



# St. John's Lutheran Church



## Mission Statement:

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

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Church News - Calendar

Letter from Pastor Halom

Confirmation Faith Statement

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## A RENEWED SENSE OF HOPE AND LIFE!

As Christians, the most pivotal marker in all of history is the resurrection of Jesus when he rose from the dead on Easter Sunday. Everything changed when Jesus stared death in the face and declared victory, not just for himself, but rather for all believers. His new life means our new life. His life everlasting means our life everlasting!

These are hopeful words and beliefs. But it's not just everlasting life in the sense of what happens upon our death. It's also about our life here and now, as noted in the Lord's Prayer, "...your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven." We live into the resurrection each and every day as we experience God's promise that we are indeed God's children each and every day.

It is with that notion that I look forward with great anticipation for our future together. When we reflect on our hopefulness that is rooted in the resurrection, we can be hopeful in the here and now. This past month, our church council met with Pastor Erin Nelson (see council minutes later!) to determine the direction of this church. It was an amazing church council retreat because of the amazing people you have elected. Ideas were shared, plans were made, and I am excited to try some of these out and get back to being a vibrant church once again.

Here's a quick rundown of what was determined at the retreat:

### Core Values:

- Caring Community of Faith
- Adaptability
- Learning & Growing
- Hope through Christ

These values reflect who we are at present and the foundation upon which to build our future. As you read further about some of our ideas we intend to implement over the next few months, I hope that you will be willing participants so that we can fulfill our collective mission statement, *Growing disciples who eagerly share Christ's love.*

As we move forward together, may we embrace these core values and continue to determine what the church of 2022 looks like. That's how God will answer our prayer, "...your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven!"

*Pastor Halom*

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

Dave Burby (son-in-law of Kathy Ludwigson); Bob Kerckhove; Aubrie Bohl; Renee Grambo; Richard Rihn; Shelli Rogge; Arlene Christianson; Dohna Kerckhove (Pat Prill's daughter); Ilene Pingel; Maggie Olson; Margueritte Werner; Kelly Custer; Steve Trubshaw.

### Prayers for our Active Military

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

### Prayers for the Saints

Prayers for the week of April 3<sup>rd</sup>: Sarah Wittrock, Gregorie and Julie (Chojnacki); Brent, Janelle, Blaine, Camryn and Kelly Yeakey; Randy and Tami Yeakey; Sindy, Steve, Nic, Driah and Zayah Zakrzewicz.



Prayers for the week of April 10<sup>th</sup>: Pete, Stacie, Paige and Kendall Zeman; Alice Zinsmaster; Amanda, Jeremy, DeLaney and Dyllon Zwiefelhofer; Garret, Kari, Trey and Skylar Zwiefelhofer; Suzette Zwiefelhofer.

Prayers for the week of April 17<sup>th</sup>: Adam, Liz (Bohl), Emmitt, Henry and Lucy Anderson; Bill, Carrie, Aiden, Brennan, Calum and Jessica Anderson; Karen Anderson; Kay and Richard Anderson; Doug, Shellie, Tayler and Zachary Asher.

Prayers for the week of April 24<sup>rd</sup>: Karlien Asplund; Matt and Penni Asplund; Justin, Stacey, Bentley, Journey and Riley Babbit; Kay Baier; Yvonne Baier; Greg, Tasha, Trey, Ava, Brodie and Dylan Baker.

