See St. John's Facebook page for weekly sermon 10:00 AM Property Committee Meeting - Cancelled 10:15 AM Faith Five - Cancelled</p>	<p><b>30</b> 8:00 AM Bible Study - Cancelled</p>	<p><b>31</b> 4:00 PM Staff Meeting - Cancelled</p>	<p><b>1</b> 11:00 AM Bloomer Clergy Assoc. Mtg-Pastor 2:00 PM Bible Study - Cancelled 4:45 PM - 5:30 PM Youth Soup &amp; Sandwich Meal - cancelled 5:30 PM Confirmation-Faith Five - Fed &amp; Forgiven - CANCELLED 6:45 PM At Home Personal Prayer Hour (in lieu of worship service)</p>	<p><b>2</b> 1:30 PM WELCA Meeting - CANCELLED</p>	<p><b>3</b> 11:30 AM Women's Bible Study - CANCELLED</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>
<p><b>5</b> 9:00 AM Palm Sunday Worship Service - cancelled 10:15 AM Faith Five - Cancelled</p>	<p><b>6</b> 8:00 AM Bible Study - TENTATIVE</p>	<p><b>7</b> 5:30 PM Pre-School Board Meeting-TENTATIVE 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Bloomer Cub Scouts Meeting-TENTATIVE</p>	<p><b>8</b> 2:00 PM Bible Study-TENTATIVE 4:45 PM - 5:30 PM Youth Soup &amp; Sandwich Meal - TENTATIVE 5:30 PM Confirmation-Faith Five - TENTATIVE 6:45 PM Worship - TENTATIVE</p>	<p><b>9</b> Maundy Thursday - TENTATIVE</p>	<p><b>10</b> GOOD FRIDAY 11:30 AM Women's Bible Study - TENTATIVE</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>
<p><b>12</b> 9:00 AM Easter Sunday Worship Service - TENTATIVE 10:15 AM Faith Five - TENTATIVE 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Youth In Action - TENTATIVE</p>	<p><b>13</b> 8:00 AM Bible Study - TENTATIVE</p>	<p><b>14</b> 4:00 PM Staff Meeting - TENTATIVE 5:30 PM Church Council Meeting - TENTATIVE 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Bloomer Cub Scouts Meeting - TENTATIVE</p>	<p><b>15</b> 2:00 PM Bible Study-TENTATIVE 4:45 PM - 5:30 PM Wednesday Meals - TENTATIVE 5:30 PM Confirmation-Faith Five - TENTATIVE 6:45 PM Worship - TENTATIVE</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b> 11:30 AM Women's Bible Study - TENTATIVE</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>
<p><b>19</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service - TENTATIVE 10:15 AM Faith Five - TENTATIVE 1:00 PM B-I-N-G-O - TENTATIVE</p>	<p><b>20</b> 8:00 AM Bible Study - TENTATIVE</p>	<p><b>21</b> 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Quilting Group - TENTATIVE</p>	<p><b>22</b> 2:00 PM Bible Study-TENTATIVE 4:45 PM - 5:30 PM Wednesday Meals - TENTATIVE 5:30 PM Confirmation-Faith Five - TENTATIVE 6:45 PM Worship - TENTATIVE</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b> 11:30 AM Women's Bible Study - TENTATIVE</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>
<p><b>26</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service - TENTATIVE 10:15 AM Faith Five - TENTATIVE 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Youth In Action - TENTATIVE</p>	<p><b>27</b> 8:00 AM Bible Study - TENTATIVE</p>	<p><b>28</b> 4:00 PM Staff Meeting - TENTATIVE</p>	<p><b>29</b> 2:00 PM Bible Study-TENTATIVE 4:45 PM - 5:30 PM Wednesday Meals - TENTATIVE 5:30 PM Confirmation-Faith Five - TENTATIVE 6:45 PM Worship - TENTATIVE</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>1</b> 11:30 AM Women's Bible Study - TENTATIVE</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>

# Church Council Meeting Minutes

## March 10, 2020



**“Growing disciples who eagerly share Christ’s love.”**

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 5:30 by President Tyler Halverson.

**Opening Devotion:** Dwelling in the Word.

Discussed looking for those needing help and ready to accept it.

