



St. John's Lutheran Church

Mission Statement:

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

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Church News - Calendar

News from Pastor Halom

Youth & Family Announcements

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Crosses We Don't Choose

Then Jesus told them, "... take up their cross and follow me." Matthew 16:24b

Dear Members and Friends of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, My friend Julie's mom had dementia. Julie picked up that cross and carried it as her beloved mother faded away. Paul was in second grade when he was diagnosed with diabetes. It was a cross he would carry for the rest of his life. Erica's drug addiction was a cross she and her family carried for years until she found sobriety. They were all crosses they didn't choose. Jesus carried his cross on the road to his crucifixion. Along the way he falls, and a man named Simon of Cyrene is forced to pick up Jesus' cross and carry it the rest of the way to Calvary. Simon was most likely a reluctant cross bearer. Most of us are reluctant cross bearers. We don't choose the pain or suffering we've been dealt, and yet we carry the load. We don't choose to carry another person's cross when they are too weak to carry it themselves, but we are at times compelled by love to do so.

This month marks the one year anniversary of the pandemic. It is a cross that we've all carried to one degree or another. For some it has been an inconvenience and for others a heavy burden of suffering and profound grief. Theologically there is no way to put a positive spin on the coronavirus or 2020. It has been a cross we didn't choose. The strain of carrying this cross is evident in our country and congregations. We are all weary of it.

On Palm/Passion Sunday and Good Friday we are drawn into the story of Jesus' arrest, trial, and death. We walk alongside him in the crowd as he carries his cross, our cross, compelled by love. We walk with a suffering Jesus straining under the weight of this cross, stumbling, falling, getting back up and finally letting go, letting another carry it. Jesus knew pain in his human body, and so Jesus knows our every weakness. Jesus himself was beaten, knew suffering and was unable to carry the weight this cross. He falls to the ground under the weight of his love for us.

As a church we invite others to walk in the way of Jesus knowing that they are carrying crosses they didn't choose for themselves. We invite others to walk in the way of Jesus because as a community of faith we shoulder the burden and carry it all together. We help another carry their cross out of love. We are Simon of Cyrene.

Maybe that is what this past year has taught us; that we need each other; we aren't alone. We've been isolated, quarantined, but not alone. We can't take our congregations for granted. We need our faith communities and the relationships with other believers because we can't carry our own crosses. We follow the way of Jesus together bearing our neighbor's crosses out of love.

It is in the cross that Jesus carried and on which he was crucified that we can know the love of God and salvation. This is Luther's Theology of the Cross. It is in the crosses that we as a community of faith carry together as we follow in the way of Jesus that we too see and know the love God.

Dear friends of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, I am grateful for you, that during the pandemic, we were able to walk in the way of Jesus together. May you each know the joy of Easter! Christ is Risen. He is risen indeed.

Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson.

Inspired by an article titled Crosses we don't choose in March 10, 2021 Christian Century by Debie Thomas
Simon of Cyrene Matthew 27:32

Office number: 715-568-5446

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

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 list please stop by the church office, call the office at 715-568-5446, or email the information to:

Prayers of Healing for our Church Family

Kelly Custer; Terry, brother-in-law of Jean Latour; Carolyn Bergh, Maggie Olson, Tom Buchner, Arlene Christianson, Ilene Pingel, Merv Marquardt, Willard Rogge, Rod Martin, Donna Kerckhove & Rene Kerckhove (Pat Prill's daughters), Steve Trubshaw, Margueritte Werner.

Prayers for our Active Military

Dalton Grambo, Jacob Dachel, Danielle Shipman, Kelsey Leavens,
Trenton Beaudette, Ryan Heiss

Prayers for the Saints

Prayers for the week of April 4th: Adam, Liz, Emmitt, Henry and Lucy Anderson; Bill, Carrie, Aiden, Brennan, Calum and Jessica Anderson; Karen Anderson; Kay & Richard Anderson.

Prayers for the week of April 11th: Doug, Shellie, Tayler and Zachary Asher; Karlien Asplund; Matt and Penni Asplund; Justin, Stacey, Bentley, Journey and Riley Babbit; Kay Baier; Yvonne Baier.

Prayers for the week of April 18th: Greg, Tasha, Trey, Ava, Brodie and Dylan Baker; Bruce, Karen, Jay and Jon Barlow; Jerome, Kristie, Alicia and Ryan Benson; Carolyn Bergh.

Prayers for the week of April 25th: Jill, Mark, Karsten and Madi Bergh; Matthew, Melissa, Claire and Tyler Berlin; Brittany, John, Jack and Laikyn Beyer; Dale and Rita Bitney; Albert, Merlene and Mark Blaha.