# APRIL 2022 CALENDAR

APRIL 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Rite of Confirmation 5:30 PM Youth In Action	<b>28</b> 7:00 PM COVID Task Force meeting (zoom)	<b>29</b> 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM BLOODMOBILE - MOOSE LODGE 5:00 PM Preschool Committee Meeting	<b>30</b> 4:30 PM Fed & Forgiveness 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Faith Formation PreK-8th 6:45 PM Worship Service	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM J.A.M.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 11:15 AM Staff Meeting 5:15 PM Youth Committee Meeting	<b>6</b> 9:30 AM Bloomer Clergy Assoc. Mtg-Pastor 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Faith Formation PreK-8th 6:45 PM Worship Service	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 7:00 PM All Night Lock-in 7pm to 7am	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> PALM SUNDAY  9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM J.A.M. 5:30 PM Youth In Action	<b>11</b> 5:30 PM Church Council Meeting	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10:00 AM Pastor's Conference 6:45 PM Maundy Thursday Service	<b>15</b> NO SCHOOL 6:00 PM Ecumenical Good Friday Service - Silent Messengers	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> EASTER  9:00 AM Easter Worship Service 10:30 AM 2nd Easter Service - time to be determined	<b>18</b> NO SCHOOL	<b>19</b> 11:15 AM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Quilting Group 6:00 PM Care of Creation Meeting (zoom)	<b>20</b> 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Faith Formation PreK-8th 6:45 PM Worship Service	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 10:00 AM Funeral-Clyde Shipman	<b>23</b> 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM Luther Park Work Day
<b>24</b> Charcoal Chicken Fundraiser 9:00 AM Worship Service -Care for Creation 10:15 AM J.A.M.	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Faith Formation-Cross-Generational 6:45 PM Worship Service	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:00 AM Synod Assembly @ Trinity Lutheran in EC

# Church News



Easter Message from Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson, April 2022  
*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!*

Dear Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! This is the good news of Easter. By God's power death is reversed and Christ is raised from the dead. Jesus' resurrection from the dead changes everything! Everything is made new.

Change is good news after two years of a pandemic, right? We are ready for a change. But are we really? Do we want everything to become new like we read in 2 Corinthians 5 or do we want the change to be a return to the old and familiar?

If Jesus' resurrection from the dead changes everything, then what has changed in your life? What difference does Jesus make in your life? What has Jesus made new?

What difference does Jesus make to my 35 year old nephew whose brain tumor came back, faces radiation treatments and is struggling with his ex for visitation of their three year old son?

What difference does Jesus mean to our siblings in Malawi who are often threatened by drought, flood and famine or to Ukrainians whose homes were destroyed by a Russian bomb?

What difference does Jesus make to a stable congregation deciding what their next most faithful step might be or to a declining congregation wondering if their next most faithful step is to close?

As Lutherans we believe that we are baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, we go under the water as a sinner and we are resurrected with Christ, lifted out of the water, a saint. We are changed for sure and we are reborn children of God! Theologically that's beautiful, but in real life, what difference does Jesus make in your life?

As human beings, Christ's resurrection from the dead challenges us to live into that change. As broken sinful humans, whose lives are "messed or mangled" we live into Easter reality that Christ is present and daily working in our lives. Jesus challenges and changes us. Those of us who doubt our faith and question its relevance are challenged by Easter's promise to see and know God in the transformed lives around us.

Friends we know that Jesus changes our weeping into laughing, our mourning into dancing, our despair into hope, our winter into spring and our death into life. Jesus changes things and makes all things new.

We are challenged to see the transformations around us and in us. We are challenged to be the change, evidence of the transformation, for the world to see and know God through us.

## 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself,<sup>[a]</sup> not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

## Kaleidoscope

*Change Happens at the Speed of Trust*

### WANTED!! Funeral Custodian

\*Job description entails cleaning bathrooms, sanctuary, narthex, dining hall (as needed), and library setup.

\*Please contact Pastor Martin if you are willing to serve as the custodian for upcoming funerals. \$50/funeral. Normal year has 8-10 funerals/year.

\*Can be accomplished individually or with partners!

If you'd like to help the refugees from Ukraine as they flee from violence, you can offer the following:

- Pray for an end to the violence
- Make out a check to St. John's with "Ukraine" in the memo by Sunday, April 24
- Give online at [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

100% of your donation will help support the refugees.  
 Thank you for your generosity!

## Quilting Group

Will be meeting on  
 April 19<sup>th</sup>  
 at 1:00-4:00 p.m.

*Everyone is welcome!!*



### Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers

Christ has risen and forever lives, to challenge and to change. All whose lives are messed or mangled, all who find religion strange. Christ is risen, Christ is present, making us what he has been: evidence of transformation in which God is known and seen.

