

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

Letter from Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

Faith Statement

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GO TEAM!

Jenn Larson

I find it very coincidental that this month's featured staff is Jenn. I first met Jenn and her family on Easter Sunday, 2021. I now write this as we approach Easter two years later. They attended the third of three services that day, their first worshipping experience at St. John's, and at its next meeting, our church council welcomed them into membership.

When I went to visit Jenn and her husband Erik (current property committee chair, btw) at their home, I found out that Jenn is one of the rare people who teaches piano lessons in the area. That very day I planted that important piece of information into my memory banks wondering if she'd ever consider playing at St. John's. Just a few months later in the fall of 2021, Jenn started to play for our normal Wednesday worship services and has truly blossomed ever since.

There are many facets of her work here that I value greatly. First, she responds amazingly well to critique, a sign of a humble servant as one who craves growth and improvement. Second, she fits our mission statement perfectly as an eager disciple, one who truly loves to play and embraces the challenges we set before her, including Holden Evening Prayer, Holy Week services, and Christmas pageants! Third, she has opened the door for other musicians, like her son Trevin, in playing special music, again creating opportunities for others to grow in their discipleship efforts and gain important experience. Jenn is also a great team player and fills in for Bobbi on occasion and never flinches when there is a need.

The Larson family has blessed our church in so many ways and Jenn's giving heart is at the center of it. Her husband Erik is not just our property chair, but is also the primary PowerPoint operator on Wednesdays. Their children Trevin and Keira are heavily involved in acolyting, assisting with communion, reading, and playing piano. Connor has helped Erik on several occasions with repair work around the church, while Finn and Liam worship when they're in town.

My final story about Jenn is distinctive to her. Last summer, as is our custom, I perform annual evaluations for each of our staff members to thank them for their work and bring up any areas of improvement. I've done this most of the ten years I've served here at St. John's. Last summer, for the first time, I received a very heartfelt thank you email from Jenn after her first review. This experience clearly exhibits her true character. I hope that our church can get to know Jenn and her family in the same way I have. You won't be disappointed!

Pastor Martin

Office number: 715-568-5446

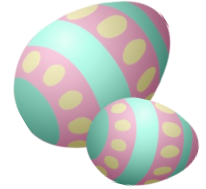
Like us on Facebook! St. John's Lutheran Church - Bloomer, WI

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: stjohnsl-secretary@bloomer.net



Prayers of Healing For Our Church Family

Noelle Seidl (niece of Tyler & Kristine Mickelson); Family and Friends of Clancy Mikl; Fumiko (Eric Larson's sister-in-law); Kyle Ruffedt; Pat Prill; Emmett Larson; Shelli Rogge; Arlene Christianson; Renee Grambo; Steve Trubshaw; Renee Kerckhove and Dohna Kerckhove (Pat Prill's daughters).

Prayers For Our Active Military

Dalton Grambo, Danielle Shipman, Kelsey Leavens, Trenton Beaudette

Prayers For the Saints

Prayers for the week of April 2nd: Alice Boese; Annie and Larry Boese; Nicole Boese; Bryan, Mary, Blake and Tenley Boese; Patricia Boettcher; Terri, Zach, Aubrie and Kaitlyn Bohl; Alicia, Andrew, Alexis, Colton and Kiley Bonczyk.

Prayers for the week of April 9th: Dalton, Joselyn and Katie (Dunlavey) Bowe; Jay, Kari, Cody and Kiley Braun; Tom Buchner; Joe, Kelly, Kendall and Kolten Burgess; Janelle and Raymond Buske; Brianna Buske; Ryan Buske.

Prayers for the week of April 16th: Brian, Cathy, Mitch and Tylor Calkins; Marsha Callstrom Kyle, Stephanie and Karter Chevrier; Arlene and Harley Christianson; Josh, Malia, Colt and Huck Clements; Jeffrey Cole.





Prayers for the week of April 23rd: Barbara and Mel Crisp; Thomas and Kylie Culver; Kelly, Laken and Tavyn Custer; Jacqueline and Jay Dachel; Payton Dachel; Pamela and Russ Dachel; Keenan, Samantha, Ivy and Jennings Dahl.

