



St. John's Lutheran Church

Mission Statement:
"Growing disciples who eagerly share Christ's Love!"

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Church News
Calendar
Council Minutes
Youth
Committee
Notes
Pastor's Monthly
Report
Youth
Announcements
F.I.N
Financial Up-
date

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Prayers	2
Church News	3
Calendar	4
Council Minutes	5
Devotion Schedule	10
Message from Bishop Laurie	15
December Worship Schedule	16

Highlights of Special Events in November

Hello Everyone!

The St. John's Lutheran preschool acknowledges your in-kind gift of \$290.00 donated toward the Bowl-A-Thon held on November 7th and November 8th, 2019.

The children had a wonderful time!

Your generosity along with the support of our preschool families gave us a grand total of \$1,586.50 toward our end of the year field trip to the Eau Claire Children's Museum.



We greatly appreciate your support of the preschool in this manner. Thank you for your contribution.

Warmly,

Your Preschool Staff

Mrs. Beth, Miss Courtney, and Mrs. Lambert



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 December, 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 lists 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

Donna Kerckhove, Rene Kerckhove, Tom Buchner, Ilene Pingel, Carolyn Bergh, Willard Rogge, Kari Skaar, Tim Loew, Diane Halom, Melissa Berlin, Aline Buchner, Arlene Mohr, Ashton

Prayers for our Active Military

Danielle Shipman, Kelsey Leavens, Trenton Beaudette, Caleb Reischel, Ryan Heiss

Prayers for the Saints

Prayers for the week of December 1ST: Josh, Tara, Connor, and Ried Schemenauer; Carly, Zachary, and Madden Schimmel; Nancy Schindler; Rodney Schmidt; Brad, Kim and Chloe Schulze

Prayers for the week of December 8TH: Arlette Schuster; Isabel Schuster; Sharon Schwartz; Doug and Sandy Score; Nikki, Tyler, Madison, and Miles Seibel

Prayers for the week of December 15TH: Steve and Susan Seibel, McKinsey Seibel; Josh, Sara, Adam and Arianna Shadick; Matthew, Meghan, Evan, Hazel, and Henry Shadick; Pat and Sandra Shadick; Clyde Shipman

Prayers for the week of December 22ND: Kim and Steve Siverling; Kari, Phil, Jacob and Jensyn Skaar; Terri and Tom Smith; Dona Stanford; Donald and Karen Steinmetz

Prayers for the week of December 29TH: Constance and Steven Stertz; Dave and Pauline Stertz; Deanna and Vernon Stuckert; Marling and Monica Stuckert; Jonathon, Shawna, and Gabriel Stump

Church News

Quilting

Please join us for quilting.
December 10th 1:00-4:00



Due to a slight hearing problem, history does not remember Doug and Gary, chicken herders of Bethlehem.

Deadline for Newsletter

If you would like to submit anything for the newsletter please make sure to get it to the church secretary no later than the 23rd of the month.

Thank You!!

St. John's Preschool is currently accepting registration applications for January 2020
Parents may enroll their children by contacting;
Beth Cullen, (715) 497-2739 – or
st.johnspreschool.bloomer@gmail.com
Classes will be offered to fully potty-trained 3 yr. old kiddos. Open enrollment will continue through February 14.

We'd love to have you join us for a fun and exciting school year!

Warmly, Your Preschool Staff,

Mrs. Beth, Miss Courtney and Mrs. Lambert



New Auburn Community Choir Concert Schedule:

Saturday, Dec. 7	St. John's Lutheran, Bloomer	7:00 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 8	St. Jude's Catholic Church, New Auburn	3:00 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 14	New Hope Lutheran Church, Sand Creek	7:00 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 15	Faith Baptist Church, Chetek	2:00 p.m.

This Year the choir will be presenting Love Made a Way,
Created by Mary McDonald and Jay Rouse.
Directed by Scott Jensen with Pianist Rhonda Swangim

Every Wednesday
beginning at 4:45 p.m.

St. John's opens their doors to **ALL**
for fellowship and delicious meals!