	Month of	Year to Date	
	FEB 2022	JAN - FEB	
INCOME	\$ 11,189	\$29,471	Financial Update
EXPENSES	\$14,111	\$32,565	
Difference (loss)	(\$2,942)	(\$3,094)	Current Balance on Line of Credit
Line of Credit	Princ Paid Feb \$381	Princ Paid YTD \$1,006	\$23,605

### Deadline for April 2022 Newsletter

If you would like to submit anything for the newsletter, please make sure to get it to the church secretary no later than **March 25th.**  
 Thank You!!

# Church Council Minutes

## March 14, 2022

**Call to Order** - meeting was called to order at 5:34 pm by Adam Anderson, Council President

**Opening Devotion** – Pastor Martin led the council in a scripture discussion. The council read Matthew 14:22-33 and answered the questions: What do you notice?, What do you wonder about?, What is God calling you to do in this text?. Council will continue with similar devotions in the future. Pastor then led the council in prayer.

**Approval of Agenda** – a **motion was made** by Alicia Bonczyk to approve the agenda , seconded by Jeff Cole. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes** – a **motion was made** by Alicia Bonczyk to approve the minutes from the February 14th, 2022 meeting, seconded by Sarah Wittrock. Motion carried.

**Financial Report** – All bills are current and paid on time. For February 2022 the expenses were more than income. Information on the line of credit at the bank will be added to the financial update in the bulletin, etc. The line of credit information will include the change in amount (increase or decrease). **Motion was made** by Jeff Cole to approve the Financial Report, seconded by Jamie Keller. Motion carried.

	Year to Date( Jan 2022-Feb 2022)
Income	\$29,461.33
Expenses	\$32,564.75
Difference	\$-3,103.42
Current SFB Line of Credit	\$23,604.97 decrease of \$389.46

### **Reports**

**Discipleship, Fellowship, and Property** had no new updates.

**Social Ministry** – Care of creation continuing with monthly themes including general cleaning and Earth Day emphasis.

**Worship & Music** – Silent Messengers are scheduled to perform at 6 pm on Good Friday with a free will donation. We are collaborating with UCC Church on advertising and possible reception. United Methodist Church, Christ Lutheran, and Our Saviors Lutheran are aware of the performance.

**COVID Task Force** concerns brought to council. Discussion was had on necessity of the task force. Decision was made to continue with the COVID Task force but move to an on call basis.

A **motion was made** by Pat Prill and seconded by Sarah Wittrock to dispense with social distancing immediately. Motion carried.

**Youth & Family** – continuing to work on fundraising, exploring a pizza fundraiser and determining date for charcoal chicken.

**Preschool** – classrooms and storage areas have been cleaned and organized. Procedures for parent and staff concerns have been updated. Strategic planning process continues and will be wrapping up.

**Council President** – Adam shared his thoughts on the retreat. Discussion was had on the length of council meetings as Pastor Nelson said they should last 1-1.5 hours. Suggestion of moving agenda around to have reports at the end. Church Secretary will organize the minutes from committees to send out to Council members before meetings. All reports/minutes should be sent to the church secretary by the Thursday prior to council meetings. The church secretary will then email out the reports to council by the Friday before the meeting.

**Pastor Report** – Pastor will be holding office hours at the aquatic center to have the opportunity to talk with the community.

# Church Council Minutes *(continued)*

A **motion was made** to by Terri Smith and seconded by Jamie Keller to transfer in membership of Calvin Hassemer by baptism. Motion carried.

## Old Business

**Council Retreat** – Discussion on takeaways from the retreat. On Sunday March 13<sup>th</sup> the Church Council attended a retreat at Luther Park with Pastor Erin Nelson. During this time the council learned about the role of a church council, struggles that churches are currently facing, we discussed where our church is currently at, and we brainstormed ideas of to address our core values.

