



St. John's Lutheran Church

Mission Statement:

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

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Church News-Calendar

Council Meeting Minutes

Letter from Pastor Halom

Youth & Preschool News

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THE WHOLENESS WHEEL

Financial Health

Ah yes, it's that time of year again! The month of April always leads me to make sure I pray for all of those blessed saints that prepare our taxes for us! It's an interesting time for our society knowing that many receive a nice little boost in the form of a tax refund, while others face a significant amount due. Having personally experienced both, I know what kind of impact that has on one's outlook and mood!

When I was a seminary student, I learned through the premarital inventory that I still use that financial difficulties is a common cause of divorce. I can believe it because it simply comes down to power and when couples disagree on how money should be utilized, resentment is bound to result.

According to the Portico wholeness wheel, *"Being financially well involves making decisions based on our values, as reflected in the way we save, spend, and share. Tending to one's financial well-being in this way requires us to be intentional, generous, and focused on sustainability."*

Every year at our annual meeting, the church council provides a budget, a spending plan, that can only be adopted by the voting members of St. John's. It's not my plan. It's not the council's plan. It's our church's plan! The budget cannot be a plan unless it was intentional, as noted above.

Do you have a financial plan? Do you intentionally develop a personal or family budget? Is your generosity rooted in a percentage based on your annual income? If your answer is yes to these three questions, you're well on your way to financial health. Note that this is NOT dependent on how much you make. It IS, however, dependent on your intentions and attitudes.

Our God is a generous God. We receive grace upon grace throughout our lives. According to 2 Corinthians 9:6-8,

"The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work."

I once attended a conference that taught me that God is not interested in what we give to the church only. God is interested in how we utilize our financial resources altogether!

If you'd like further guidance in your financial affairs, there are financial counselors out there to help you out. But maybe all that you need is that first step - creating an intentional plan so that you can control your money, rather than your money controlling you!

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

Carson (family friend of Kristine Mickelson); Jessica Schwarzenberger; Sarah Wittrock; Arne Windsor; Art Klingenberg; Nancy Zogleman (Amanda Larson's grandmother); Wayne Zogleman (Amanda Larson's Grandfather); Pat Prill; Renee Grambo; Arlene Christianson; Steve Trubshaw; Dohna Kerckhove (Pat Prill's daughter).

Prayers For Our Active Military

Dalton Grambo, Danielle Shipman, Kelsey Leavens, Trenton Beaudette

Prayers For the Saints

Prayers for the week of Apr. 7th: Kari, Scott, Dawson, Kailee and Zackary Krenz; David and Michelle Kressin; Jason, Kelsey, Bentley and Kendall Kroening; Ricky, Victoria, Amanda and Tina Krueger; Brenda and Trent LaGesse.

Prayers for the week of Apr. 14th: Brenda, Ryan, Lily and Mason LaGesse; Brian, Kerena, Isaac and Ty LaGesse; David and Dawn LaGesse; Deborah LaGesse; Samuel and Wendy LaGesse; Dave and Michelle Lane. Christopher, Courtney, Cambree and Cashlyn Lang.

Prayers for the week of Apr. 21st: Ryan, Samantha, Jaxin and Jordon Lang; Edward and Lori Lanzer; Joseph Lanzer; Amanda, Matthew, Easton, Ellie and Emmett Larson; Erik, Jennifer, Connor, Finn, Keira, Liam and Trevin Larson.

Prayers for the week of Apr. 28th: Ellyn and Jim Hudacek; Kelli Jackson; Janie, Robert Jacobson; Matthew, Samantha and Graham Jandourek; Preston Jenneman; Karen, and Rod Johnson; Heather, Robert and Ava Kasparek; Haley Keller; Heidi, Jamie, Jordyn and RyAnna Keller.

