

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.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

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

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A YEAR OF CELEBRATION!

Now that we're in the thick of the new year, I'd like to suggest a goal for our St. John's family:

***Celebrate all ministries and accomplishments
when we impact our neighbors' lives!***

One of the new practices that I reflected on from my **Leading Well** retreat centered on making sure that we take time to look at what we're accomplishing and lifting that up to our church family. That means that we need to not only do what we do, but then to share it so that our work can become contagious to others who may be watching intently on the sidelines.

A book I've read recently is entitled, *Ask, Thank, Tell* by Charles Lane. In it Charles (Chick) reminds us to make sure that our story is being shared so that people know what we're up to. Yes, I realize that many of us work hard to stay humble (which is important!), but that should not prohibit us from sharing our collective story that shapes the life and ministry that we have here at St. John's.

One of the new habits that I'm working on this year reflects this notion. For years, I have tracked my hours to make sure I have some semblance of balance in my life. That, however, has brought me to an unhealthy habit – defining my effectiveness as measured by the number of hours that I have worked. There very well can be a correlation there, but not necessarily. In speaking with my cohort support group from **Leading Well**, a new habit has emerged. I will now measure my effectiveness by my accomplishments (tracking my visits, pastoral care appointments, time spent with colleagues, time spent with staff helping them to be effective leaders, etc.) That shapes my story as a pastor and some of those measurable achievements can be shared!

(article continued on pg. 2)



Office number: 715-568-5446

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St. John's Website: www.Stjohns-bloomer.org

(article continued from pg. 1)

Maggie Olson, a long-term member of St. John's and one full of wisdom, has suggested that we track the number of volunteer hours that our church provides for our community. I love this idea because it helps us measure our effectiveness. I also want to add to that idea to capture the stories of the lives we touch. My hope is that we can capture more pictures, more videos, more narratives from volunteers and recipients of our care to share and celebrate this year. We can illustrate these images in a variety of different ways, which will not only share our story with you all, but also inspire others to join our work.

If we don't take time to celebrate our ministry, we neglect part of our Christian heritage. If the gospel writers did not share the life of Christ, we'd never know about it. If artists neglected to portray the Biblical narrative, we'd have a hole in that history. So if we don't share and celebrate our story, the future generations will be far less aware of our impact and heritage.

Please help me make 2016 a year of celebration and be an active participant in our story!

Pastor Martin



Here are all the masterpieces that were made at the Makin Art Paint Party. This fundraiser was to help raise money for the 2016 St. John's Mission Trip fund.





Bible Basics



January 3

Today we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord, which is a primary festival of our church year. In Luke's gospel, John the Baptist declares that he baptizes with water, while Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. There is evidence in the four gospels that Jesus does indeed baptize others.

- A. True
- B. False

January 10

When Jesus turned the water into wine at the wedding at Cana, who was the first to bring the lack of wine to Jesus' attention?

- A. The chief wine steward
- B. The groom
- C. Mary, the mother of Jesus
- D. The guy in the corner holding the brown paper bag

January 17

Today's New Testament lesson from 1 Corinthians talks about the body of Christ. This book alone uses the term "body" 49 times (NRSV), more than all 4 gospels combined (41 times)! Of these 49 times the term "body" is used, how many of them refer to the "body of Christ"?

- A. Two
- B. Seven
- C. Twenty
- D. Forty

Council Meeting

January 12, 2016

Meeting Called to order by President Rod Johnson at 6:30p.m.

Opening Devotion and Prayer by Adam Ewings

Agenda Amendment: Add 2016 budget to agenda.

Agenda Approval: Motion made by Alice Zinsmaster to approve amended agenda, seconded by Adam Ewings. Motion carried.

Approval of December meeting minutes: Motion made by Pat Boettcher to approve minutes, seconded by Ellyn Hudacek. Motion carried.

Congregational concerns: 2015 Christmas service times not advertised in paper, information in bulletins not being correct, cleanliness of the dining hall floor and tables.

Committee Reports:

Fellowship: Combined Bingo with Senior Citizens Center went well. Bingo sundays are scheduled to be held on the third Sunday of the month in the church dining hall.

Social Ministry: Agnes Table a great turn out of volunteers, low attendance for meal. Blood Mobile had a great turn out of volunteers and well attended with donors.

Worship/Music: Easter services/songs are all set. Confirmation student's faith statements will be projected/shown on screens in church.

Youth/Family: June 2016 Mission Trip/Nashville TN plans are in progress—eight youth have registered with two openings still available. \$269 registration cost per youth.

Chair Report: Will be meeting with an Audio Visual Specialist in February to discuss repair/replace of projector/s. Will have an announcement put in bulletin in regard to deadline for Thrivent members to donate their Thrivent Choice Dollars.