**Members Present:** Adam Anderson, Janelle Yeakey, Jamie Keller, Sarah Wittrock, Pastor Martin Halom, Alicia Bonczyk, Jeff Cole, Marcy Trubshaw, Terri Smith, Katie O'Connell. **Members Absent:** Katelyn Bohl, Pat Prill

**Mission Statement:** Growing Disciples Who Eagerly Share Christ's Love

<p><b>Core Values:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Caring Community of Faith</li> <li>Adaptability</li> <li>Learning &amp; Growing</li> <li>Hope through Christ</li> </ul>	<p><b>Guiding Principles:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providing new faith experiences for all outside of church</li> <li>Strengthen faith</li> <li>Work on providing hope and healing</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On 4/27 or 5/4 we will invite Laura Ramlow to lead a cross generational event with a celebratory meal.</li> <li>In worship we will ask people to share God sightings weekly from Easter to Pentecost</li> <li>Come up with a list of God questions to ask young families. Young families will be called and asked these questions.</li> </ul>	

## **Goal Updates:**

Cross Generational Event

Laura Ramlow is available for the 4/27 date and will have the theme of Faith Practices. Meal 5-6p (pending discussion of COVID Task Force) with activity from (6pm -7pm)

Pastor will speak with Rosemary about the possibility of preparing a meal. Sign-up will be created for the meal, Pastor will ask Rosemary about deadline for sign-up.

Advertising – Pastor will ask Laura Ramlow about premade information. If none available, Janelle will create something. Event will be advertised on Facebook, bulletin, newsletter, newspaper.

God Sightings:

Discussion will happen during the sharing of peace until Pentecost.

Suggestion of incorporating answers into announcement slides, including pictures

Weekly God Sighting post on Facebook for members to interact

God Questions – will be addressed at next meeting

Mask Optional Status – no new updates

## New Business

Charcoal Chicken Dinner – see reports above

COVID Updates- Pastor will meet with the COVID Task Force to discuss meal possibility. Information will be shared with council via email to make a decision.

Social distancing removed (see motion in reports)

# Church Council Minutes *(continued-final)* Faith Statement

**Additional Items** - A suggestion was made of creating a way to remember and honor loved ones. Next Meeting: April 11th at 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

**Adjournment** - A motion was made by Jamie Keller, seconded by Jeff Cole to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm.

Members Present: Adam Anderson, Janelle Yeakey, Jamie Keller, Sarah Wittrock (via zoom), Pastor Martin Halom, Alicia Bonczyk, Jeff Cole, Pat Prill, Marcy Trubshaw (via zoom), Terri Smith

Members Absent: Katelyn Bohl

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## Confirmation Faith Statement—Bible Verse

If I had to describe Jesus to a friend I would say he is an interesting person. Jesus was the Messiah (leader of Jerusalem) who was crucified for the sins and humanity before rising from the dead. There was a week that led up to Jesus's death. Starting with Palm Sunday, his entrance to Jerusalem. Then Holy Wednesday- intro leading to the darkness. After Maundy Thursday- Jesus's last supper. They served him bean stew, lamb, olives, bitter herbs, and wine as the blood of Jesus, and bread as the body of Jesus. Next Good Friday- The death of Jesus on the cross. Next Holy Saturday- Visiting the tomb of Jesus. Lastly Easter Sunday- the day Jesus rose from the dead to forgive all of our sins and humanity. To describe Jesus I would say, Jesus is a kind, compassionate, loving, humble, and just a good trusting servant, also firm and solid. I would say Jesus was a great friend, he gave everything he had or could get for his friends. He is our example of friendship because he was the one who died on the cross for us. He makes it possible for us to have a life of friendship. I would say Jesus teaches us that God's presence is among us. Jesus is always there for you even when your real friends aren't there for you. Jesus is one you can always count on when in need of forgiveness, prayers, or even for nothing. Your real friends may be busy with their own problems and like that you think you don't have any-one, but you have Jesus who will always be there for you. I would count him as the one and only son of god. I'd say Jesus always speaks the truth. He never tells lies or false information. He always asks for more and is willing to give more. And lastly he always forgives no matter what you do. If you pray to Jesus he will forgive you no matter what. Jesus was crucified on the cross for us. So we can live a good, happy forgiving life.

Trust in the lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding; 6 in all your way to submit to him, and he will make your paths straight

Proverbs 3:5

# Youth Announcements

## YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

### JESUS & ME (JAM)

**Who:** Pre-K – 5th Grade

**When:** Sunday @ 10:15am &  
Wednesday @ 5:30pm

Come learn with your peers about Jesus and how he fits into our lives. This month's theme surrounds Easter and some of the events that happen leading up to this holiday.