Statement of Faith

If I described Jesus to a friend, I would describe him as someone who never judges you and is always there to help. He will help make you better and smarter. He is the smartest person you'll ever meet. There are several reasons my relationship with God is important to me, but these are some main reasons. He helps me to know what to do. He lets me know if something is right. He makes me feel better about my decisions. He also gives me support in hard times because He can give me comfort and strength to get through stuff. Faith can help me now or in the future because it can make me feel better if I do something wrong or if I'm worrying about something because I know that I will be forgiven. When I think of Jesus or faith, I think of many things because He has done lots of good in people's lives, but I mainly think of what He's done for everyone in the world because He created everyone and everything, and He hasn't stopped after the creation because, he also forgives people for bad things. He continues helping people by giving them faith and supporting all parts of their life.

Bible Verse: Philippians 4:13 (NIV): "I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

APRIL 2024 CALENDAR

Church News

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Happy Easter!! 7:00am Sunrise Easter Worship Service 8:00am Easter Breakfast 9:00am Easter Worship Service	1 No Preschool	2	3 10:30am Bloomer Clergy Association Mtg 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Wednesday Meals 5:30pm - 6:30pm Faith Formation 6:45pm Worship Service	4	5	6
7 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Town Hall Forum	8 8:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Staff Meeting 5:15pm Youth Committee Meeting	9	10 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Wednesday Meals 5:30pm - 6:30pm Faith Formation 6:00pm Town Hall Forum	11 9:30am Pastor's Conference 5:30pm Preschool Committee Meeting	12	13 "Encourage" Event in Rice Lake
14  9:00am Worship Service 2:00pm Music For Mission (at High School) 5:30pm Youth In Action	15 8:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Church Council Meeting	16  Preschool Movie Day 1:00pm - 4:00pm Quilting Group 5:30pm - 6:30pm Host Luther Park Board Meeting	17 Preschool Movie Day 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Wednesday Meals 5:30pm - 6:30pm Faith Formation 6:45pm Worship Service	18	19	20 8:00am Spring Work Day at Luther Park 
21  9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Volunteer Appreciation Banquet	22 8:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Staff Meeting	23	24  Preschool Bakery Field Trip 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Wednesday Meals 5:30pm - 6:30pm Faith Formation 6:45pm Worship Service	25  Preschool Bakery Field Trip	26 Deadline for May Newsletter	27
28 9:00am Worship Service (Guest Musicians) 	29 8:00am Bible Study	30	1 10:30am Bloomer Clergy Association Mtg 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Wednesday Meals 5:30pm - 6:30pm Faith Formation 6:45pm Worship Service	2	3	4

Join us for St. John's Town Hall Forum

2023 April 7th & 10th

Come share your thoughts with the leadership of St. John's. Refreshments will be provided.

Sunday after worship in dining hall, Wed at 5:30 in Chapel



Quilting Group

Will be meeting on **April 16th** at 1:00-4:00 p.m.

SEW CUTE!

Everyone is welcome!!



Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast

Sunday April 21st at 10 am

The Church Council wants to say **"THANK YOU"** to all our church volunteers! Join us in the dining hall for a breakfast from Main Street Café.

Sign up in the Narthex today!



SAVE THE DATE!
Saturday, April 20 from 9am-1pm

ELCA Women's Chippewa Valley Conference
DAY OF RENEWAL

- Hope Lutheran Church, 2226 Eddy Lane, Eau Claire


A Musical Journey
"How to Renew Our Minds"

Details and registration forms are located on bulletin boards at both church entrances.

Luther Park Clean Up Day is on the Horizon!

Saturday, April 20th
 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



WEDNESDAY MEALS

Every Wednesday from 4:45 - 5:30 p.m. come and join your friends and family at St. John's for a **DELICIOUS** meal!

Cost is \$5 per person OR \$15 per family



Church Council Meeting Minutes

Mar. 18, 2024

Call to Order - meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm by Dorene Turner, Council President.

Opening Devotion – Dwelling in the word, Matthew 25: 14-30. What do you notice, what do you wonder, what is God calling us to do?

Approval of the Agenda -A motion was made by Janelle Yeakey to approve the agenda with flexibility; seconded by Alicia Bonczyk. Motion carried.

