



St. John's Lutheran Church

Mission Statement:

“Growing disciples who eagerly share Christ’s Love!”

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Church News - Calendar

Letter from Bishop Laurie

Youth & Family Announcements

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[Psalm 137:4](#) *How can we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?*

Christmas Message to the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

In 1926, my maternal grandmother left Germany and immigrated to the United States. One of my earliest memories is singing *Silent Night (Stille Nacht)* in German by the Christmas tree in her small house in Jackson, MN. I wonder what it was like for her to move to a foreign land not speaking the language. I wonder how difficult it must have been for her to sing her song in a foreign land.



Last Christmas most of us couldn't gather inside our church buildings to sing *Silent Night* on Christmas Eve. Some of us sang to our computer screens, some sang in their cars in the parking lot, some sang with masks. We were all trying to sing the Lord's song in a foreign land, the land of COVID. It has been difficult. Our song has been muted.

Psalm 137 is a lament Psalm. The writer of Psalm 137 is describing the pain of the people who were forced to live in a foreign land after witnessing the destruction of their homeland and their temple. They are grieving the losses, lamenting, crying, and finding it impossible to "sing the Lord's song in a foreign land."

My heart goes out to the Afghan Refugees who are experiencing their first winter at Fort McCoy. I wonder how difficult it will be for them to sing their songs of faith in a foreign land. Many know that they will never go home again.

In Luke 1 Mary sings her song in unknown territory. She has received the message from Gabriel that she will bear God's son and his name is to be Jesus, and he will reign as king forever. This incomprehensible message is confirmed by her relative Elizabeth and changes Mary's life's circumstances. Mary is asked to do what no one has ever done before. This is uncharted and foreign territory for a young girl. She sings her song in a foreign land like her sisters before her Miriam, Ruth, and Hannah. She sings a song of courage, faith, hope, and love.

This Advent/Christmas/Epiphany season I invite you to reflect on Mary's song as an old song sung in new circumstances. Many of us and our churches find ourselves dealing with circumstances we might not have chosen for ourselves and wish were different, circumstances that might cause us to lament and grieve. We are here now. Sing. Join Mary and the faithful of every time and place, that great cloud of witnesses, and sing of courage, faith, hope, and love. Sing. Sing an old song of trust in unfamiliar territory, and sing a new song of hope in a new land. We are here now. May the Hope of Advent, Joy of Christmas and Light of Epiphany bring you Peace.

Bishop Laurie

Luke 1:46-49 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name."

For more information about helping Afghan refugees
 Volunteering at Fort McCoy contact Wisconsin Council of Churches volunteer@wichurches.org.
 Resettling families contact LSSWI [Refugee Resettlement - Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan \(Isswis.org\)](http://RefugeeResettlement-LutheranSocialServicesofWisconsinandUpperMichigan(Isswis.org)). Sarah Halstad
 Donations contact Catholic Charities in La Crosse <https://cclse.org/afghanistan-refugee-assistance/>

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 list please stop by the church office, call the office at 715-568-5446, or email the information to:

Prayers of Healing for our Church Family

Shelli Rogge; Arlene Windsor; Diane Halom; Arlene Christianson; Rod Martin; Donna Kerckhove (Pat Prill's daughter); Ilene Pingel; Maggie Olson; Margueritte Werner; Carolyn Bergh; Kelly Custer; Steve Trubshaw; Merv Marquardt; Clyde Shipman, Doris Mashak (Tyler Halverson's grandmother).

Prayers for our Active Military

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

Prayers for the Saints

Prayers for the week of December 5th: Brandon, Cassandra, Warren and Waylon North; Kim and Donald Oldenberg; Magdalen Olson; Dennis, Lyn, Denise and Jeremy Pank; Buck and Peg Paulsen; Marla and Pete Paulson.

Prayers for the week of December 12th: Heather, Todd, Kalie, Addison, Arianna and Gavin Pecha; Bob, Debbie and Brenna Peterson; Brandon, Erin, Londyn and Tenley Peterson; Jane Peterson; Robert, (Beverly) and Thomas Peterson.

Prayers for the week of December 19th: Tammy Peterson; Brian, Lori, Alexis, Ava, Madilyn, Zachary and Zoe Pielhop; David, Roxanne, Jessica and Katie Pierce; Ilene Pingel; Donald and Mary Poirier; Everett and Rose Marie Powell.

Prayers for the week of December 26th: James, Lori, Aaron, Logan, Noah and Olivia Price; Amanda, Kyle, Harley, Josh, Kennady, Oakley, Sidney and Zinphany Prill; Donald, Lisa, Aaron, Derek, Jacob and Elijah Prill.

