

St. John's Lutheran Church

St. John's Lutheran Church is a community of people united to God and to each other by faith in Jesus Christ, called by the Holy Spirit to bear witness to the love of God and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our Love of witness, proclamation, nurture, service, and outreach at home and abroad will occur through faithful use of the scriptures, the sacraments, and prayer. We are motivated by our gratitude to God for his abundant gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

GENEROSITY PROJECT TAKEAWAYS

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Pastor's News
- Church Council Minutes
- Church News
- Financial Report
- Youth and Family
- Acolyte & Communion Schedule
- Preschool News

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It was an amazing sight to see - over 100 people gathered in the St. John's dining hall! There was little Blaine Yeakey (age 5), standing directly next to Nylah Gust, representing the wisest of the gathering. It was a continuum of ages, circling the dining hall, bringing 5 generations in one place - a thing of beauty.

Blaine will someday join the youngest generation called the Millennials. He stood next to the next generation called Generation Y, followed by the Baby Busters (aka Generation X), Baby Boomers, and finally Nylah's generation, the Greatest Generation. As we weaved our way through the dining hall, we split up into groups of 5-6, anticipating representation from at least 4, if not 5, of the generations for an interesting table conversation.

Part of the discussion asked the question, "What did your first telephone look like?" That was an intriguing array of answers! We discussed such things as the "party line", corded phones attached to walls, the first cell phones, to our present day smart phones. We also shared stories about people we thought were particularly generous - generous financially and generous with their time. I talked about my parents, who have carried me in so many ways that I had trouble figuring out which stories to share! Every generation at our table responded accordingly. I found each story uplifting and encouraging. For something that could have been awkward, instead it turned into something freeing and inspiring.

After the Generosity Project was over, I spoke with St. John's members who attended and they all shared my sentiments - it seemed natural to share those stories, even with people with whom we had never met from other congregations across our synod (even IA!). My hope is that we can recreate such opportunities to share our stories in ways that may seem awkward, but turn out to be incredibly meaningful.

I am so grateful that we got a chance to host this event. It was awesome to be able to brag about our new bathrooms! But it was even more awesome to see what a difference sharing stories across the generations had become. Intergenerational ministry may indeed become a new part to the fabric of ministry here at St. John's - and we'll all be better for it.

~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



Bible Basics



Nov. 1

Today's gospel lesson is the raising of Lazarus. Martha, Lazarus' sister had a concern. What was it?

- a) The stone in front of the tomb would be too difficult to move
- b) There would be an incredible stench!
- c) He's been dead too long to be raised
- d) The crowd would find out how he really died!

Nov.8

Whose hypocritical behavior did Jesus warn about? Those who wear long white robes, greet people in the marketplaces, get the best seats in the synagogues and banquets, etc., all to draw attention to themselves?

- a) Scribes
- b) Pharisees
- c) Both
- d) The Kardashians

Nov. 15

While in Jerusalem, the disciples are quite impressed by the large buildings, but Jesus tells them that there will come a day when they'll all be thrown down. When did this actually happen?

- a) During the earthquake as Jesus hung on the cross
- b) When a violent wind struck on the day of Pentecost, 50 days after the resurrection
- c) 40 years later when the Gospel of Mark was written at the hands of the Romans
- d) Jesus' prophecy is still waiting to happen to this day

Nov. 22

When Jesus is brought before Pontius Pilate, according to John's gospel, what is Pilate's initial question?

- a) Are you the Kind of the Jews?
- b) What have you done?
- c) What is truth?
- d) What in the Emperor's name are you waking me up this early in the morning for!?

Council Meeting November 10, 2015

Meeting called to order by President Rod Johnson at 6:34p.m.

Opening Devotion and Prayer: Rod Johnson

Agenda amendment: Move 2016 budget and financial report to be first of discussion and to add guest Nadine Bresina for bathroom renovation update.

Agenda Approval: Motion made by Lynette Pank to approve amended agenda, seconded by Janice Naset. Motion carried.

Approval of October meeting minutes: Motion made by Lynette Pank to approve minutes, seconded by Ellyn Hudacek. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Motion made by Janice Naset to accept financial report, seconded by Tom Buchner. Motion carried

2016 Budget: Budget committee presented suggested 2016 budget to council. Council held discussion, members will review and bring back thoughts and additional discussion to December council meeting to determine a proposed 2016 budget to present to St John's congregation at January 2016 annual meeting for vote.