Approval of last Council Minutes - A motion was made by Jeff Cole to approve the minutes from the February 19th, 2024 meeting; seconded by Jamie Keller. Motion carried.

Financial Report -

	Year to Date (Jan-Feb 2024)
Income	\$ 38,734.74
Expenses	\$ 42,314.58
Difference	- \$ 3,564.47

Transfers: 3/14 – withdrawal of \$2000 from council fund to cover payroll, taxes, and insurance. Concern was brought up that offerings have been lower since the estate gifts. Council would like to see the estate gifts used for special projects, currently the gift is being used to maintain operating expenses. Using the monetary gifts for operating expenses will not be sustainable long term.

CD's	\$100,000	\$200,000
Location	Security Financial Bank	Security Financial Bank
% APR	5.25	5.25
Timeframe	12 months	12 months
Expires	8-8-24	8-3-24

All money is insured through FDIC

A motion was made by Alicia Bonczyk to accept the financial report. Seconded by Sara Wittrock. Motion carried.

Old Business-

Volunteer Appreciation Celebration – April 21st. Physical and electronic sign up sheet will be created.

Appreciation acknowledgements:

April 6 – 12 is preschool staff week. The preschool committee will be organizing and will be given \$50 from the staff appreciation budget.

April 26th is Administrative Assistant Day

Monthly Bulk Mailing Newsletters: March and April newsletters will be sent first class, not bulk mail. Pastor will include an article with information that the newsletter only being mailed to those who ask. Sign up at church to determine how to send newsletter, via email, pickup, or mail.

Council retreat follow up: Cards of Appreciation- cards will be handed out at Easter for congregation members to be send. Cards will be passed out after offering. **Change dismissal at the end of service** – change will be made to the Luther Park sending. **Townhall Meeting Dates** – upcoming April 7th & 10th

New Business –

Food for the poor: <https://foodforthe poor.org/about-us/mission-and-vision/> -they reached out to us and would like to come and speak at our church.

-Discussion was had, at this time we will not be inviting Food for the Poor to come and speak.

-Guest speakers from Luther Park (Spring) and Luther Social Services (Fall) will be invited to speak to the church with a second offering collected for each. **A motion was made by Alicia Bonczyk to have a second offering with the church council matching funds donated with money from the council fund.** Seconded by Aubrie Bohl. Motion carried.

Music for Mission event would like to know if they can use the church’s round table for this event on April 14th. Council approved the use for the church event.

(Council minutes continued on page 5)

Music For Mission Event Details

Council Minutes Continued

MUSIC FOR MISSION

Join us for one of the more exciting new opportunities of the year - **MUSIC FOR MISSION!**

Sunday, April 14 starting at 2 pm

Bloomer High School Commons

Cost: Advance tickets/**Door Price**

Adult \$25/ **\$30**

Youth (Grades 1-12) \$15/ **\$15**

Children (K and under) free/ **free**

Family \$75/ **\$80**

Table (max 8 people) \$150 / **N/A**

50/50 raffle \$1/ticket or 6 for \$5

Instrumentalists to include youth and adult talent from St. John's playing a wide variety of music. The Hearts of the North band will also be featured with guest artist, Sue Orfield, a local Eau Claire star and sax instructor.

All proceeds of the event will benefit two organizations:

***The Blackhawk Foundation** - This group purchases all school supplies in the district for both elementary and middle schools. Additional funding would help support field trips, special teaching aids, and literacy. See more at www.BlackhawkEducationFoundation.com.

***The Scenic Hills Youth Ranch** - Scenic Hills Youth Ranch provides a place of simplicity through mentorship and horses. They strive to inspire hope and purpose in youths throughout Western Wisconsin that have been through life challenges or traumas. See more at <https://www.shyr.org/>.

You can purchase tickets in advance and before or after worship when available.

- Call the church office to reserve your tickets and pay when you pick them up.
- Reserve on the St. John's Facebook pages and pay when you pick them up.