December Main Courses:

- Dec. 4: Spaghetti - Dec. 11: Scalloped Potatoes
- Dec. 18: Meatballs & Gravy w/mashed potatoes
Come and **ENJOY!!**



GOD'S GIFT

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

— 2 CORINTHIANS 9:15 NIV

WELCA Potluck Lunch

Will be held on
December 12 at noon
Meeting will follow lunch.



Library Corner

"St. John's Best Kept Secret"

Here is just a little something to keep in mind....

When deciding on donations for memorials, please consider designating your contribution to our library. We are always enriching our collection of books.

STOP IN SOMETIME!!



December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Faith Five	2 8:00 AM Bible Study	3 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Bloomer Cub Scouts Meeting 6:00 PM Town Hall Forum Mtg, Sanctuary - Subject: Youth Director Position	4 2:00 PM Bible Study 4:45 PM - 5:30 PM Wednesday Meals - Spaghetti 5:30 PM Confirmation-Faith Five 6:45 PM Worship	5 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	6 11:30 AM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM - 12:00 AM Lock-in Youth Event	7 9:00 AM Decorate for Christmas 7:00 PM New Auburn Community Choir
8 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Faith Five 10:15 AM Youth Committee Meeting 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Youth In Action	9 8:00 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Pre-School Board Meeting (off site)	10 4:00 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Church Council Meeting 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Bloomer Cub Scouts Meeting	11 2:00 PM Bible Study 4:45 PM - 5:30 PM Wednesday Meals - Scalloped potatoes 5:30 PM Confirmation-Faith Five 6:45 PM Worship	12 12:00 PM WELCA Pot Luck, Meeting to Follow	13	14
15 9:00 AM Worship Service - Baptism, Henry Rihn 10:15 AM Faith Five	16 8:00 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Preschool Family Night	17 6:00 PM Preschool Family Night	18 2:00 PM Bible Study 5:30 PM Confirmation-Faith Five 5:45 PM - 6:30 PM Wednesday Meals - Meatballs and gravy 6:45 PM Worship - Children's Christmas Pageant	19	20	21
22 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Faith Five 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Youth In Action	23	24 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship 8:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship	25 OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 AM Christmas Day Worship	26	27	28
29 9:00 AM Worship Service	30	31	1 OFFICE CLOSED	2	3 11:30 AM Women's Bible Study	4

Church Council Meeting

November 12, 2019

“Growing Disciples who eagerly share Christ’s Love”

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 5:30 by President Suzi McInnis.

Opening Devotion: By Lydia Blaha - “Called by God to Serve” - Chapter 30

Discussed staying on topic at meetings and redirecting conversations in a positive direction.

Prayers: Prayers of healing requested for Ashton (one year old dealing with cancer treatments); for Sarah and baby Evan and other premature infants; thankfulness for all Veterans and their service; for son-in-law who fell off ladder and broke ankles; for Brian who suffered loss in a shed fire; for warmth and protection from elements in the winter months, especially the homeless; for farmers during harvest; for firefighters, mailmen, others whose jobs expose them to the elements; students and teachers preparing for finals.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Tom Ewings, seconded by Melissa Sarauer to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Approval of October meeting minutes: A motion was made by Barb Ross, seconded by Melissa Sarauer, to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Issues/Information

Financial Report:

Reviewed reports with assistance from Victoria.

Follow-up regarding comments from meeting on 3-13-2018; purchase of copier was made from Undesignated Funds with mention of “repaying” the fund. Undesignated funds are for use at council discretion and do not need to be replaced or repaid.

A motion was made by Kathy Tozer, seconded by Barb Ross, to approve the financial report. Motion carried.

Committee Reports: (Attachments: FIN, Youth, Pastor)

Property: Mechanical entry door needs to be repaired/replaced.

Pastor’s Report - Membership Update:

Transfer out: Victoria and Meredith Trinko.

Transfer to Church Triumphant: Beverly Peterson.

A motion was made by Barb Ross, seconded by Driah Zakrzewicz, to approve the membership update. Motion carried.