**NOTE:**

There will be **NO JAM** on April 13th or 17th.

### FULL NIGHT LOCK-IN

**Who:** 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

**When:** Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm  
– Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> @ 7am

Join us for a **FULL NIGHT** lock-in led by the program directors at Luther Park Bible Camp! There will be time for meeting new people, worship, gaga ball, games in the dark, movies, and **MORE!** We can't wait!

### PALM SUNDAY SINGING

**Who:** JAM kids

**When:** Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> @ 9am

What better way to bring back children singing in front of the church than having them sing on Palm Sunday?!

*We look forward to having your children join us!*

### YOUTH IN ACTION



**Who:** 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth

**When:** April 10th & 24th @ 5:30-7:30pm

Come join us for dinner, fellowship, and an evening activity! Activities have included board games, games around the church, service work, and more. Friends are always welcome!

### CONFIRMATION

**Who:** 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

**When:** Wednesday @ 5:30pm

This year we will be learning about the 10 Commandments, as well as taking a deeper dive into specific Bible stories and characters to learn how they are still prevalent in our lives today.

**NOTE:** *There will be NO Confirmation on April 13<sup>th</sup>.*

### CHARCOAL CHICKEN FUNDRAISER

**Who:** ANYONE!!

**When:** Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup> after worship

Our Church Council is looking for people who would like to work the Charcoal Chicken Fundraiser! For those looking for another fundraiser to help with camp or retreat costs, this is a really fun one to work!

Look out for an email from Katie with more information about times and a sign-up.

# Youth Announcements *(continued)*

## REBOUND

Who: 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

When: July 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>

Due to the cancellation of the ELCA Youth Gathering, the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, the La Crosse Area Synod, and the Northern Great Lakes Synod are partnering together to create a Tri-Synod High School Youth Gathering!

We invite you to join us at UW-River Falls where we will encounter God in new ways through creative ministry, challenging conversation, inspiring guest speakers, service learning projects in the Twin Cities, and uplifting worship.

*Katie will send out an email with more information.*

## A Special Milestone – Congratulations to Confirmands



Ryan Bleskacek



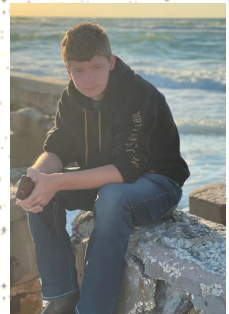
Mason Ewings



Charlie Grambo



Gabe Hillman



Chase Loew



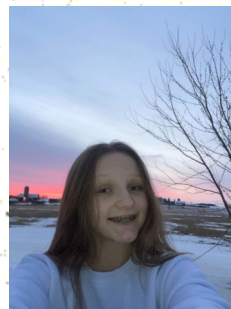
Cole Ludwigson



Neveah Nitek



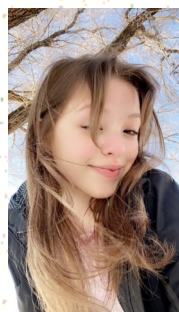
Addison Pecha



Lexi Pielhop



Harley Prill



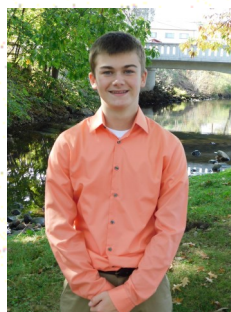
Athena Rogge



Zach Rogge



Tiana Thomley



Dyllon Zwiefelhofer



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**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
1403 Newman Street  
Bloomer, WI 54724

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

715-568-5446  
Email: [stjohnsl-secretary@bloomer.net](mailto:stjohnsl-secretary@bloomer.net)

**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](mailto:pastormartin@bloomer.net)

**Schedule for HOLY WEEK**

<b>Palm Sunday: April 10</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Maundy Thursday: April 14</b>	<b>6:45 p.m.</b>
<b>Good Friday: April 15</b>	<b>Ecumenical Service – Silent Messengers, 6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>EASTER SUNDAY: April 17</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. – 2nd Service time still to be determined. Watch Newspaper and Website Calendar for updates</b>