Limited table reservations will be made on a first come, first served basis.

We hope to have a great showing, so please mark your calendars and buy your tickets now to make a difference in our community and enjoy a great day of music!

(Council Minutes Continued)

Committee Reports

Appreciation Days

Pastor's Report: Discussion was brought up about a potential new pictorial directory, council will discuss at a later date. A motion was made by Janelle Yeakey to donate \$250 from the council fund to support the Music for Mission costs. Seconded by Jeff Cole. Motion carried with one opposed.

A motion was made by Alicia Bonczyk to welcome Kendel Bowe as a baptized member to St. John's Lutheran Church. Seconded by Kay Anderson. Motion carried.

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

Fellowship Minutes - looking for more members to join to help with the 'fun' planning, will work to start up again in April.

Preschool, Fellowship, Property, Worship & Music and Youth committee minutes can be emailed upon request.

Social Ministry Minutes - none

Worship & Music Minutes - A motion was made by Janelle Yeakey to suspend Wednesday Church Services during the summer months. Seconded Sarah Wittrock. Motion carried.

Additional Items and Announcements

Next Meeting: April 15th at 6 pm.

Adjournment - a motion was made at 8:09 pm by Sarah Wittrock to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alicia Bonczyk. Motion carried. **Members Present:** Pastor Martin, Janelle Yeakey, Dorene Turner, Jamie Keller, Jeff Cole, Aubrie Bohl, Kay Anderson, Sarah Wittrock, Alicia Bonczyk

Others Present: NA **Members Absent:** Kyle Prill, Jason Graski. Minutes submitted by Janelle Yeakey, Secretary

Music for Mission help needed

- transport tables to the high school.
- set up tables/chairs at the high school.
- provide cupcakes, bars or cookies.
- staff 50/50 raffle.
- serve desserts/ hors d'oeuvres.
- take down tables/chairs at the high school.
- transport tables back to church.

Sign up in the narthex today! Questions? Pastor Martin will help you!

Youth & Family News

Encourage: Middle School Youth Gathering

Attention all middle school students and families: On Saturday, April 13th there will be a middle school youth gathering opportunity for our students to attend. This event will take place at Bethany Lutheran Church in Rice Lake, WI from 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM. The cost for your child to attend is only \$25 and includes an event t-shirt, breakfast treats, and lunch. Carpooling may be an option depending on how many students sign up to attend this event. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Larson.

Subs Needed for JAM

We are still in need of people who would be interested in substituting on Wednesday nights. Please contact Amanda Larson for more information so we can get you on a list. Also, if there is a specific age group you want to work with or would not like to work with, please let us know that information as well.

Luther Park Registration Now Open

Summer camp registration for Luther Park is officially open! This year's theme is "Created to Be: Psalm 139:14." If your child is interested in attending or you have questions about camp, please go to their website (lutherpark.org) and/or contact Pastor Martin or Amanda Larson. Early bird rates end on March 1st and final camper payments are due on June 1st. *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 Larson or Pastor Martin if you have any additional questions regarding reimbursement.

Youth In Action

Youth in Action will be meeting on April 10th at the church from 5:30-7:30PM. For more information, please contact Amanda Larson at 715-279-6962 or amanda_stjohnspreschool@aol.com.

Youth Ministry Pictures

We are looking for pictures that anyone may have taken last year (2022-23) or this year so far. If you have any pictures that you're able to share, whether it's from JAM, confirmation, lock-in, or a youth trip, please contact Amanda Larson or Pastor Martin. We can forward you a link to a Google Drive. Otherwise, photos can get emailed to: stjohnslutheran.bloomer@gmail.com



PIZZA FUNDRAISER

We have made arrangements with Harms Way, Valley Tavern, and Fat Boys to sell pizzas! Each restaurant has a variety of pizzas to order from that range in price from \$12-25 for either 12 or 16 inches. Ever wonder which place in town has the best pizza? Here's a great opportunity to try them all out!