Pastor's Report:

Membership: Transfer to Church Triumphant-Kay Mortenson. New members-Samantha Stumm and Matt Jandourck. Motion made by Janice Naset to accept membership report, seconded by Alice Zinsmaster. Motion carried.

Visitations: Marquardts in Eau Claire, residents at Our House Senior Living Assisted Care (Duzzy Carlson, Sharon Knoepke, Gloria Lambert)

Road Map for Ministry (Leading Well Retreat goals): Goal to attend the meetings of the congregation's committees to review and renew the committees' purpose and responsibilities according to the constitution's continuing resolutions.

Guest schedule: Katie Wagner campus minister at Stout - January 31st and February 3rd
Jacquie Scoates, Luther Park representative - February 3rd

Council Meeting

Financial Report:

Reviewed and discussed 2016 budget to present to congregation at annual meeting. Motion was made by Alice Zinsmaster to accept 2016 proposed budget, seconded by Adam Ewings. Motion carried.

Motion made by Janice Naset to accept December financial report, seconded by Ellyn Hudacek. Motion carried.

St John's Book Audit: Scheduled for January 15. Auditors-Kathy Geissler, Kathy Tozer and Lynette Pank.

Old Business:

Candidates for election: collection of names for candidates still in progress

Projector replacement: Will be meeting with an Audio Visual specialist to discuss repair or replace of projector/equipment.

New Business:

Church Mutual Insurance update: Reviewed renewal comparisons and options. Pat Boettcher made a motion to approve President Rod Johnson's recommendation to an insurance cost increase of \$156.00, seconded by Janice Naset. Motion carried.

Key Distribution: Approval given on request by altar guild leader Sue Nehring for a building key.

Cooperative Council Retreat: Council approved participation in retreat with participating churches...Our Savior's Lutheran, Chippewa Falls and Lutheran Church of The Good Shepherd, Eau Claire. Confirmed date to be announced.

Walking Together Seminar: Will be held on March 12, 2016. Location to be announced.

Gift Policy Committee: Lynette Pank, Pat Prill and Rod Johnson.

Job Description: Wednesday Meal Coordinator - defined line eight under responsibilities 'Clean the kitchen and dining hall area following the meal' to 'Clean the kitchen and counters, dining hall area and tables following the meals. And defined line one under Working Conditions - 'One meal each week to be scheduled in consultation with the pastor and youth and family ministry director' to 'Work schedule is determined by pastor and youth and family ministry director'

Motion was made by Kathy Faschingbauer to approve amended job description, seconded by Tom Buchner. Motion carried.


THANK YOU! To Kathy Faschingbauer, Pat Boettcher and Trey Baker whose terms on council have expired. Thank you for your time and talent in the leadership of St John's Lutheran.

Motion made by Pat Boettcher to adjourn meeting and seconded by Kathy Faschingbauer. Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:40p.m.

Pauline Stertz/Secretary

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

FEBRUARY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Hunger Awareness Meal Reservations Luther College Orchestra 9:00 AM Worship Service & guest preacher, Katie Wagner 10:15 AM Dream Team Meeting 10:15 AM Youth Faith Formation	1 Hunger Awareness Meal Reservations 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Bible Study	2 Hunger Awareness Meal Reservations 11:00 AM Staff Meeting	3 Hunger Awareness Meal Reservations 4:45 PM Wednesday Night Meal 5:30 PM Youth Faith Formation and Camp Promo 6:45 PM Worship Service & guest preacher, Katie Wagner 7:45 PM Camp Ministry Discussion 7:45 PM Youth in Action Discipleship Program (8th -12th gr)	4 Hunger Awareness Meal Reservations 6:00 PM Preschool Board Meeting	5 Hunger Awareness Meal Reservations 12:00 PM Women's Bible Study in Library	6 Hunger Awareness Meal Reservations
7 Hunger Awareness Meal Reservations Deadline 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Youth Faith Formation	8 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Bible Study	9 6:30 PM Church Council Meeting	10  1:00 PM Ash Wednesday Worship 5:30 PM Hunger Awareness Meal with guest speaker, John Sutherland 5:30 PM Youth Faith Formation 6:45 PM Ash Wednesday Worship	11 6:30 PM Foundation Committee Meeting	12 Newsletter Article Deadline 12:00 PM Women's Bible Study in Library	13 9:00 AM Council Retreat
14 Pastor attending a Theological Conf. 9:00 AM Worship Service & Distribution of 1st Gr. Bibles 10:15 AM Youth Faith Formation	15 Pastor attending a Theological Conf. 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Bible Study	16 11:00 AM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Quilting	17 4:45 PM Wednesday Night Meal 5:30 PM Youth Faith Formation 6:45 PM Worship Service & Distribution of 1st Gr. Bibles	18	19 12:00 PM Women's Bible Study in Library 6:00 PM Parents Nite Out 8:00 PM - 7:00 AM High School Lock-In	20
21 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Youth Faith Formation 6:00 PM Mission Trip Meeting	22 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Bible Study 6:15 PM Youth Committee Meeting	23	24 4:45 PM Wednesday Night Meal 5:30 PM Youth Faith Formation 6:45 PM Worship	25	26 12:00 PM Women's Bible Study in Library	27
28 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Youth Faith Formation	29 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Bible Study	1 11:00 AM Staff Meeting	2 4:45 PM Wednesday Night Meal 5:30 PM Youth Faith Formation 6:45 PM Worship	3 6:00 PM Preschool Board Meeting	4 12:00 PM Women's Bible Study in Library	5