Bathroom renovation report: Nadine reported the generosity of some of the contractors donating unexpected/additional labor to the bathroom project. Some of these contractors having no affiliation with St John's Lutheran. **The projected cost \$32,913. The actual cost \$30,221.** There is concern of the carpet worn/torn on stair cases coming up/down from bathrooms and this being a safety issue. Nadine is collecting bids on replacement of carpet/flooring by bathrooms including stairs going up to platforms of side entrance doorways into church.

Committee Reports:

Fellowship: October Bingo was well attended. Next Bingo Sunday is scheduled for November 15th. Library Book Club is underway and is scheduled to meet every six weeks. For more information or dates contact Karen Johnson (715-288-6291)

Worship/Music: Concerns of projector not working properly. Checking into repair or replace of the projector.

Youth/Family: Butterbraid fund raiser is in progress thru 12/1/15. Location for Youth Mission Trip has been decided – Nashville, TN. Committee is planning future youth lock-in evenings. Confirmation retreat planned to be held in spring of 2016.

Dream Team: Primary goals - #1 Deepening relationships #2 Community oriented. How can St John's Lutheran Church congregation and acting committees reach/pursue these goals.

Council Meeting

Pastor's Report:

Membership: Membership by baptism-Gabriel Stump. Membership transfer in-Lyndsey, Travis, Kylee and Gavin Heintz, Rob and Wendy Mooney. Members transfer to Church Triumphant-John Rihn, Helen Faschingbauer. Motion made by Adam Ewings to accept membership update, seconded by Tom Buchner. Motion carried.

Visits: Family visits (end of life), baptism counsel home visits, pastoral care.

Synod: Healthy Leader Role-Pastor Martin reported on 'Healthy Leader Role' an ELCA New ministry program.

Additional Topics of discussion:

- 1) allowing outside groups to use facility for fund raisers,
- 2) enhancing/updating St John's website.
- 3) Wednesday evening meals average attendance is 69.
- 4) presenting a committee for a month on the projector screen before service

Old Business:

Generosity Project: hosted on November 6th and 7th was well attended. There were approximately ten different congregations that attended and some came from as far as Iowa. Ages of attendees represented five generations.

Committee list update: in process.

Committee Reports: Committee Annual Reports are due to complete St John's annual report for 2016 Annual Meeting.

New Business:

Terms of Council members: Contacting nominating committee to collect names of interested persons to fill spots of those whose term has expired.

Yearly update of membership: request made that St John's membership list be updated on a yearly basis and available in narthex area for congregation members to view.

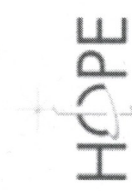
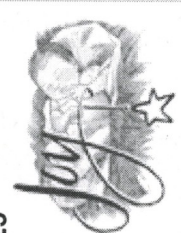
Motion made by Janice Naset to adjourn meeting and seconded by Ellyn Hudacek.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:43p.m.

Pauline Stertz/Secretary

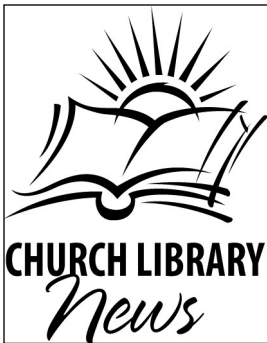
Meeting attended by Pastor Martin, Rod Johnson, Adam Ewings, Tom Buchner, Janice Naset, Ellyn Hudacek, Lynette Pank, Trey Baker, Pauline Stertz. Absent: Alice Zinsmaster, Kathy Faschingbauer, Pat Boettcher.