Discussed “going out” and ministering in our community.

**Prayer:** Members offered prayers of thanks for what is close to our hearts.

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion as made by Suzi McInnis, seconded by Melissa Sarauer, to approve the agenda, with flexibility. Motion carried.

**Approval of February meeting minutes:** A motion was made by Melissa Sarauer, seconded by Suzi McInnis, to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

**Committee Referrals:** None.

**Financial Report:**

Will ask Financial Secretary to have financial report finalized by Friday prior to council meetings and to leave a hard copy in the president’s mailbox. If reports have not been posted by Friday, Financial Secretary will be asked to attend council meeting to address any questions.

A motion was made by Lydia Blaha, seconded by Tom Ewings, authorizing Council President Tyler Halverson to contact Security Financial Bank to open a line of credit, up to \$25,000. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Melissa Sarauer, seconded by Suzi McInnis, to approve the financial report. Motion carried.

**Committee Reports:** (Attachments: Pastor, Youth.)

**Property Committee:** Will be meeting on March 29.

**Social Ministry:** Will be meeting on April 28.

**Youth and Family:** Watch for upcoming fundraisers to support Mission Trip to Loveland, CO and summer camps.

**Pastor’s Report:** Looking for members to help on following committees: Discipleship; Social Ministry; FIN

**Membership Update:** *Baptism:* Amiyah Shadick.

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

**Old Business:**

**Staff Handbook:** In process of being updated.

**Giving Theme:** Passed this on to Social Ministry for consideration.

**Charcoal Chicken Fundraiser:** Chicken has been ordered. Held at Shadick’s parking lot.

**\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\*\*APRIL 26<sup>TH</sup>\*\*\*CHARCOAL CHICKEN FUNDRAISER\*\*\***

**Devotion Discussion:** Decided to use “Christ in Our Home” devotionals.

**Money Counting Procedures:** Those collecting funds should have two people verify the cash and place in sealed envelope. Counters should sign and date the envelope, label the amount, where the funds are to be used and what account to be deposited. Financial Secretary will record the information from the envelope in the book, fill out a deposit slip as instructed on envelope. Sealed envelope and deposit slip are taken to the bank for verification.

# Church Council Minutes (Continued)

## Emergency Council Meeting

### March 15, 2020; COVID-19 PANDEMIC

**Fundraising Policies:** 90/10 giving will be addressed in June to give ample time to consider before Faith Formation starts in September.

**New Business:**

**Moose Hall Fundraiser (Al Nimtz):** Al provided information about an opportunity to raise funds by helping serve Friday Fish Fry at the Bloomer Moose Hall. 3-7 people would be needed to serve and bus tables. Moose donates profit to group volunteering. All will see if St. John's can sign up for two dates (would likely be next fall/winter.) Stay tuned!

**Best in Bloomer Award:** Council was made aware of an award voting St. John's "Best of Bloomer" in Church category. Could not be verified a legitimate award at this time.

**Staff Computer Upgrades:** Current desktops (pastor and youth director) need to be updated. Discussed benefits of moving to laptops. Council asked pastor to get quotes from Chris Hassemer for four laptops (pastor, youth director, office manager, council secretary.) One of the desktops would replace the current one that money counters use.

**Council Retreat:** Discussed holding a council retreat to address goals and core values and to find ways to stay relevant and become a vibrant congregation. Pastor will contact Luther Park on cost and availability of Saturday, April 18.

**Additional Items:** Thank you to residents of St. John's apartments for volunteering to help with the folding of newsletters! Your willing hearts are appreciated!

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:26PM by Suzi McInnis, seconded by Driah Zakrzewicz. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer, led by Pastor Martin.

Reminder to submit items to be included on the next agenda by noon Tuesday of the week prior to council meeting. **Next meeting will be April 14, 2020 at 5:30.**

Lisa Prill, Secretary

Present: Pastor Martin, Tyler Halverson, Melissa Sarauer, Lydis Blaha, Lisa Prill, Suzi McInnis, Kathy Tozer, Tom Ewings, Adam Anderson, Pat Prill, Marcy Trubshaw, Driah Zakrzewicz, Al Nimtz.