Letter from Pastor Martin

Church News

THE HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION

The season of Lent is now over. Back in February we learned from the Bible Basic that the term, "Lent", simply means "spring". Now the 40 days are complete. The season of Easter has come, and if you take a look out your window, you'll see that spring is indeed here!

Having grown up in the Midwest, one of the things I now value that I used to take for granted was the fact that we get to experience all four seasons in their glory. But spring is not unique to the Midwest. There are signs of new life all across our nation and world, but none more important than the new life that we experience daily through the death and resurrection of Christ our Lord.

The seasons that we are gifted with are without question by design. God our creator is a masterful artist. Just look at the variety of birds nesting in a variety of trees that are planted in a variety of landscapes! When we take the time to witness the beauty of God's handiwork, our spirits can be lifted up and given new life. When I really think about it, it's much like the disciples hiding in the upper room hearing the good news that Jesus returned from the grave.

This past year, I've preached a lot on my concern for our collective spirits, myself included. Now that vaccinations are rapidly administered and we are on a path toward "normalcy", my hope is that our spirits will once again be able to focus on hope and not despair. The disciples undoubtedly dealt with despair when they saw Jesus die on the cross. But just imagine their joy when they finally understood that he would indeed return from the grave!

See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Gentiles; they will mock him, and spit upon him, and flog him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise again. (Mark 10:33-34)

... And after three days he will rise again. These are words of hope. These are words of life!

In the winter, things die. When spring comes, by design God breathes new life into the earth. That's why Easter is the most celebrative festival we witness. Jesus defeats death in order to bring new life, eternal life!

Friends, look for those signs of life around you. When you see a sign of new life, remember the gift of eternal life. When you are part of new life, such as helping a friend or listening to a concern, imagine what it feels like to experience that feeling forever. I'm a firm believer that God gives us constant glimpses of heaven and even invites us into those experiences. That's what we call discipleship and it all stems from the hope we gain from the resurrection!

Pastor Martin

CHARCOAL CHICKEN FUNDRAISER

Come support our youth and grab a Charcoal Chicken meal on **Sunday, April 11th** after worship at Shadick's Price-Rite!



Earnings will go toward sending our youth to Loveland, CO this summer, as well as sending kids to camp and allow them to do other activities and events.

For more information, please contact Katie O'Connell at

stjohnsl-katie@bloomer.net or 715-568-5446 ext. 12

Quilting Group

Will be meeting on
April 13th and April 27th
at 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Everyone is welcome!!



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!!

FINANCE UPDATE

Year-To-Date as of Mar. 29, 2021

Year-To-Date:

Weekly Contributions	\$ 58,681.82
Other Raised Funds	27.69
Total Received	\$ 58,709.51
- Expenses	\$ -44,773.71
Total remaining after expenses	\$ 13,935.80

APRIL 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>28</p> <p>9:00 AM PALM SUNDAY Worship Service 10:00 AM Easter Reservations Taken 5:30 PM Youth In Action</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p> <p>6:45 PM Worship Service (In person with safety protocols)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:45 PM Good Friday Worship Service (In person with safety protocols)</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4</p> <p>7:30 AM Sunrise Easter Service 9:00 AM EASTER Worship Service 10:30 AM EASTER Worship Service</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>3:30 PM Staff Meeting (zoom)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:30 AM Bloomer Clergy Assoc. Mtg-Pastor 5:30 PM Faith Formation - Grp A 6:45 PM Worship Service (In person with safety protocols)</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00 AM Spring Clean-Up Work Day</p>
<p>11</p> <p>9:00 AM Worship Service (In person with safety protocols) 10:00 AM Charcoal Chicken Dinner Fund-raiser-Shadicks 5:30 PM Youth In Action</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Quilting Group 5:30 PM Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>14</p> <p>5:30 PM Faith Formation - Grp B 6:45 PM Worship Service (In person with safety protocols) 8:00 PM First Communion Meeting</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Synod Assembly Part 1</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Synod Assembly Part 2</p>
<p>18</p> <p>9:00 AM Worship Service (In person with safety protocols)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>5:00 PM Youth Committee Meeting</p>	<p>20</p> <p>3:30 PM Staff Meeting (zoom)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>5:30 PM Faith Formation - Grp A 6:45 PM Worship Service (In person with safety protocols)</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Pastor Out of Office-FIN Conference</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Pastor Out of Office-FIN Conference</p>	<p>24</p> <p>8:30 AM - 4:30 PM Luther Park Work Day</p>
<p>25</p> <p>9:00 AM Worship Service (In person with safety protocols) 5:30 PM Youth In Action</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Quilting Group</p>	<p>28</p> <p>5:30 PM Faith Formation - Grp B 6:45 PM Worship Service (In person with safety protocols)</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>1</p>

Church Council Minutes (via Zoom)

March 9, 2021

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President Tyler Halverson.