Action Items

Pastor contacted “Protect My Church” about options for background checks. Will discontinue annual subscription of \$149 and opt for the individual search option at \$6 each.

Lydia presented an analysis of giving (see attached). Information will be shared with members.

Pastor will prepare agenda for Town Hall meeting by Monday, November 18 to be posted by November 20. Will be shared by email, Facebook prior to Town Hall meeting on December 6.

Church Council Minutes (Continued)

A motion was made by Barb Ross, seconded by Driah Zakrzewicz, to approve the Job Description for Youth and Family Ministry Director. Motion carried. (see attached)

A motion was made by Kathy Tozer, seconded by Barb Ross, to approve the salary package range for Youth and Family Ministry Director position.

Nominating Committee:

“A Nominating Committee of six voting members of this congregation, two of whom, if possible, shall be outgoing members of the Congregation Council, shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of one year. Members of the Nominating Committee are not eligible for consecutive reelection.”

Barb and Pauline are outgoing members. Lisa will ask to be nominated for another term. Three additional candidates are needed. Driah would like to continue as youth representative.

Reformation Sunday wrap-up:

10:00 worship was well attended; most stayed for meal.

\$540 was raised for Hawk's Corner from the Chili Contest.

\$250 was raised from quilt raffle.

Winning entries from photo contest are being produced into 2020 St. John's Lutheran calendar which will be offered for sale as a fundraiser for Good Samaritan Fund.

Trunk or Treat was a great success, with 11 costumed units and 75 youth attending!

Plans are being made to hold this again next fall.

Youth-In-Action will be putting out boxes to collect items for Hawks Corner.

Annual Reports from each committee are due by December 22 for inclusion in St. John's Annual Report. Annual Meeting will be **January 19, 2020**. Pastor will provide templates if needed.

A reminder for committees/groups to sign up at the Welcome Station to staff the table in the narthex with information Sundays before and after worship. Suggestion to display in dining hall during dinner hour on Wednesday evening versus the narthex. All groups are welcome to display!

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:20 by Melissa Sarauer, seconded by Barb Ross. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer, led by Pastor Martin.

Lisa Prill, Secretary

Present: Pastor Martin, Suzi McInnis, Melissa Sarauer, Lydia Blaha, Barb Ross, Kathy Tozer, Tom Ewings, Adam Anderson, Lisa Prill, Driah Zakrzewicz, Victoria Prince-Silvas. Absent: Pauline Stertz.

Youth Committee Notes

October 28, 2019

Present: Marla Paulson, Melissa Sarauer, Kathy Tozer, Beth Halverson, Leo Halverson, Martin Halom

Review/Update:

Discipline/building policy: Marla posted these in all areas except for the preschool classroom. Plan is to put in teachers basket and those teacher in the preschool classrooms will be in charge of posting them and putting them back in the bins each Wednesday night.

Fundraisers: All fundraisers have been posted on the bulletin board near the offices. Butter braids are coming up, Amanda Zwiefelhofer will be chairing this fundraiser.

Rally Day: was a success this year, lower turn out.

Faith 5 Mentors: all but three classrooms have subs.

Pseudo Lock In: Went well, 35 students in attendance.

Trunk or Treat: Was a huge success plans are being set in motion for next year.

New Items:

Designated Youth Funds: Agreed to table this discussion until next meeting, as we did not have this information ready for discussion.

Camp Reimbursements: Marla will get these processed and send the information to Victoria for payment to families.

North Park Display: almost complete, Pastor Martin will talk with Al Nimitz on finalizing them and getting them to the North park. Beth agreed to get information on the power point so congregation knows we have a display at the park.

Preschool Children's Bibles and Children's Voices: This is scheduled for November 3 and 6.

Recharge: Theme of Who am I in God's Eyes. This is open to all grades from 3-12. Dates Jan 3,4 and April 3, 4. More information to come out on that.

Butter Braid Pastry Fundraiser is gearing up to kick off mid-November. Amanda Zwiefelhofer to chair.

Christmas Pageant: Schedule for Wednesday December 18.