DECEMBER 2015

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|
| <p>29 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Sunday & Wednesday Large Group Event for Preschool - 5th grade 10:15 AM No Faith Formation</p> | <p>30 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Youth Committee Meeting</p> | <p>1 Butterbraid Orders are Due</p> | <p>2 11:00 AM Pastor attending Bloomer Clergy Meeting 4:45 PM Wednesday Night Meal 5:30 PM Youth Faith Formation 6:45 PM Worship 7:45 PM 9th Grade Confirmation Meeting</p> | <p>3 6:00 PM Preschool Board Meeting</p> | <p>4 No Women's Bible Study 9:00 PM - 11:00 PM Confirmation Fellowship 9:00 PM - 11:30 PM Friday Late Night for 6th-8th Gr.</p> | <p>5 9:00 AM Tree Decorating</p> |
| <p>6 9:00 AM Worship Service and Baptism for Brooks Ambrose Rego 10:15 AM Youth Faith Formation</p> | <p>7 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Bible Study</p> | <p>8 11:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Church Council Meeting</p> | <p>9 4:45 PM Wednesday Night Meal 5:30 PM Youth Faith Formation 6:45 PM Worship 7:45 PM 9th Grade Confirmation Meeting</p> | <p>10 12:00 PM Potluck & WELCA meeting</p> | <p>11 No Women's Bible Study Poinsettia orders due</p> | <p>12 4:00 PM Christmas Pageant 5:00 PM Meal after pageant</p> |
| <p>13 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Happy Birthday Party for Jesus 10:15 AM Youth Faith Formation</p> | <p>14 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Preschool Family Christmas</p> | <p>15 12:00 PM Butterbraid Pastry Pick Up 6:00 PM Preschool Family Christmas</p> | <p>16 4:45 PM Wednesday Night Meal 5:30 PM Christmas Caroling 5th-8th Gr. 5:30 PM Happy Birthday Party for Jesus 5:30 PM Youth Faith Formation 6:45 PM Worship 7:45 PM 9th Grade Confirmation Meeting</p> | <p>17</p> | <p>18 No Women's Bible Study</p> | <p>19</p> |
| <p>20 No Faith Formation 9:00 AM Worship Service</p> | <p>21 No Preschool 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Bible Study</p> | <p>22 No Preschool 11:00 AM Staff Meeting</p> | <p>23 No Faith Formation & Wednesday Night Meal No Preschool 6:45 PM Worship</p> | <p>24  No Preschool 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Service 8:00 PM Christmas Eve Service</p> | <p>25  No Preschool No Women's Bible Study 9:00 AM Christmas Service</p> | <p>26</p> |
| <p>27 No Faith Formation 9:00 AM Worship Service</p> | <p>28 No Preschool 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Bible Study</p> | <p>29 No Preschool</p> | <p>30 No Faith Formation, Wednesday Night Meal, Worship No Preschool Red Cross Mobile at Bloomer Middle School</p> | <p>31 No Preschool</p> | <p>1 No Preschool No Women's Bible Study</p> | <p>2</p> |

St. John's will be hosting the Bloomer Red Cross Mobile on December 30, 2015 at the Bloomer Middle School. Volunteers will be needed. There will be a sign up sheet in narthex.

Sharon Schwartz



Library News:

Come and join us for another St. John's Book Club get together on Thursday, December 3rd at 1:00 P.M. in the Church library. Light refreshments will be served.



Sounds of the Season

A message from the Worship Committee:

JOY TO THE WORLD!

What better way to show the joy we experience at our Savior's birth than by way of songs! The Worship Committee would like to have you individually or with your group provide special music for our 9AM Christmas Day Worship.

Worship, traditions and family are all a part of Christmas. Please consider encompassing all three with providing a musical selection as part of this special St John's service. If you need a little assistance in selecting a song-talk to Pastor Martin and he can give you some ideas for options.

Financial Report - 2015

| | 2014 | 2015 | Budget 2015 |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Beginning Balance – Jan. 1st | \$7,513.00 | \$3,150.00 | |
| Income – Oct/Nov | \$193,197.00 | \$192,195.00 | \$223,735.00 |
| Expenses – Oct/Nov | \$200,287.00 | \$202,065.00 | \$223,735.00 |
| Balance | \$423.00 | \$-6,720.00 | |
| Loan – Security Financial Bank | \$82,800.00 | \$71,000.00 | |
| Loan – Security Financial-Bathrooms | | \$11,000.00 | |
| Loan – Security Financial General | | \$7,000.00 | |

Poinsettia Sale

Again this year the altar guild will be selling poinsettias. It is a wonderful way to decorate our church for the holidays and an opportunity for you to honor your loved ones. Order forms will be inside some bulletins, on the desk in the church entry, and in the church office. The flowers will be \$10.00. You may take them home after the service on Christmas Day.



Poinsettia Sign-Up

Poinsettia Order

Due by: December 11, 2015

Given "in honor of" or "in memory of" a loved one, an anniversary, birthday, etc.

Donated by: (as you wish it to be in the bulletin.)

Cost is \$10.00 per plant.