As usual, the proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit our kids who attend summer bible camp, weekend retreats, lock-ins, and other important youth opportunities.

Youth who would like to participate in this fundraiser can use the attached document to take orders. Hard copies of each document can also be found at the church. Families are encouraged to collect money at the time of order and write a single check to St. John's for the total raised. Coupons will be available to distribute to buyers the week of April 8th.



NEWS FROM PRESCHOOL STAFF!

Newsletter Update from Pastor Martin

Amanda



Sneak Peak Into the Program

Going into the month of April, we will be focusing on the themes Here Comes Peter Cottontail (Easter), Farm Life, and Pirates and Princesses. The children follow weekly focus walls that teach them their letters, shapes, colors, and numbers. As their teacher, I try to integrate these subject areas into the curriculum plans and daily activities that the children can choose from. It's going to be a busy and festive month! Make sure to follow our Facebook page to see what our students are up to.

Family Fun Night

We hosted our second Family Fun Night of the 2023-24 academic year on March 18th. We had a wonderful attendance featuring 16 families and over 55 people! Out of the 16 families, 8 families were new to our program while the other 8 families were current students. We truly appreciate the support of our committee to make events like this possible.

Important Dates to Save

There will be no school on school on Friday, March 29th and Monday, April 1st for Easter Break.

Read-a-Thon Fundraiser

Because of the support of our families, community, and congregation, we were able to raise \$1650 for the preschool. We truly appreciate your continued support of the preschool program.

Giving Tree

We have a giving tree set up in the preschool shared space if anyone is interested in supporting the preschool program with some additional supplies we could benefit from. Please reach out to Amanda Larson if you have any questions about this opportunity. As always, we appreciate your continued support!

Pre-Registration for 2024-25

Pre-registration is open for the 2024-25 academic year. If anyone has any questions, please contact Amanda Larson - 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.

Field Trip

On Wednesday, April 24th and Thursday, April 25th we will be walking to the Bloomer Bakery to get a treat to enjoy. As a program, we believe it is important to support local businesses while showing our students what our community has to offer. It should be a "sweet" field trip!

*This field trip is weather permitting. We may postpone if the weather is not in our favor. Families will be informed the morning of their child's field trip if there are any changes to be made.

CHANGES TO THE NEWSLETTER HAVE ARRIVED!

As may After thorough research and conversation, the leadership of St. John's Lutheran has decided to move away from utilizing bulk mailing for the monthly newsletter. Communications are always an important part of any organization, St. John's included, but in a world where communication patterns continue to evolve, it has become apparent that bulk mailing is no longer the most efficient way of communicating to our church family.

Now that we will be sending out our monthly newsletter first class, it is important that you decide which method you'd like to use to receive the newsletter:

- Email (color pictures included)
- Printed hard copy to be picked up at church
- Printed hard copy to be mailed first class

The first two options involve zero cost for mailing, whereas the third option will obviously cost the church postage. Please know that we hope this will become a cost savings measure, but we don't want it to be at the expense of not receiving the important information we have to offer!

If you are already receiving the newsletter via email, you need not change anything. If you'd like to change to email, notify Victoria at 568-5446. If you'd like to pick up a hard copy at church, please notify Victoria. Likewise, if you'd like to have your newsletter mailed first class, notify Victoria so that we can make sure your preferences are noted. Thanks for your understanding and cooperation!

	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
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New Council Member Introduction Featured in April—
Aubrie Bohl



My name is Aubrie Bohl and I am sixteen years old. I have lived in Bloomer and attended St. John's my entire life. My family consists of my dad, Zach, mom, Terri, and sister, Kaitlyn. I have a lot of extended family that lives in the area and also attends St. John's. I am currently a sophomore at Bloomer High School and enjoy playing soft ball and golf. I love spending time with friends and family, and especially enjoy traveling. I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as the youth representative on church council to add a youth perspective. I look forward to this opportunity to strengthen my leadership skills, expand fellowship opportunities, and grow in my faith.