## Emergency Council Meeting

**\*\*\* A special meeting has been convened to address the concern of the COVID-19 pandemic and decisions to be made regarding the functions of St. John's Lutheran Church and its entities\*\*\***

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 10:10 AM by President Tyler Halverson.

**Opening Prayer:** by Pastor Martin.

**Preschool:** Members of Preschool board were present to discuss concerns and options.

St. John's Preschool is a licensed daycare and therefore follows guidelines of Bloomer School District regarding school closures.

Concerns include:

How to handle salaries and paid tuitions

Children as carriers of the virus

Protecting multiple caregivers that pickup children

Crystal will contact the Preschool Board for further discussion. If St. John's Church Council decides to close the building, Preschool will need to honor the decision.

# Emergency Council Meeting *(continued)* March 15, 2020; COVID-19 PANDEMIC

## **Non-worship activities, including Faith Formation, Confirmation, Bible Studies, Groups, etc:**

Discussed need for leadership to be proactive for the safety of our community; to be united and consistent in decisions affecting St. John's congregation, preschool, staff and community while addressing this unprecedented public health matter.

Discussed the need to take this threat seriously and recognize that while some decisions may cause personal inconvenience, these actions are for the greater health and safety of our community.

**A motion was made by Driah Zakrzewicz, seconded by Marcy Trubshaw, to close the church building for all non-worship events until further notice by the pastor and church council. Motion carried.**

## **Worship:**

Discussed if it is possible to be a place to gather while considering the impact of the pandemic.

Discussed ways to stay connected in the absence of a physical gathering.

Alternatives to physical worship could include:

- |                                  |                 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Online sermon                    | Email devotions |
| Phone calls                      | Online giving   |
| Facetime/skype discussion groups |                 |

Considered options for Lenten drama, Holy Week, if decision is made to close building. Pastor will meet with Bloomer Clergy Association to discuss Ecumenical Good Friday Service.

Plan for a "Celebration Sunday" potluck service when we reconvene.

Pastor will use his discretion in the event of a funeral.

**A motion was made by Kathy Tozer, seconded by Driah Zakrzewicz, to cancel all worship services at St. John's Lutheran through April 2, 2020. Motion carried.**

Pastor and Council will meet by March 26<sup>th</sup> to reassess the situation.

## **Cleaning:**

Discussed options to clean the premises:

- Do nothing and let germs die during 2-week closure.
- Gather a small group and clean thoroughly ASAP.
- Wait until just before building is reopened and clean.

Will revisit options during the next week.

## **Essential Staff: (Pastor, Marla, Victoria):**

Staff will work regular hours until further notice, with exception of janitor. Pastor will make decisions with flexibility and understanding regarding staffing during the building closure.

While occupying the building, access to staff will be restricted to office space, upstairs rest room, theater room, landing area. Staff will disinfect areas before leaving for the day.

## **Options for staying connected:**

Pastor will forward a Daily Devotion to those with email addresses.

Pastor will experiment with recording sermons or utilizing Facebook Live.

Establish a "time of prayer" at 9:00 Sunday mornings to worship "together."

Will provide information to congregation to contact church office if they would like to be contacted by phone during the time of closure.

## **Information:**

Pastor will print up a notice to be laminated and posted on all entrances of St. John's.

Victoria will contact Bloomer Advance, Bloomer Public Access station, Local news sites (WEAU, WQOW) to post closure information.

Pastor will compose a mass email and Facebook post to share information.

**A motion to adjourn was made at 11:50AM by Melissa Sarauer, seconded by Kathy Tozer. Motion carried.**

**Closing Prayer:** by Pastor Martin.

Present: Pastor Martin, Tyler Halverson, Melissa Sarauer, Lisa Prill, Kathy Tozer, Pat Prill, Marcy Trubshaw, Adam Anderson, Driah Zakrzewicz, Tom Ewings (per phone). Preschool Board members: Beth Cullen, Crystal Erickson, Courtney Erickson. Congregation members: Marla Paulson, Martha Libersky, Jeff Cole, Judy Nimitz, Wendy LaGessee. Absent: Suzi McInnis Lydia Blaha.