Opening Devotion: Prayer by Pastor Martin. Special prayer request for Lydia Blaha's mother.

Approval of Agenda: "Financial Report" added to agenda. Motion made by Melissa Sarauer, seconded by Adam Anderson, to approve the agenda, with flexibility. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes – February 9, 2021: Motion made by Melissa Sarauer, seconded by Adam Anderson, to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Committee Referrals: None at this time.

Committee Reports:

Youth and Family Ministry: They will be meeting next week.

Pastor's Report:

- Marcy Trubshaw and Rod Johnson have agreed to be voting members at the synod assembly. Motion made by Melissa Sarauer, seconded by Kaitlyn Bohl, to approve them as voting members. Motion carried.

Membership update:

- Baptisms: Coby Ludwigsen, Blake Boese

- Transfer to Church Triumphant: Gloria Lambert.

Motion made by Melissa Sarauer, seconded by Pat Prill, to approve the membership update. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Motion made by Melissa Sarauer, seconded by Marcy Trubshaw, to approve the financial report. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- COVID Update: Every other pew will be blocked off instead of every third pew.

Treasurer Position: Email vote was taken on February 17, 2021, to accept nomination of Pat Prill as council treasurer. Motion made by Melissa Sarauer, seconded by Adam Anderson, to accept Pat Prill as treasurer. Having a majority "yes" vote, President Tyler Halverson declared the motion as having passed.

New Business:

Custodial Position: Motion made by Marcy Trubshaw, seconded by Adam Anderson, to accept Stephanie Kohls for the position of custodian. Motion carried.

Holy Week plans: Palm Sunday will have one service at 9:00 a.m. Maundy Thursday will have one service at 6:45 p.m. Good Friday will have one service at 6:45 p.m. Easter Sunday will have three services, at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 10:30 a.m. No Easter breakfast this year. Capacity limit at each Easter service will be 100. Members will need to sign up for Easter service.

Additional Items and Announcements:

- Raffle license will be posted by the basket raffles.

- One raffle license needs to be renewed in April. Motion made by Lydia Blaha, seconded by Marcy Trubshaw, to renew the raffle license in April. Motion carried.

- Discussed whether to have charcoal chicken dinner again this year.

- No Easter Egg Hunt this year.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made at 6:40 p.m. by Melissa Sarauer, seconded by Adam Anderson. Motion carried.

Closing Prayer: The Lord's Prayer led by Pastor Martin.

Next regular council meeting will be April 13, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Terri Smith, Secretary

Present via Zoom: Pastor Martin, Tyler Halverson, Adam Anderson, Alicia Bonczyk, Kaitlyn Bohl, Lydia Blaha, Marcy Trubshaw, Melissa Sarauer, Pat Prill, Terri Smith. Absent: Janelle Yeakey.

Youth & Family Ministry Committee Meeting Minutes—March 15, 2021

Present: Pastor Martin, Katie O'Connell, Kathy Tozer, Melissa Sarauer, Lisa Prill.

1. JAM Update

- a. Things are still cruising along!
 - b. Have anywhere from 12-15 kids on average each week on Wednesdays
- Kids have been SUPER flexible week to week. We've had to switch up classes at times because teachers have been either sick or doing worship things.
 - c. Sundays have still been Lydia Blaha's kids.

2. Confirmation Update

- Attendance is good. There has been more time with youth sharing thoughts.

3. Youth in Action Update

- a. March dates: 7, 14, and 28th
- Replaced February 28th with March 7th so I could go babysit in Austin, MN.
 - b. March 7th was just Dylan Halom and me. It was a lot of fun being able to get to know him more.
 - c. Yesterday there were 6 boys to show up. Activities included eating lots of pizza pie (for Pi Day) and playing Sardines and basketball.

4. Mission Trip Update

- a. We are registered for July 11-16
- b. Will give price update here: flight = \$153.80/person; mini van base rate = \$650.50/van.
- c. Katie has paid first half of deposit.
- d. Youth Committee decided to pay up to \$5000 from Designated Youth Fund toward Mission Trip. Expected out of pocket contribution for each youth is \$400,
- e. It was decided to book three hotel rooms for the first night in CO (\$80-110 range.)