Easter Egg Hunt: Agreed to get the Balloon artist again. Marla will call and book. Martin to follow up with Chamber in regards to soliciting chamber member at a meeting versus going out and soliciting each business. More to come on that.

Mission Trip: Not a lot of interest at this time, Marla is going to look at booking something for next summer.

VBS 2020: We have decided to book VBS July 13-17. More discussion to follow.

Annual Youth Network Fee: This is an annual event Marla attends; annual fee is \$20.00.

Youth Announcements

YOUTH AND EDUCATION

BREAKING NEWS

LUTHER PARK BIBLE CAMP CHETEK, WISCONSIN RECHARGE

**JANUARY 3-4, 2020
APRIL 3-4, 2020**

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

WHO: 3rd -12th Grade

COST: \$80.00 includes program-
ming from 7 pm Friday to 7 pm
Saturday, meals, lodging, and Re-
charge t-shirt.

REGISTER ONLINE @
www.lutherpark.org



6TH, 7TH & 8TH GRADE & SR. HIGH YOUTH PSEUDO LOCK IN

WHO: 6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Youth

WHEN: Friday, December 6, 7 pm-midnight

WHERE: St. John's Lutheran Church

FOOD: Please bring snacks to share

FUN (games etc.) & Fellowship

FRIENDS WELCOME

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.



SAVE THE DATE

**JANUARY 12, 2020
9th GRADE**

**CONFIRMATION WORSHIP
9:00 AM**

BUTTERBRAID PASTRY PICK UP

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1:30 PM TO 7:30 PM



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

Faith 5

Christmas Break

Dec. 23rd—Jan. 3rd, 2020



**CHRISTMAS
BLESSINGS**

Youth Announcements (continued)

**“CHRISTMAS JUBILEE
CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18 at 6:45 PM
ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WELCOME**

**FAMILY MEAL SERVED FROM 5:45-6:30 PM 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, HEAR THE STORY,
PLAY GAMES, FROST COOKIES
WHEN: 10:15 AM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15
WHERE: ST. JOHN'S FELLOWSHIP HALL, LOWER LEVEL**



Pastor Martin's Monthly Report & Devotion Schedule

I CELEBRATE

Reformation Sunday featuring three high school musicians to enhance our worship service.
A well-attended chili cook-off that raised \$540 for the Hawk's Closet at the Bloomer High School!
11 trunk or treat vehicles set up for our first annual event, including several that came outside of the confirmation class!
The completion of our North Park Christmas display that utilized the talents across the generations of our church to create it, assemble it, and mount it!

People I've encouraged and RESOURCED

Incorporating Nicholas Halom into the confirmation class as a much-needed substitute guide.
Assisting our preschool staff as they grow into their new roles and patterns of leadership.
Providing Bobbi Stouffer experience with weekend funeral services.
Giving Bobbi and Tyler Halverson what they need to serve as musicians for our upcoming Holden Evening Prayer services in Advent.

Ways I've helped us GO DEEPER with our Mission, Vision, Values, and Goals

Making plans with the Faithful Innovations Network to implement two experiments that are upcoming!

I'm currently WORKING ON

Preparing for the important Town Hall forum regarding the future staffing of our youth ministry.
Completing the staff manual for final approval.
Starting the nominating process and calling a meeting.
Finalizing the budget for council approval.

I'm LEARNING & EXPLORING

I've been invited to serve on the Luther Park board for a one year term.
I've been invited to serve on the next strategic planning process with the Bloomer School District.

I could use your HELP with and your PRAYERS for

Discernment with regard to the two above invitations.
Identifying people for the nominating committee as well as people to serve on church council.

Additional comments

Membership updates:
Death of Beverly Peterson
Transfers of Victoria and Meredith Trinko

Devotion Schedule for 2019 from "Called by God to Serve":

Dec - Adam Anderson, Chapter 1

Jan - Kathy Tozer, Chapter 2

FIN (Faithful Innovations Network)

Thursday, October 17, 2019

Attendance: Barb Ross, Lydia Blaha, Tom Ewings, Jill Gengler, Suzi McInnis

Scheduled Next Meetings

November 5 at 5:30

November 14 at 5:30

Next Bonfire

Decided to not have another fall bonfire. Instead, will do an afternoon fire on the ice. Aiming for February.