Prayers for the week of April 30th: Steven Durch; Judy and Teena Ellison; Crystal, Michael, Chase, Christian, Melanie and Michael Erickson; Adam, Tracia, Connor and Mason Ewings; Jackie and Thomas Ewings; Daniel and Kathleen Faschingbauer; Evelyn Ferstenou.

APRIL 2023 CALENDAR

Faith Statement

APRIL 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:00am Worship Service- Baptism Emslee Graski 10:30am Council Retreat, Luther Park 5:30pm Youth In Action	27 8:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Staff Meeting	28	29 2:00pm Bible Study 3:30pm - 4:30pm Fed & Forgiven 4:45pm - 5:30pm Wednesday Meals- Lenten Supper 5:30pm - 6:30pm Faith Formation 6:45pm Worship Service	30	31	1
2 PALM SUNDAY 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Fellowship Committee Meeting 2:00pm Harry Potter Bible Study	3 8:00am Bible Study 4:30pm Preschool Committee Meeting	4	5 10:00am Bloomer Clergy Meeting-St. John's Hosting	6 5:30pm Meal - Soup Competition 6:45pm MAUNDY THURSDAY SER- VICE	7  NO PRESCHOOL 1:00pm GOOD FRI- DAY-Ecumenical Service -First Congre- gational 6:45pm Good Friday Worship Service	8
9  7:00am EASTER SUN- DAY Sunrise Service 8:00am Easter Breakfast 9:00am Easter Sunday Worship Service	10  NO PRESCHOOL 1:00pm Staff Meeting	11	12 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm - 5:30pm Wednesday Meals 5:30pm - 6:30pm Faith Formation 6:45pm Worship Service	13 9:30am Pastor's Conference 9:30am Preschool PJs and Movie Day	14 9:30am Preschool PJs and Movie Day 7:00pm Confirmation Class Lock-In (7p-7a)	15
16 9:00am Worship Service	17 8:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Church Coun- cil Meeting	18  1:00pm - 4:00pm Quilting Group	19 9:30am Foundation Meeting 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm - 5:30pm Wednesday Meals 5:30pm - 6:30pm Faith Formation 6:45pm Worship Service	20	21	22 8:30am - 4:30pm Luther Park Spring Clean Up Work Day
23 9:00am Worship Service- Special Offering, Luther Campus Ministry, Stout 5:30pm Youth In Action	24 8:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Staff Meeting 5:15pm Youth Com- mittee Meeting	25	26 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm - 5:30pm Wednesday Meals 5:30pm - 6:30pm Faith Formation 6:45pm Worship Service	27	28	29 Synod Assembly
30 9:00am Worship Service	1 8:00am Bible Study	2	3 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm - 5:30pm Wednesday Meals 5:30pm - 6:30pm Faith Formation 6:45pm Worship Service	4	5	6

FAITH STATEMENT

I believe in God. I believe that he loves me. I also believe that he loves everyone else too. Every summer I go to Luther Park Bible Camp. While there, I meet new people who also believe in god. The new people that I meet there are diverse. They come from different towns, backgrounds, races, and even other countries. A few summers ago I was able to be in a cabin with three sisters who were adopted from South America; a few summers before that I was able to be in a cabin with a girl who was paralyzed. While we may not have had as many things in common as I did with other people in those cabins, we did know that god loves us. They, along with everyone else that I have met at camp, have helped to teach me that while god loves me, he also loves everyone. He doesn't pick favorites. His love is never-ending. Even when you turn away from him, he still loves you. Even when you stray from the path, he loves you. And he forgives you, even if you aren't quite yet ready to forgive yourself. His love knows no end.

Bible Verse:

Psalm 27:1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Church News

Youth News Continued from Page 6

Pizza Fundraiser

Coupons from our pizza fundraiser are available for pick up from Amanda Ritchie or Pastor Martin. With your support, our youth were able to make a profit of \$371. We truly appreciate it! If you missed the sign-up, we have some extra coupons available for purchase. Please contact Amanda Ritchie if you are interested in purchasing any pizzas from Fat Boys, The Quarthouse, Valley Tavern, or Harms Way.