5. Charcoal Chicken Fundraiser (carry out)

- a. Tentatively scheduled for Sunday, April 11 at Shadick's parking lot.
- b. Wendy LaGesse will order and cook chicken.
- c. Lisa will apply for a Thrivent Grant to pay for supplies.
- d. Barb Ross has great notes and should be asked to help plan.
- e. Katie will reach out to Mission Trip families first for volunteers as a team building experience. (Use Sign Up Genius to make sure we have enough helpers.)
- f. Funds raised will go into Designated Youth Fund, with possibility of using 80/20 method.

6. Fundraisers Update

- a. Cake Rolls are due on Wednesday, so reminder email was sent.
 - c. Raffle is going okay.
- Lydia sent over the license numbers we need to have up to do the raffle "correctly."
 - It has been shared a few times on the St. John's Facebook page, so hopefully this will encourage people to purchase tickets.
 - c. Care Packages
 - Decided we have too many things going on right now.
 - Will plan to contact parent's of 2020 graduates to inform them.
 - Plan to send care packages in the fall to 2021 graduates.

7. First Communion

- a. Pastor will meet with families after Easter about options.
- b. 5th/6th grade have completed instruction but not ceremony.
- c. May be possible to hold ceremony outdoors, or in small groups if held indoor.

Next meeting will be Monday, April 19th at 5:00 PM, tentatively in person☐:-)

Youth Announcements

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

Confirmation students, please join us in the Dining Hall at St. John's for Confirmation! We will still be alternating weeks, so please see the schedule below.

- 4/7: Group A
- 4/14: Group B
- 4/21: Group A
- 4/28: Group B



YOUTH IN ACTION



Who: 9th-12th Grade Youth
When: Sunday, April 11th and 25th
 @ 5:30-7:30pm
Where: St. John's Lutheran Church
 Join us for a time of fellowship, games, and most importantly...FOOD!! We are FINALLY able to be together in person again!

REGISTER EARLY FOR LUTHER PARK

Have you taken time to look at the programs offered at Luther Park and Luther Woods? While June and July may seem a long way away, the staff at Luther Park is already gearing up for another exciting summer filled with fun and faith.

Whether you are a first-time camper or a veteran senior high, there is something for everyone at Luther Park! If you register and pay in full before May 1st, you will receive the Early Bird Discount. To sign up for camp, pick up a brochure outside of Katie's office and send in your registration today or visit www.lutherpark.org to register online. If you have any questions, please contact the Luther Park office at info@lutherpark.org or (715) 859-2215 for additional information.

JAM SCHEDULE

Starting February 3rd, we began holding JAM in person! Pre-K meets Sundays @ 10-10:30 AM.
 Kindergarten-5th Grade meets alternating Wednesdays at 5:30-6:30 PM. Please see schedule below.

- 4/7: Kindergarten-2nd Grade
- 4/14: 3rd—5th Grade
- 4/21: Kindergarten—2nd grade
- 4/28: 3rd—5th Grade



BASKET RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

Help get our youth to Loveland, CO this summer!! From now until Easter, we will be selling raffle tickets. Purchase tickets before or after worship in the narthex, any-time during the week, or you can call Katie and send a check in the mail!

Cost: \$5/ticket or \$20/5 tickets

Come see the baskets in person, or visit the St. John's Facebook for pictures.

Please see "CHURCH NEWS" on page 3 for details on Charcoal Chicken Fundraiser.



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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

Email: pastormartin@bloomer.net

Greetings to the beloved family of faith at St. John's!

I wanted to send out a reminder to make reservations for one of our three Easter worship services. This year, we will have worship on April 4 at 7:30, 9:00, and 10:30 am. You can use this link to make your reservation: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4cacab22a3fec61-easter>. This link will remain active all the way to Easter Sunday, but we certainly encourage you to make reservations once your plan is set for the day! We are limiting attendance to 100 people in order to safely gather with physical distancing measures. As a reminder, we still require wearing masks at this time.

On a separate note, our friends at Luther Park need our help. Two years ago you may recall that Chetek was hit hard by a tornado (maybe even several in just one storm!) and the camp is still recovering from it. Please read the attachment about an annual event called, "Just One day of Service", which is scheduled for Saturday, April 24. If you have special skills in plumbing, electrical, roofing, or other areas, please let me know so that I can communicate your skills with their leadership. But truly, there is work for any able bodied person, including children. There is a lot to clean up in their wooded area which entails the use of chain saws, so please consider helping out as there is no such thing as too many volunteers for this event! Sadly, due to Covid-19, this event was cancelled last year. This year working conditions will be as safe as possible. Let's show Luther Park how much we care and show up in droves!

If you have any questions about Easter or Luther Park, please don't hesitate to reach out. I'm truly hopeful that we can come together as a strong family of faith and be the eager disciples we've committed to being!

Peace,
Pastor Martin