Experiment Brainstorm

Decided that our index card idea was too internal. We want to get outside the building. This idea will be tabled for now, but we want to get back to following through with this.

Technology

Broadcast service on FB

Pastor's corner

Martha's bible study group on FB

Tithing

Endless list How To's (baptism, marriage, tours of different parts of our church) for info

Youth draw/paint a picture and then we hand them out to people in our community, with the back of the picture with the child's name, their age/grade, and St. John's Lutheran Church

Bon Fires

Hand out free hot cocoa on a cold day, to connect St. John's with our community

First experiment we want to execute is broadcasting a service on our FB page

Pastor Martin, can you help us find the proper avenue to make this happen, possibly in time for Reformation Sunday?

Second experiment we want to execute is a quarterly random message to PM's entire e-mail blast with a basic message saying something like this:

"We wanted to reach out to you letting you know we are thinking of you. There is no obligation to respond to this message, but we want to offer you this opportunity to let us know if there is anything we can pray for you about. You are definitely in our thought and in our family, and are here if there is anything you need."

The thought about this message as it reaches our members who are not able to attend each week, and reminds them of the family they have here at St. John's. We don't have a day in mind for the first message, nor a cadence, as we want this to feel genuine. We will select dates at the next FIN meeting.

Dwelling in the Word (Act 16)

We built upon a portion of the group discussion from the last retreat about the last line of the reading. We all were in the spot where we only just now noticed that one line at the last retreat and "ah-ha" we all had from that, even after the many, many times we've read this passage.

FIN (Faithful Innovations Network)

Tuesday, November 5, 2019

Attendance: Lydia Blaha, Tom Ewings, Suzi McInnis, Pastor Martin, Keith Ruehlow

Dwelling in the Word - Acts 16

Paul and his companions' journey was extensive and assumedly exhausting. Was the excitement of "What's next?" driving these men to keep pressing forward in their journey? Even when we are exhausted or face barriers, what drives us to keep going and keep being eager to share Christ's love?

Furthered discussion on a FB Broadcast

What do we want to learn? Do we have the ability to engage individuals physically and not physically at church each Wednesday/Sunday?

Steps:

Lydia Blaha to record the sermon, reflection question, and post to FB immediately

Pastor Martin and Victoria to update the Reflection Question slide to include St. John's FB info and encourage posting a response to the reflection question in whatever Social Media platform desired

Pastor Martin to communicate with confirmation parents that cell phones will be encouraged after the sermon.

Feedback loop: review views and comments

Quarterly random message from PM

What do we want to learn? Can we get responses from the folks who are not consistently attending service, but may need an extra prayer said for them?

Steps:

Pastor Martin aiming for a December e-mail to his largest e-mail list

FIN will keep PM accountable to do this on a quarterly basis

Feedback loop: Pastor Martin to share how many people respond back (not who) and share the general content of what was brought to his attention for prayer requests

Scheduled Next Meetings

November 14 at 5:30 PM, will schedule additional meetings at that time.

Brainstorm Session Ideas List

Next Bonfire - Decided to not have another fall bonfire. Instead, will do an afternoon fire on the ice. Aiming for February.

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Martha's bible study group on FB

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Endless list How To's (baptism, marriage, tours of different parts of our church) for info

Youth draw/paint a picture and then we hand them out to people in our community, with the back of the picture with the child's name, their age/grade, and St. John's Lutheran Church

Hand out free hot cocoa on a cold day, possibly aiming for a community event, to connect St. John's with our community.

Youth Director Job Description

Position Purpose: The Director Youth and Family Ministry is responsible for promoting spiritual growth among children, youth, adults, and families, as this advances our mission of “Growing disciples who eagerly share Christ’s love”.