Luther Park Bible Camp

Summer Theme this year is "Holy Trinity, Wholly Love". This summer students will explore the concept of the Holy Trinity and the ways in which God's love guides us through our lives. They will dive in and learn about God the creator, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, as well as how this three-in-one God is present with us always. The theme will be incorporated into morning devotion, Bible study, evening worship and campfire with lively skits, songs and messages led by staff and visiting pastors.

Sign up for camp today! For more information on Luther Park, please contact Pastor Martin or go to lutherpark.org.

*Reminder: if your child participated in two of the fundraisers, our church will reimburse 50% of the camp costs (does not include registration or canteen). Please contact Amanda Ritchie or Pastor Martin if you have any addition questions regarding reimbursement.



Dear Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

Join me and that great cloud of witnesses this Easter in the acclamation: Christ is Risen, He is Risen indeed, Alleluia!

The gospel reading for this Easter is from the book of Matthew. Matthew is the only gospel writer that records an earthquake on Easter morning. The women arrive at the tomb and are greeted by an earthquake, an angel rolling back the stone, and the news that their Lord and Savior wasn't there, JESUS HAD BEEN RAISED FROM THE DEAD.

What? The women were filled with shock and fear. The aftershocks of this earthquake are still felt. The news that death doesn't win and is defeated by the power of God in Christ Jesus continues to shock and amaze us.

What if we imagined Easter not as a lovely spring ritual filled with pastel-colored eggs and candy but as the violent earthquake that it is? Few living in the Midwest have experienced an earthquake. A pastor born in California remembers her mother putting rubber bands on the kitchen cupboard handles so the china dishes wouldn't fall out when there was an earthquake. When has a death of a loved one shaken the foundation of your world? When have you realized how fragile life can be? Christ's resurrection from the dead, his victory over sin, death, and the devil shakes up everything. It is the good news that can even shake us loose from our grief.

What if we experienced Easter as a violent earthquake more like a fresh egg dropped to the floor than one hard-boiled and beautifully decorated? What if the Easter Earthquake shakes us awake, shakes everything out of the cupboards and closets so we are forced to do spring cleaning and decide what to put back and what to throw out? What if we get rid of stuff that doesn't work and give more space to what's important? What is really important? What is God's will for you? What are our Easter priorities?

What if this year the Easter Earthquake cracks open and rolls away the stone from our hearts, shakes loose old ideas, breaks down rock-hard prejudices, and opens us up to new ways to love our neighbor and to share this amazing good news that Jesus lives? What new life might rise up from the rubble? What new relationships might develop? Like a chick struggles to break free of the egg's shell, new beginnings are rarely easy, but they are worth it.

The good news is that Christ's resurrection from the dead and his victory over death is good news even to those who have experienced a literal shifting of tectonic plates beneath the earth. On February 6, 2023, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit Turkey and Syria leaving over 50,000 people dead and hundreds of thousands more wounded, displaced, or homeless. More than 10,000 aftershocks have been felt since February 6 leading to more deaths, fear, and trauma. The aftershocks will continue for a long time.

This Easter, in response to the earthquake that opened the tomb and to the good news that Jesus has been raised from the dead, I encourage you to give a gift to the Lutheran Disaster Response to help the victims of the Earthquake in Turkey and Syria. Here is a link to help you do that. https://community.elca.org/middle-east-crisis?_ga=2.89763675.1129066314.1679579365-256581953.1608055964

Suddenly there was a great earthquake...

In Christ,

Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

Deadline for May 2023 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 25th**. *Thank You!*

Quilting Group
Will be meeting on
April 18th
at 1:00-4:00 p.m.
Everyone is welcome!!

Luther Park Clean Up Day
is on the Horizon!
Saturday, April 22nd
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
****Meals Provided****

You're invited to help prepare Luther Park Bible Camp for the upcoming season! There will be a variety of projects that can be done during this day. See details and what to bring on the flyers at both church entrances. If you have questions, contact Scott Davis:
good2bike@gmail.com

	Month of FEB 2023	Year to Date JAN -FEB	
INCOME	\$19,098	\$38,119	Financial Update
EXPENSES	\$21,031	\$40,562	
Difference	(-\$1,933)	(-\$2,443)	
			Current Balance on Line of Credit \$10,047

Church Council Minutes

March 20, 2023

Call to Order - meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Dorene Turner, council president.