Lisa Prill, Secretary

# Youth Committee Notes

## March 2, 2020

**Present:** Pastor Martin, Marla, Melissa Sarauer, Kathy Tozer, Lisa Prill.

**Youth Quake:**

Was Feb 14-16 in Wisconsin Dells. Was attended by 6 youth and 2 adult chaperones.

**Hunger Awareness Meal:**

Held on Ash Wednesday, February 26.

Youth will decide where to donate contributions totaling \$150.

There was confusion about Faith Formation taking place that evening, which affected attendance at the meal.

**Mission Trip: Loveland, CO**

Ten youth (4 males, 6 female) and two chaperones are signed up.

First deposits have been made, second deposit of \$113 due by March 4.

Marla has received bids for bussing. Lamers is the best deal at \$5800.

Will need to stop overnight on the way down and back. Will look for church to spend night.

**Fundraisers:**

**Basket Raffles:** Headed by Amanda Zwiefelhofer

Families involved in mission trip are putting baskets together.

Youth will give Mission Moment with info about how Youth Funds are used.

Graphic showing breakdown of funds will be included in the bulletin as well as a display.

Baskets/Mission Moments will begin March 18. Drawings are April 15.

**Giving Tree:** Headed by Amanda Prill

Will run at the same time as Basket Raffle (March 18-April 15.)

Provides option for giving for those not wanting to participate in raffle.

**Cake Rolls:** Headed by Jason Hillman

Runs March 4-17 with delivery on April 7.

**Concession Stand workers:** Considering staffing concession stand (paid work.)

**Luther Park Promo:**

Set for March 25.

Will play video promotion at Faith Five opening. Interested family/youth remain for more info.

Ask youth who have previously attended camp to sit on a "panel" to answer questions.

May 1<sup>st</sup> is early bird deadline for registration.

**Community Easter Egg Hunt:**

Saturday, April 11. Volunteers arrive at 9:00, hunt begins at 10:00.

\$609.50 in fund; cost of Kevin Schwartz (balloon guy) is \$275. Books and candy will be purchased.

Marla will speak with Rod about getting the bunny suit.

Have asked Chamber members to donate funds, so we don't need to solicit.

Activities will include: Bounce House (weather permitting), Giant Twister, Giant Jenga, face painting, movie, cookie decorating. Will need people to bag candy, hide eggs, supervise games, distribute prizes.

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Fed and Forgiven:**

Will be held on Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> with reception following worship.

**Middle school/Sr High Lock In:**

Discussed an overnight lock-in. Decided it is too busy as we near the end of school year.

Pseudo Lock in is scheduled for April 24 and will include 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

**Senior High Recognition:**

Marla will contact families to see if tentative date of Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> works.

Discussed serving brunch as it is also Mother's Day.

**Next meeting: Monday, April 6 at 5:00.**

# Youth Announcements

## YOUTH AND EDUCATION



### BLOOMER COMMUNITY EGG HUNT HAS BEEN CANCELED

Easter activities and crafts are available at [www.familyeducation.com/fun/top-10-easter-activities-family](http://www.familyeducation.com/fun/top-10-easter-activities-family)

### SUNDAY & WEDNESDAY FAITH 5 HOPE DURING CRISIS

A group of ELCA Clergy and Youth Leaders have created Pandemic Hope, an 8 week family devotional for life during COVID-19.

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/.../doc.../Pandemic Hope Devotional.pdf>

\*\*\*Go to the link above and share.\*\*\*

### FED & FORGIVEN 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE COMMUNION INSTRUCTION



FAITH MENTOR:  
WENDY LAGESSE  
\*\*DATE & TIME PENDING

TAKE A DEEP  
BREATH,  
IT CALMS THE  
MIND



### 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.



... IN ACTION

### LET'S GET TOGETHER ONLINE!

Go to [studentdevos.com](http://studentdevos.com), click on daily devotion. Take some time to digest the content and email your thoughts to me at [stjohnsl-marla@bloomer.net](mailto:stjohnsl-marla@bloomer.net) using reply all.

Let's look at this as an opportunity to stay in touch with each other and God !