Supervision: Pastor

Qualifications:

1. Have a love of youth and a desire to build relationships with people from all walks of life.
2. Exhibit a commitment to the Christian faith and an ability to share and teach the ELCA Lutheran values with children, youth, adults and families.
3. Show active listening skills along with the ability to receive direction.
4. Have the ability to communicate in a variety of ways including but not limited to verbal, email, text, and social media.
5. Display good organizational skills.
6. Plan, delegate, and work independently as well as be a team player, engaging in projects within the Youth and other committees as needed.
7. Understand and maintain confidentiality.
8. Possess a minimum high school diploma or equivalent.

List of Primary Responsibilities:

1. Develop relationships with families and other congregation members within the church and the community.
2. Select age-based curriculum for all youth.
3. Responsible for integrating youth into worship services, which can help them identify their gifts.
4. Participate in Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Youth Ministry Network.
5. Develop and execute a financial plan in consultation with the Youth and Family Ministry committee.
6. Manage and maintain accurate financial records in consultation with the financial secretary.
7. Ensure that student information forms are completed and stored.
8. Execute background checks as needed.
9. Consult with Wednesday Evening Meal Coordinator to determine Wednesday evening meal schedules.
10. Coordinate Vacation Bible School.
11. Attend the following meetings:
 - a. Staff meetings
 - b. Youth Committee meetings
 - c. Church Council meetings as needed
 - d. St. John’s Annual Meeting
 - e. Other meetings as needed
12. Strengthen personal spiritual growth including regular worship attendance.
13. Other duties as assigned.

Weekly Faith Formation:

Facilitate weekly Faith Formation

1. Recruit volunteers.
2. Train and offer support for faith formation volunteers.
3. Order necessary supplies.
4. Prepare and cleanup faith formation materials.

Events: Organize events including service, fellowship, and fundraising:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Mission Trip/National Youth Gathering | 6. Senior recognition |
| 2. Christmas Projects | 7. Fed-N-Forgiven |
| 3. Rally Day | 8. The Rite of Confirmation |
| 4. Lock-ins | 9. Age appropriate Bible distribution |
| 5. Weekend retreats | 10. Music Festivals |

Fundraising which could include:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| a. Brat Stand | e. Stock Fundraisers |
| b. Butter Braid | f. Super Bowl Pizzas |
| c. Plant/Flower Sale | g. Raffles |
| d. Cake Rolls | |

Youth Director Job Description (*continued*)

FINANCE UPDATE

What you can expect from us:

1. Prayer commitment from pastor, Youth and Family Ministry committee, and fellow staff.
2. Receive a 3-month, 6-month, and annual review your first year, along with an annual review thereafter.
3. Personal office space with necessary office equipment and supplies.
4. Benefits, which could include health insurance, retirement, plan, short-term disability, family medical leave, and paid time off as needed.
5. Mileage reimbursement (at current IRS rate).
6. Continuing education allowance.
7. Flexible working hours with tele-commuting possibilities.
8. A caring, supportive, and nurturing work environment.

Salary package range:

\$28,000-42,000/year depending on experience and level of education

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Numbers through 11-27-2019

Year-To-Date:

Weekly Contributions	\$194,738.37
Other Raised Funds	<u>15,285.28</u>
Total Received	\$210,023.65
Expenses	<u>\$204,010.20</u>
Total remaining after expenses	\$ 6,013.45

St. John's Contribution Report— October 2018 through September 2019

AGE RANGE	CONTRIBUTUION \$	CONTRIBUTION %	GIVING UNITS
0-29	14,847	7.6%	14
30-39	5,498	2.8%	16
40-49	33,100	17.0%	17
50-59	22,432	11.5%	27
60-69	41,435	21.2%	30
70-79	54,238	27.8%	35
80+	23,566	12.1%	37
Grand Total	195,116	100.0%	176

Quarter	Amount (\$)	Amount (%)
Q1	41,670.00	21.36%
Q2	51,746.00	26.52%
Q3	47,518.38	24.35%
Q4	54,181.67	27.77%
Grand Total	195,116.05	100.00%

*Age was determined by the oldest person within the giving unit. There are instances where we have the children's' age, but not the parent's age. Therefore, the age of the giving unit may be captured in the above results at a younger age than reality and their contributions are probably falling in the 0-29 age range.