Place this form and cash or check (**payable to St. John's Lutheran Church**) in an envelope in the offering plate or drop it off at the church office.

You may take your Poinsettia home after the service on Christmas Day.



Hanging of the Greens

Christmas Decorating

The altar guild will be decorating the church for Christmas on Sat. Dec. 5th at 9:00 AM. Please feel free to join the festivities. We need people who are not afraid to climb a ladder. Others who are not as adventurous are welcome, too.

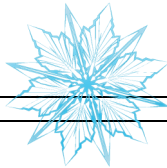
FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULES

Sunday: 10:15am-11:25am

Preschool: Ages 3, 4, & sometimes 5
Rotation Workshop: Kindergarten through 3rd Grade

Wednesday: 5:30pm-6:30pm

Preschool: Ages 3, 4, & sometimes 5
Rotation Workshop: Kindergarten through 2nd Grade
3rd Grade Explorers
4th & 5th Grade "Bible 101"
Confirmation: 6th, 7th & 8th Grade



BREAKING NEWS

LUTHER PARK BIBLE CAM
CHETEK, WISCONSIN
2015-2016 RECHARGE

January 8-9, 2016

WHERE: Luther Park Bible Camp
944 24 1/4 Street
Chetek, WI 54729

WHO: Individuals in Grades 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12.

COST: \$75.00, Includes programming from 7 pm Friday to 7 pm Saturday, meals, lodging, and Recharge t-shirt.

REGISTER ONLINE @
www.lutherpark.org

WEATHER ALERT!

Parents and youth, rule of thumb for St. John's Lutheran, when school is cancelled due to bad weather all learning events, scheduled (preschool, elementary, middle school, & Sr. high) are cancelled as well.

**BUTTERBRAID PASTRY PICK UP
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15 AFTER 12 PM**



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**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
ST. JOHN'S YOUTH**

FRIDAY LATE NIGHT

WHO: 6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Youth
WHEN: Friday, December 4, 9 pm-11:30 pm
WHERE: St. John's Lutheran Church

FOOD (please bring snacks to share)
FUN (games etc.) & **FELLOWSHIP-FRIENDS WELCOME**



**CHRISTMAS CAROLING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16**

5th-8th grade youth singing carols & frosting cookies at Maplewood, Hetzels, & Country Terrace spreading Christmas cheer.



SAVE THE DATE

- January 17, 2016: 9th Grade Confirmation at 9 am Worship



**ATTENTION PARENTS: SUNDAY & WEDNESDAY FAITH FORMATION
CHRISTMAS BREAK DECEMBER 17-JANUARY 5, 2016**

**SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

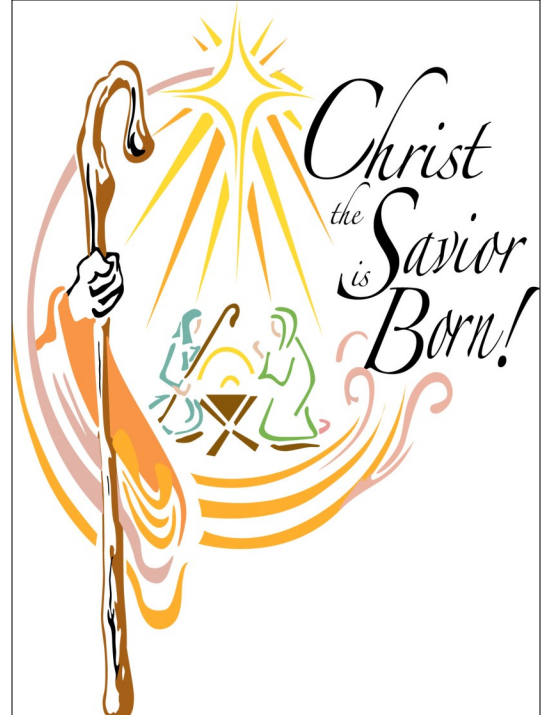
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12 at 4:00 PM
ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS INVITED

5:00 PM FAMILY MEAL IN DINING HALL
Please bring your favorite Christmas goodie for dessert



HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS PARTY

WHO: CHILDREN, MEMBERS, FRIENDS OF ST. JOHN'S
WHAT: BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS
WHEN: 10:15 AM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 & WEDNESDAY
and WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16 AT 5:30 PM
WHERE: ST. JOHN'S FELLOWSHIP HALL