Blessings, Marla



## Celebrate Children

Wednesday, May 6

Children's voices & worship at 6:45 pm

Pot luck meal @ 5:30 pm for **ALL** members to enjoy.

Hot Dogs and beverage provided.

# Youth Announcements (continued)



## SR. HIGH RECOGNITION

TENTATIVE DATE: SUNDAY,  
MAY 10 @ 9 AM WORSHIP

FOLLOWED BY BRUNCH  
IN DINING HALL

## Luther Park Bible Camp



# VBS 2019

Where All are Blessed:  
The Kingdom of God

Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:10

**WHEN: JULY 13-16**

**WHO: KINDERGARTEN-5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

**WHERE: ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**TIME: NOON-5:00 PM**

**TO REGISTER: Email child's name & age & parents name & phone number to**

**[stjohnsl-marla@bloomer.net](mailto: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 on brown shelf outside Marla's office. Get complete camp info at [www.LutherPark.org](http://www.LutherPark.org). Enjoy a great week where faith is nurtured through Holy Play.

**EARLY BIRD DEADLINE IS MAY 1**



## ONLINE BASKET RAFFLE

TO SUPPORT ...

**YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

**DATE TO BE DETERMINED**



**5<sup>TH</sup>, 6<sup>TH</sup>, 7<sup>TH</sup> & 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

**& SR. HIGH PSEUDO**

**LOCK IN**

**7 PM-MIDNIGHT**

**DATE TO BE DETERMINED**

**" In the silence of the heart God speaks. If you face God in prayer and silence, God will speak to you."**

**Mother Teresa**

# Pastor's Monthly Report

## April 2020

### **I CELEBRATE**

The completed renovation of the church library, generously funded in memory of Connie Stertz and others.

The new Thursday evening bible study that brings our total weekly bible study offerings to 4 (Monday morning, Wednesday afternoon, Thursday evening, and Friday's women's bible study)

The start of our new Lenten dramatic presentation, "The Trial of Judas". Not only has it drawn new people into playing a part, it has also brought in members from Bethel Lutheran/New Auburn to our joint worship services!

### **People I've encouraged and RESOURCED**

Driah Z., Derik Sarauer, Nancy Schindler, Adam Ewings, Sue Seibel, Al Nimitz, and Dylan Halom and their upcoming roles in "The Trial of Judas".

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

Attending EPIC (Effective Practices for Innovative Churches) with Suzi McInnis and Marcy Trubshaw.

### **I'm currently WORKING ON**

Filling out the discipleship committee.

Filling out the social ministry committee.

Filling out the Faithful Innovations Network (FIN) team.

Staffing the Youth and Family Ministry Director position.

Completing the ELCA annual report.

### **I'm LEARNING & EXPLORING**

#### **I could use your HELP with and your PRAYERS for**

Finding a male and female to attend the Synod Assembly on May 16 at Trinity Lutheran, Eau Claire.

Praying for the interview process surrounding the Youth and Family Ministry Director position.

### **Additional comments**

Membership updates:

Baptism – Amiyah Shadick

# Special Letter from Pastor Halom

## A NOTABLE PROVERB

I was on my way to Ruby's Pantry in Cameron last week when I decided to put in an old CD of mine. It was the CD of the Luther College Concert Band that was recorded my senior year. The final piece was an arrangement called, "Who Puts his Trust in God most Just", originally written by J.S. Bach. We always played that as our first encore after every concert.

Despite the fact that we were a band, this piece incorporated sung portions in addition to the played portions. Last week my eyes watered over while listening as my memories flooded back from the several tours we took playing this piece that is so relevant to our lives, especially now.

Yes, now. We are going through a trial that none of us have faced to this extent. As I've been praying my way through our physical separation, as I wonder how long this will go on, the title of one of my favorite pieces says it all. I put my trust in God most just! We put our trust in God most just!

I'm assuming that as you read this you too have many unanswered questions like I do. But isn't that consistent with the journey of faith we face every day? Yes, we have truths that we cling to:

Jesus Christ is our Savior and the one true son of God  
 God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are separate, yet one  
 We are fed, forgiven and nourished through the sacrament of Holy Communion

But with each of these truths, there is mystery, there are questions that remain! But they are also the foundation of our faith.