"Don't Lose the Baby"

An Advent Message from Bishop Laurie



On the First Sunday of Advent, every year, our family unpacks the wreath. Our tradition is to put an incomplete nativity scene in the center. We use the ceramic figures my mom made for us the first year we were married. The magi are put up on a high shelf until they make their appearance on Epiphany. Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, a few sheep, and an empty manger go in the center to wait.

One of our children would hide the tiny figure of the baby Jesus in a cup in nearby cabinet. Every year I'd worry a little and give a warning, "Remember where you put him, we don't want to lose baby Jesus." They were careful, but I would still worry that we might lose the baby Jesus. Before supper we'd light the blue candles on the Advent wreath and pray "Come, Lord Jesus be our guest." Advent was about waiting to put the baby in the manger. On Christmas Eve, we retrieve the hidden baby Jesus, give a sigh of relief that we haven't lost him, put him in the manger and light the Christ candle.

It's possible to lose baby Jesus in the craziness of Advent. As Christians, surrounded by the most commercialized and secularized holiday of all, we are always in danger of losing Jesus. Not the ceramic Jesus figurine from our nativity set, but losing our way in Advent and never finding the holy in the midst of the hectic; never experiencing the expectant purposeful waiting that brings us to the awe and wonder of Jesus Christ, the baby born in Bethlehem.

Every year I want to issue some motherly WARNING: Don't lose the baby! If you lose the baby, Christmas doesn't make any sense at all. Without the baby, Christmas is a beautifully wrapped box with nothing inside. It is empty of meaning, but most of all it is empty of hope.

I want to issue a motherly CAUTION: Don't lose the baby. If you lose the baby, Christmas doesn't work. It is broken and like a cracked snow globe, the hope leaks out. The world needs Jesus this Christmas more than ever. There are so many broken things in our personal lives, the pain leaks out over grief, loss, and disappointment. There is so much systemic brokenness in our communities and in our country that it leaks out as violence. We need the hope and healing that only Jesus can bring.

Theologically, we don't need to worry about losing Jesus because Jesus is with us. First in Luke 2 "***She gave birth to her first born son and laid him in the manger;***" then the incarnation of John 1, "***The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.***" The incarnation Jesus hasn't been lost. In Matthew 28 Jesus promises to be with us "***always to the end of the age.***"

Perhaps a more accurate warning is this: DANGER: Don't lose **sight** of the baby. That baby, that Word made flesh is the light of the world. In these dark days of winter we need the light of the world to shine in us and through us.

Now a little ENCOURAGEMENT for this Advent and Christmas: **PRACTICE INCARNATIONAL MINISTRY.** That means just show up and be Jesus for others. Go and be Jesus for those who may have lost sight of him. Go and be the Church, show your neighbors, your community the love of Jesus. Go to the dark places and bring Jesus. Go sit with those who are sad and be Christmas. Go and speak the truth into the cracks of the broken places in our society. Go, just show up and be the hands, feet, the voice, the love of Jesus. Go and let your light so shine before others, go be the light of Christ, the light no darkness can overcome.

May God bless you, your family and congregation, and may the peace of God made real to us in a baby born in Bethlehem fill your hearts this Advent and Christmas Season.

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PASTORAL/ CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Need a visit? Yearning for Holy Communion? Have a problem? Want to suggest ways we can be of more help to you and your family? Feel you'd like to pray with someone?

CALL: Pastor Martin Halom

Church # 715-568-5446, extension 11

Home # 715-568-1515

Cell # 517-505-6509

Email: pastormartin@bloomer.net

DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

December 1	9:00 a.m. Worship
December 4	6:45 p.m. Worship
December 7	7:00 p.m. New Auburn Community Choir Performance, refreshments to follow.
December 8	9:00 a.m. Worship
December 11	6:45 p.m. Worship
December 15	9:00 a.m. Worship with Baptism, Henry Rihn
December 18	6:45 p.m. Worship—Children's Christmas Pageant
December 22	9:00 a.m. Worship
December 24	4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship
December 25	9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Worship