Opening Devotion – Read Matthew 2:13-15 and answered the reflection questions “How do you know when someone is trustworthy? Who do you know who sets a great example of trusting the Lord? Tell about a time when you really had to trust in God to make it through.”

Approval of the Agenda - a motion was made by Alicia Bonczyk to approve the agenda with flexibility, seconded by Sarah Wittrock. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes - a motion was made by Terri Smith to approve the minutes from the February 20th, 2023 meeting, seconded by Alicia Bonczyk. Motion carried.

Financial Report -

	Year to Date (Feb 2023)
Income	\$ 38,119.10
Expenses	\$ 40,562.31
Difference	(\$ 2,443.21)
Current SFB Line of Credit	\$10,046.63

Question: What was the \$455.19 difference in Council Fund from previous month? Pat will look into the situation. A motion was made by Alicia Bonczyk to approve the financial report with the outstanding question. Seconded by Sarah Wittrock . Motion carried.

Old Business

Council Retreat – Sunday March 26th at Luther Park, leave church at 10:30 (after Church Service)

Meal: Pizza (Youth Fundraiser) Bring your own beverage, Janelle (dessert & salad). Return around 2:30 pm.

Goal: Find a direction to focus our ministry for the year.

Exterior Carpets/Doors: property committee has been discussing, more information to come.

Preschool Staff Payroll: resolved

Income boost with large fundraisers: Creation of task force to help dream up ideas to implement, will discuss at retreat.

Future Town Hall Options: will implement 3 times a year: January, May & September.

Next Dates: May 7th & May 10th

Church Cancellation Procedures: A **motion was made** by Alicia Bonczyk to adjust the snow cancellation policy beginning next school year. Snow cancellations for church will not necessarily follow the public school but will be called by 1 pm. Seconded by Sarah W. Motion carried.

Note: When a cancellation is made it will be sent via email and put on the Facebook page. Members may also call the office to get the information.

New Business

Eagle Scout Project - Harley Prill is looking to do an Eagle Scout Project to benefit the church. Property committee will be his point of contact.

Committee Reports

[Pastor's Report](#) A **motion was made** by Terri Smith to welcome Julie Wittrock as a member to St. John's Lutheran, seconded by Dorene Turner. Motion Carried.

Discipleship – needs to be started again, looking for 4-6 people

[Fellowship Minutes](#)

[Preschool Minutes](#) - Registration for next year is now open. Just finished up a read-a-thon fundraiser

Social Ministry Minutes - none

Property Minutes – toilets near the office and preschool area are not having enough pressure. Vent on roof was iced covered, property committee will continue to investigate.

[Worship & Music Minutes](#) – next meeting in April

[Youth Minutes](#) - Charcoal Chicken Fundraiser – skip for this year, youth will look into a brat stand for the summer craft show on main street.

(continued on page 6)

Youth & Family Announcements

(Council Minutes-Continued)

Youth in Action

With our 2022-23 school year coming to an end, we are wrapping up our YIA events until the Fall. We are still looking for high school families to host for one YIA gathering each month (April, or next Fall). If you would be interested in learning more, please contact Amanda Ritchie - mobile (715)279-6962 or email amanda_stjohnspreschool@aol.com.

Our Youth in Action for March will take place on Sunday, April 23rd.

Information on the next Lock-In

Our next all-night lock-in will take place on Friday, April 14th from 7:00PM until 7:00AM. This lock-in will be for middle school students (6th grade and up), and high school students can serve as leaders to assist with the lock-in's success. Students are not required to stay all night and can be picked up early at the parents discretion. Please contact Amanda Ritchie or Pastor Martin if you have any questions.

Celebrate Children's Day

Our final day of Faith Formation for the 2022-23 academic year will be Wednesday, May 3rd, 2023. We are hoping the weather will be nice enough to have activities outside like we did for our kick-off at the beginning of the year. More information will be shared via email, Facebook, and the May newsletter in regard to the end of the year after Easter.

To celebrate our children, we will also be focusing on our youth during worship that evening. JAM students will be singing two songs for the congregation as well.

(Council Minutes Continued)
Additional Items and Announcements

Next Meeting: April 17th at 6 pm.

Adjournment - a motion was made at 7:31pm by Janelle Yeakey to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alicia Bonczyk. Motion carried.