So what will get us through this trial? Where can we put our trust? Sounds like another familiar biblical question, answered by the writer of the book of Proverbs:

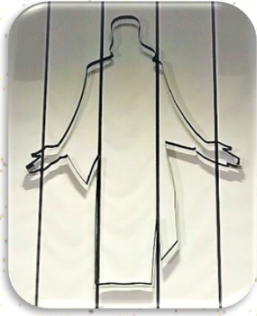
**Proverbs 3:5-6** *Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. <sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.*

I hope that in the midst of our uncertainties, you will find solid ground on which to stand. We will continue to provide meaningful resources for you during our quarantine. Check us out at <http://www.stjohns-bloomer.org/> and Facebook (St. John's Lutheran – Bloomer) for access to daily devotions, family materials, and worship opportunities. This will help you remain grounded in your faith and better able to cope with uncertainty. Know that I am a simple email or phone call away as well.

Peace,

Pastor Martin

# Bishop's Easter Message



## Cookie Cutter Jesus: An Easter Message

I visit a different church in our Synod nearly every Sunday. This Sunday I discovered a 15 foot cookie cutter outline of the figure of Jesus hanging high above the altar. I kept staring at the shape during the first hymn thinking about the outstretched arms of Jesus and realized this as an *Easter* cookie cutter. This is the resurrected Jesus who showed the wounds of the nails in hands when he appeared to Mary Magdalene and the other women. These are the women who became the first witnesses to announce that Jesus had risen from the dead to the other disciples. I was still thinking about the cookie cutter shape of Jesus when the last hymn was sung. After worship I visited with a long time member of that congregation, Shirley. I remarked how I appreciated the 15 foot cookie cutter Jesus above the altar. Shirley smiled and then told me this story: The church sanctuary was built in the 1970s. Everyone was so excited for the first worship service. The construction workers were busy putting the finishing touches on the sanctuary. The metal shape of Jesus was lying flat on the floor in the church waiting to be hung above the altar. At the time Shirley's daughter, Kari was about 3 ½ years old. Shirley and little Kari were checking out the progress in the sanctuary. Kari, a normal curious child, stepped into the cookie cutter frame and stood in the middle of the Jesus shape. Kari said to Shirley, "Look mommy, I'm standing in Jesus' hand." It was a sweet memory of that long ago moment. Shirley then went on to finish that story. She told me that her daughter Kari died of complications from cancer treatment two years ago. She was only 46. Shirley said that she finds comfort in knowing that her daughter is now resting forever "in Jesus' hands." She often thinks about Kari when she sees the shape of Jesus above the altar. She envisions her daughter in Jesus, resting in Jesus. This Easter, remember we are "in Jesus." We have been baptized into his death and resurrection. We are people who believe "in Jesus."



Friends, as I write this I realize that we are living in complicated times, COVID-19 frightens, cancer kills, politics are ugly, wars rage, immigrant and refugees suffer, racism, gun violence, sexism, climate change, drug abuse are real concerns and yet here we are standing "in Jesus." During this season of Easter, no matter where you are on your spiritual journey, know that the resurrected Jesus reaches out his nail scarred hands to us all, appearing to us in our grief, in our scariest moments, in our despair. This Easter Jesus walked on the road to Emmaus with the two grieving disciples. This is the resurrected Jesus who appeared to the terrified disciples in the locked room and said "peace be with you." This is the resurrected Jesus who ascended into heaven and says to us all, "Go and make disciples of all nations and remember I am with you ALWAYS to the end of the age." You are "in Jesus." Go in peace and share this Easter good news with the world.

**Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson**

I bake and decorate hundreds of rolled out cookies every year and have a collection of old cookie cutters.

The women at the tomb were the first witnesses to the resurrection. 2020 is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ordination of women pastors in the United States. Save the date, November 7, 2020 is the Synod's Day of Celebration for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Luther Park's new ministry center.

Thank you to Shirley Bostrom for giving me permission to share this part of her story.

*Romans 6:3-4* Do you not know that all of us who have been **baptized in Christ Jesus** were baptized into his death?<sup>4</sup> Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

*2 Corinthians 5:17* So if anyone is **in Christ**, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!



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