Wednesday Worship Participants

| DATE OF SERVICE | 1 ACOLTYE | 4 COMMUNION SERVERS |
|---|------------------|---|
| DECEMBER 2 | Dane Michaelson | Dane Michaelson Liz Anderson Cal Lueck Tavyn Jones |
| DECEMBER 9 | Josh Prill | Josh Prill Tayler Buchholz Tianna Buchholz Mikayla Ruffedt |
| DECEMBER 16 | CaL Lueck | Cal Lueck Gunnar Grambo Trent Tozer Dalton Grambo |
| DECEMBER 13 | Leah Bleskacek | Leah Bleskacek Cayce Grambo Charlie Lewis Dylann Downey |
| DECEMBER 24: CHRISTMAS EVE EVENING WORSHIP TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED | | |
| DECEMBER 25 CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP: TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED | Josh Prill | Josh Prill Driah Zakrzewicz |
| DECEMBER 30 | Driah Zakrzewicz | Driah Zakrzewicz Kylie Culver Leah Bleskacek Dawson Krenz |



Sunday Worship Participants

| DATE OF SERVICE | 1 ACOLYTE | 4 COMMUNION SERVERS |
|---|-------------------|--|
| DECEMBER 6 | Kelly Yeakey | Kelly Yeakey Camryn Yeakey |
| DECEMBER 13 | Trey Zwiefelhofer | Trey Zwiefelhofer Skylar Zwiefelhofer |
| DECEMBER 20 | Tylor Calkins | Tylor Calkins Mitchel Calkins Cathy Calkins |
| DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE AFTERNOON WORSHIP: TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED | Leah Bleskacek | Leah Bleskacek Skylar Zwiefelhofer (afternoon worship) Trey Zwiefelhofer (afternoon worship) |
| DECEMBER 27 | Alana Helland | Alana Helland Nicholas Halom |

Preschool News

What a busy few weeks we've had! It all started on Tues. Oct. 27th & Wed. Oct. 28th, with our fourth annual bowl-a-thon. Prior to the event, the children collected pledges and donations from family & friends. Some participants chose to donate a certain dollar amount per point, while others gave a flat donation.

Our congregation supported the fundraiser in a big way! Pastor Martin offered ten cents per point difference between the combined Mon/Wed/Fri children's scores and his own, provided the congregation would donate \$250 to the preschool. If the congregation would donate at least \$500, he'd personally donate twenty cents per point difference. And new this year – if the congregation donated \$1,000 to the preschool, he would donate *twenty-five* cents per point difference. The total amount given by the congregation was an outstanding \$1,024! A big 'thank you' goes to everyone who contributed. The Mon/Wed/Fri children's combined score was 1348 and Pastor Martin's score was 124. As a result of his challenge to the congregation, his personal donation to the fundraiser was \$306. We thank him for his generosity and for bowling with the children, which of course added a lot of excitement. Everyone had a great time!

The preschool families brought in pledges and donations totaling \$2,394. What a great outpouring of support from them as well! Prizes for the children were awarded at three participation levels. McDonald's donated coupons for a free cone, for all children who gathered pledges. The proceeds from the bowl-a-thon will go in part, toward a bus-transported field trip in the spring of the year.

We held parent/teacher conferences on Nov. 16th & 17th. It's always great to touch base with the parents regarding their child's progress, and share interesting stories.

We received a \$500 donation from the Casper Foundation last month, to be used for educational programming. And Thrivent Choice Dollars were directed to the preschool this fall, from the following members: Elmer & Evelyn Ferstenou, David Lambert, Rodney Schmidt and Tammy Peterson, with a combined total of \$245. Thank you very much for your support! Thrivent Choice Dollars has been a wonderful program, allowing us to update and replace classroom materials and supplies. If anyone has questions on how to direct Choice Dollars, please contact our area Thrivent Financial representative. We really appreciate members helping us out, through the use of this program.

Thanksgiving mini-feasts were held Nov. 23rd & 24th. All the preschool families provided appetizers, in the form of desserts, fruits & vegetables, meats & cheeses and other fun treats. The children also went on a turkey feather hunt and sang a couple songs for the guests, which is always a hi-light. We collected non-perishable food items for the Bloomer/New Auburn food pantry as well.

Watch for upcoming registration opportunities for next school year, coming in January & February. Blessings to all, during this wonderful holiday season!



St. John's Preschool



Bowl-a-thon