DECEMBER 2021 CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:00 AM Worship Service	29 NO PRESCHOOL	30 11:15 AM Staff Meeting	1 9:30 AM Bloomer Clergy Assoc. Mtg-Pastor 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Faith Formation PreK-8th 6:45 PM Worship	2	3	4
5 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Town Hall Forum 5:30 PM Youth In Action	6	7 Preschool Committee Meeting (tentative)	8 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Faith Formation PreK-8th 6:30 PM Youth Quake Meeting 6:45 PM Worship	9 10:00 AM Pastor's Conference	10	11
12 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM J.A.M.	13 5:30 PM Church Council Meeting (location tbd) 6:00 PM Preschool Christmas Party	14 11:15 AM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Quilting Group 6:00 PM Preschool	15 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Faith Formation PreK-8th 6:45 PM Worship Service	16 6:00 PM Care of Creation Meeting (zoom)	17	18
19 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM J.A.M. 3:00 PM Ecumenical Christmas Service. Progressive 5:30 PM Youth In	20	21	22 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Christmas Pageant 6:45 PM Worship Service	23	24 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Service 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Service 8:00 PM Christmas Eve Service	25 Merry Christmas!! 9:00 AM Christmas Day Worship Service
26 9:00 AM Worship Service	27	28	29	30	31	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Church News

BUTTERBRAID PASTRIES

...will be delivered to St. John's on Friday, December 10th. Please let Katie know if you need to arrange a different day to pick up Butter Braids.



ECUMENICAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Progressive Live Nativity Pageant
 Sunday, December 19
 beginning 3:00 p.m. at
 St. Paul's Catholic Church



Details can be found on bulletin boards at both church entrances.

ST. JOHN'S IS HOSTING THE RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE DRIVE ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 2022.

It will be at the Bloomer Middle School. Volunteers and *cookies* are needed.

Contact Sharon Schwartz to sign Up to help; **568-1998**



Thank you!



St. John's is beginning to set up Meals On Wheels



For January

If you would be available for one or more weeks in January to drive and/or deliver meals, please contact

**Janice Naset at 568-5615 -- or --
 Martha Libersky at 568-4653**

To schedule.

Thank you for helping with this community project!

Neighbor To Neighbor



A new ministry of the Northwest Synod of WI

Details can be found on bulletin boards at both church entrances.

Deadline for January 2022 Newsletter

If you would like to submit anything for the newsletter, please make sure to get it to the church secretary no later than

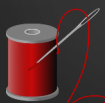
Dec. 22nd.

Thank You!

Quilting Group

Will be meeting on
 December 14th
 at 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Everyone is welcome!!



FINANCE UPDATE

Year-To-Date as of Nov. 30, 2021

Year-To-Date:

Weekly Contributions \$175,171.31

Other Raised Funds 20,312.40

Total Received \$195,483.71

- Expenses \$-206,735.40

Total remaining after expenses \$-11,251.69

Other raised funds includes youth fundraising and preschool tuition payments. Year to date we have needed to borrow \$25,000 from our line of credit to cover operating expenses.

Church Council Minutes

November 8, 2021

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Acting President Adam Anderson.

Opening Devotion: Prayer by Pastor Martin.

Approval of Agenda: Addition of COVID update and discussion on 2022 budget. Motion made by Melissa Sarauer, seconded by Janelle Yeakey, to approve the agenda with flexibility. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes – October 11, 2021: Motion made by Melissa Sarauer, seconded by Marcy Trubshaw, to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Monies borrowed from Undesignated Memorials to pay for salaries in October. Motion made by Melissa Sarauer, seconded by Alicia Bonczyk, to accept the financial report. Motion carried.

2022 Budget discussion. Final vote on 2022 budget tabled until December meeting. Victoria excused from remainder of meeting.

Custodian Task Force: Melissa Sarauer, Janelle Yeakey, and Alicia Bonczyk will explore options for filling the custodian position.

Committee Reports:

Fellowship:

- Held cross-generational card game night on October 30.

Property:

- New ceiling fans are in. Exit signs are up to code.

Social Ministry:

- Care for Creation ministry will send letter to the editor each month about creation care. Tips will be posted in church bulletin each week.

Worship/Music Committee:

- There will be extra musicians each Sunday this month.

- Holden Evening Prayer will be used for Advent.

Youth and Family Ministry:

- Participated in Trunk or Treat downtown on October 30.

- Working on Christmas pageant.

- Sign-up going on for National Youth Gathering.

Preschool:

- Concerns raised for preschoolers having to wear masks. Will address the issue with the COVID Task Force for recommendations.

Pastor's Report:

- Town hall forum to be held December 5 at 10:15 a.m. to address any congregational concerns, including COVID update, wage increases, and filling custodian position.

Membership Update:

- Baptisms: Briggs Schemenauer; Stella Rosenbrook

- Transfer to Church Triumphant: Judy Weissinger. Motion made by Melissa Sarauer, seconded by Alicia Bonczyk, to approve the membership update. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- Luther Park Fundraising campaign has been completed, with Youth donating \$1300 and congregation member donating \$500.

Church Council Minutes *(continued)* Council Special Meeting Minutes – 11/16/21

New Business:

- COVID Task Force will be meeting via Zoom on November 16 at 8 p.m. Council will meet immediately after to vote on any proposed changes.
- Giving letter will be sent out to members.
- Melissa will get AED checklist to Jeff. If any problems, Property Committee will address the issue.