Members Present: Sarah Wittrock, Terri Smith, Pat Prill, Dorene Turner, Jeff Cole, Pastor Martin, Janelle Yeakey, Alicia Bonczyk, Kyle Prill, Kaitlyn Bohl. **Members Absent:** Jamie Keller
Minutes submitted by Janelle Yeakey, Secretary

Dates to Consider

There will be no dinner, Faith Formation, or service on Wednesday, April 5th. Please consider coming to the Soup Cook-Off on Thursday, April 6th for Maundy Thursday at 5:30PM until 6:30PM.

Harry Potter Bible Study

We are going to be hosting a Harry Potter bible study beginning on beginning on Sunday, April 2nd from 2:00 – 5:00PM. If you are interested in attending, please contact Amanda Ritchie or Pastor Martin. We will be showing Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince at this event. All ages are welcome! We do ask that if you have not seen the first four movies before this showing that you do catch up so that the storyline makes more sense.

“WE ARE ONLY AS STRONG AS WE ARE UNITED, AS WEAK AS WE ARE DIVIDED.” -ALBUS DUMBLEDORE

Lenten Suppers – Soups and Sandwich Dinners

A huge thank you to all of our families who helped serve dinner during Lent. All of the soups were delicious and appreciated by all.

Faith Formation Evaluation Teacher Appreciation Event

Wednesday, May 10th, we will be hosting our teacher appreciation/end of the year review/evaluation event. Please RSVP to Amanda Ritchie or Pastor Martin if you are able to attend so we can plan accordingly for food. This event will be for all JAM and Confirmation Teachers, along with subs that played an active role in assisting on Wednesday nights.

...MORE YOUTH NEWS ON PAGE 4

PRESCHOOL NEWS & UPDATES



NEWS FROM PRESCHOOL STAFF!



Amanda



Sneak Peek into the Program

Amanda and Jamie have a lot packed into the month of April. In this coming month, our various themes that will be explored are Transportation; Easter; Springtime; Earth Day; and Bugs/Insects. The children follow weekly focus walls that teach them their letters, shapes, colors, and numbers. As teachers, we integrate these subject areas into our curriculum plans and daily activities that the children can choose from. *Parents may notice that we have already gone through our alphabet, so we are now repeating letters based upon each week's theme.

Jamie



Dates to Consider

Friday, April 7th and Monday, April 10th we will be closed along with the School District of Bloomer for Good Friday and Easter.

PJs and a Movie Day

We will be having movie days on Thursday, April 13th and Friday, April 14th in our theater room upstairs. Children can stay in their jammies that morning and enjoy a movie with some fresh popcorn.

Snow Day Make-Up Dates

We are going to make up our snow days at the end of our school year. This means that our MWF students will have their final day on Wednesday, May 24th, and our TTH students will have class on Tuesday, May 23rd and Thursday, May 24th. Additional information will be shared in the May newsletter in terms of our plans for graduation.

Outside Recess

With the weather warming up, it is our hopes that we will be able to go outside to enjoy some fresh air. Miss Jamie and Ms. Ritchie criteria for going outside is that it needs to be above 30F outside and all students need weather appropriate clothing.

Read-a-Thon Fundraiser Update

We wanted to take the time to thank all who participated in our Read-a-Thon during the month of March for Read Across America week. With your support, our preschool was able to raise \$1,450. We are humbled and appreciate your continued support and donations. Thank you!

Pre-Registration for 2023-24

Pre-registration is open for the 2023-24 academic year. If anyone has any questions, please contact Amanda Ritchie at mobile (715)279-6962 or email amanda_stjohnspreschool@aol.com. We are excited to welcome new students to our program, and we hope to see some familiar faces returning as well.



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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

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

Schedule for HOLY WEEK

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Palm Sunday: April 2 | 9:00 a.m. Service |
| Maundy Thursday: April 6 | 5:30 p.m. Meal-Soup Competition |
| | 6:45 p.m. Service |
| Good Friday: April 7 | 1:00 p.m. Ecumenical Service at First Congregational, |
| | 6:45 p.m. Service at St. John's Lutheran |
| EASTER SUNDAY: April 9 | 7:00 a.m. — Sunrise Easter Service |
| | 8:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast |
| | 9:00 a.m. Easter Worship Service |