ST JOHNS LUTHERAN CHURCH GIVING REPORT									
Number of Contributors and Amounts for 2009-2015 (Weekly Offering Contributions Only)									
Dollar Amounts per Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
0 - \$250	82	69	61	83	71	68	67	67	
\$251-\$499	33	27	38	26	26	31	21	14	
\$500-\$749	24	27	23	27	29	26	18	27	
\$750-\$999	18	13	15	17	16	12	12	17	
\$1000-\$1249	8	16	20	11	14	11	15	13	
\$1250-\$1499	9	5	5	6	12	12	6	5	
\$1500-\$1749	4	6	4	7	4	11	9	9	
\$1750-\$1999	2	5	3	5	2	2	4	5	
\$2000-\$2249	4	3	4	4	5	5	7	4	
\$2250-\$2749	9	5	5	2	5	6	8	9	
\$2750-\$2999	1	6	3	2	2	2	2	1	
\$3000-\$3249	1	2	1	1	3	3	2	4	
\$3250-\$3499	3	0	0	2	0	2	2	2	
\$3500-\$4499	2	3	6	4	4	3	5	4	
\$4500-\$8500	5	5	2	6	4	9	9	9	
TOTALS	205	192	190	205	195	203	190	190	

Congratulations to our council members that were voted in on Sunday, January 24th.

Tyler Halverson

Rod Johnson

Janice Naset

Phil Skaar

Nicodemus Zakrzewicz (youth representative)

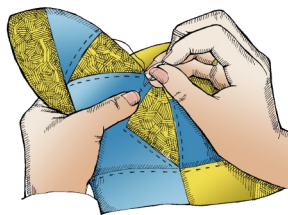


Are you missing your favorite songs in worship? Do you wish you had a voice? Well the Worship Committee is starting a new practice for every 5th Sunday of the year! On that day, the congregation will select the 3 hymns for the day. The only stipulation is that they need to come from the ELW hymnal. First chance is coming fast - Jan. 31!

Music
is the voice of the soul

Bingo will be held the third Sunday of each month at 1:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to meet at St. John's Dining Hall. Bingo will be held Jan – April, Oct and November.

Quilting will meet on February 16, 2016 from 1-4 p.m. All are welcome to participate.



QUILTING GROUP



Our confirmands have written Faith Statements as part of their requirements for Confirmation. We will be showing one each Sunday starting with Confirmation Sunday on the 17th. There will be one each following Sunday until the congregation has seen them all. Be sure to check them out and see what our young people are saying about their faith.

Financial Report-2016

	2014	2015	BUDGET 2015
Beg. Balance - Jan. 1	\$7,513.00	\$6,842.00	
Income - Dec.	\$231,074.00		\$208,981.00
Expenses - Dec.	\$231,745.00	\$235,487.00	\$208,981.00
Balance	\$6,842.00	\$2,264.00	
Loan - Security Financial	\$81,747.00	\$72,754.00	Building Fund
Loan - Security Financial			General Fund
Loan - Security Financial		\$11,000.00	Bathrooms



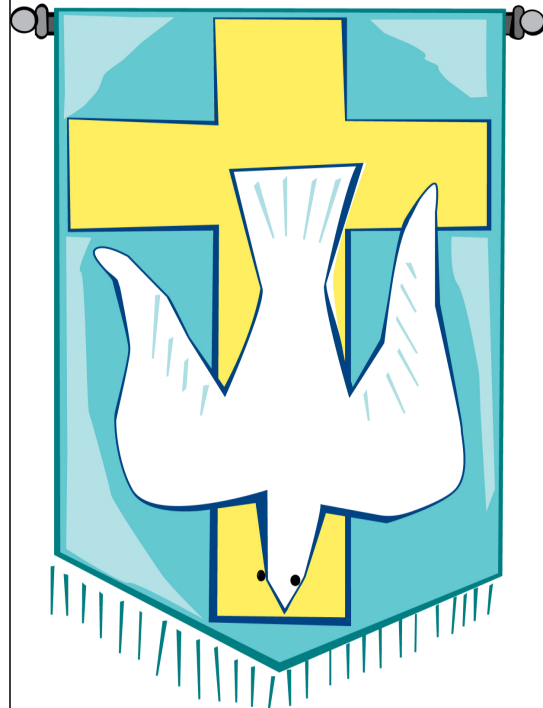


congratulations!