Motion to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. by Melissa Sarauer, seconded by Alicia Bonczyk. Motion carried.

Closing Prayer: The Lord's Prayer led by Pastor Martin.

Next regular council meeting will be December 13, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.

Terri Smith, Secretary

Special Meeting: November 16, 2021

Church Council special meeting was held via Zoom on November 16, 2021, commencing at 9:20 p.m. Agenda included discussion on preschool mask reconsideration, review of current COVID protocols, Christmas pageant, Christmas worship, and annual meeting.

- Reconsideration of preschool mask policy will be reviewed at the December 13 Council meeting. A survey will be given to parents of preschoolers to offer their feedback. Janelle will compile data and provide to Council members on December 12.

- Current COVID protocols will remain in place and be reviewed at the

December 13 Council meeting, taking into consideration any comments at the town hall forum on December 5.

- Christmas pageant is being planned for December 19. Motion made by Janelle Yeakey, seconded by Melissa Sarauer, for only immediate family in household to attend Christmas pageant. Motion carried.

- There will be services at 4 p.m., 6 p.m., and 8 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

Motion to adjourn at 10:30 p.m. made by Melissa Sarauer, seconded by Janelle Yeakey. Motion carried.

Terri Smith, Secretary

Present via Zoom: Pastor Martin, Adam Anderon, Alicia Bonczyk, Janelle Yeakey, Melissa Sarauer, Pat Prill, Terri Smith, Tom Ewings. Absent: Jeff Cole, Kaitlyn Bohl, Marcy Trubshaw.

Youth Announcements

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

JESUS & ME (JAM)

Who: Pre-K – 5th Grade
When: Sunday @ 10:15am & Wednesday @ 5:30pm

Join us in the sanctuary on either Sunday or Wednesday for Jesus & Me (aka JAM)! Your kids will learn about a new Bible story each week, play some fun games, and grow in their faith with their peers.

Note: There will be NO JAM on December 5th, 26th, or 29th.

WORSHIP ACOLYTE & COMMUNION HELP

Who: All who have been through Fed & Forgiven

When: Christmas Eve @ 4, 6, or 8pm, Christmas Day @ 9am

We are in need of some additional help on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day during our worship services. Here's the amount of helpers we need at each service:

- 12/24 @ 4pm (1)
- 12/24 @ 6pm (2)
- 12/24 @ 8pm (2)
- 12/25 @ 9am (1)

If you are able to help, please let Katie know.

QUAKE MEETING

Who: 6th-12th Grade Families
When: Wednesday, Dec. 8th @ 6:30pm in the Dining Hall

If you have youth interested in attending Quake, we ask that you please attend this info meeting!

YOUTH IN ACTION



Who: 9th-12th Grade Youth
When: December 5th and 19th @ 5:30pm

Join us for some fun, fellowship, and FOOD!! All are welcome (yes, even friends)! On the 19th, we will also be holding a Christmas/White Elephant party, so bring a gift (\$5 and under) if you want to participate.

CONFIRMATION

Who: 6th-8th Grade
When: Wednesday @ 5:30pm

This year our confirmation students are learning about the 10 Commandments. Join us as we grow with our peers to explore our faith, ask great questions, and have a lot of fun together!

Note: There will be NO Confirmation on the 29th.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Who: JAM Families
When: Wednesday, Dec. 22nd @ 5:30pm

JAM families are invited to join us for our Christmas Program in the sanctuary at 5:30pm! For those who want to watch but are unable to attend, we will be live streaming it.

Please bring your kids to St. John's by 5:00pm so we can get them dressed and ready to go.



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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

TIPS FROM CREATION CARE COMMITTEE:

*Installing plastic insulating film over windows works by trapping a pocket of insulating air that keeps the warm air inside and the cold air outside the room. It is fairly inexpensive and yet can save you money on your energy bill, reduce your carbon footprint, and make the living area more comfortable.

*If you have noticed a draft coming from under a door, you might consider a door draft stopper (sometimes called a door draft snake). A gap of 1/8 inch at the bottom of a door is the same as a 4 square inch hole in the door, and who would not want to plug that? If you have a large patio door, consider using insulated drapes to prevent thermal loss.

*If you have a reversible ceiling fan, it is helpful to run your ceiling fan during the summer months counterclockwise - this allows for the wind-chill effect of the fan. During the colder months, run the fan clockwise and operate the fan at low speed. This forces the warm air down from the ceiling in winter. Doing this can save on your energy bill as well as reduce fossil fuel usage.

*Your furnace filter is one of the easiest and cheapest ways to save on heating costs and reduce your fossil fuel usage. Changing your filter on a regular basis can save you from 5% to 15% on your yearly energy bill. Washable, reusable filters are also now available. These filters can last several years, saving you money and result in less filter trash going to the landfill.

*Using LED Christmas lights with an Energy Star label will reduce energy use. According to the EPA Energy Star program, LED lights are more efficient. LED lights are safer since they operate at a cooler temperature. LED lights last longer. Using timers on your Christmas lighting saves energy. Christmas lights can now be recycled.