9th GRADE CONFIRMANDS

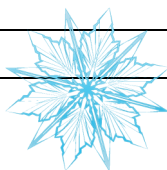
Lydia Berseth
John Bleskacek
Jessica Gengler
Rebecca Johnson
Dayne Kiecker
Cole Michaelsen
Elijah Prill
Chloee Swartz
Kianna Turner
Trey Zwiefelhofer

Confirmation Class





Happy Valentine's Day 1John 4: 16



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.

FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULES

10:15 am Sunday, Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28

Preschool through 3rd Grade,

5:30pm Wednesday, Feb. 4, 10, 17, 24

Preschool: Ages 3, 4, & 5

Kindergarten-2nd grade: Rotation Workshop

3rd Grade Explorers

4th & 5th Grade Bible 101

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Confirmation

HAVE A FAVORITE SOUP YOU'D LOVE TO SHARE?

Soup donations on Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 18, & 25 for the soup suppers would be greatly appreciated. Email Marla @ stjohnsl-marla@bloomer.net or phone 715-568-5446 ext. 12 with date you are

WHERE FAITH IS NURTURED THROUGH HOLY PLAY

**LUTHER PARK CAMP PROMO
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3
5:30-6:45 PM**

**GET THE SCOOP ON 2016 PROGRAMS
REGISTRATION MATERIAL AVAILABLE
FOR KINDERGARTEN-SR. HIGH**

**GUEST SPEAKER JACQUIE SCOATES, LUTHER PARK
PROGRAM DIRECTOR**



PARENT'S NITE OUT

Friday, February 19

Child care provided for children up to 4th grade. Please call 715-568-5446 for more info or to sign up for a night out with adults.



LENTEN SOUP & SANDWICH SUPPERS

**Camp & Activities Fundraiser
Feb. 17, 24, March 2, 9, 16**

Enjoy delicious soups, sandwiches, & desserts made by St. John's youth & parents. Meal served from 5-6 pm. Monetary donations of your choice will support camp & youth activities.



SR. HIGH "LOCK IN"

Where: St. John's Lutheran Church
When: Friday, February 19 - February 20
Time: 8 pm - 7 am
Who: 9th - 12th grade & friends



FRIENDS WELCOME



Week of Hope Sr. High Mission Trip

Sunday, February 21 @ 6 pm next youth and parent gathering in conference room. SEE YOU THEN

1 SPOT AVAILABLE FOR Nashville

***HUNGER AWARENESS MEAL
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10
AN OUTPOURING OF GENEROSITY***

“They gave offerings of whatever they could-far more than they could afford-pleading for the privilege of helping out in the relief of poor Christians.” 2 Corinthians 8:4 The Message

Money given to ELCA World Hunger

Sponsored by Confirmation Youth & Families

Ticket Sales Feb. 3, 7, \$4.00 per person, \$15.00 per family

GUEST SPEAKER: JOHN SUTHERLAND



**HUNGER AWARENESS/EDUCATION EVENT FOR ALL SUNDAY &
WEDNESDAY PRESCHOOL THROUGH SR. HIGH YOUTH**

A TRADITIONAL MALAWI MEAL WILL BE SERVED TO EVERYONE

By donating the cost of one Wed. meal (\$4 per person or \$15 per family) & participating in the awareness event you will become the hands & feet of Jesus for someone less fortunate. Parents of children & middle school youth are asked to participate in the experience with their child. Families wishing to be seated together will receive the third world meal. Carry Outs will not be available.

BREAKING NEWS

LUTHER PARK RECHARGE: A 24 HOUR RETREAT, RECHARGING FAITH THROUGH WORSHIP, FAITH TALKS, WORKSHOPS, RECREATION, SERVICE PROJECTS AND MORE.

**March 6-7, 2016
7 pm Friday-7 pm Saturday
3rd-12th Grade**

Cost: \$75.00 per youth

To register: pick up form from Marla or church office, or register online @ lutherpark.org.



YOUTH ENCOUNTER MINNEAPOLIS QUAKE ZONE BLOOMINGTON, MN----APRIL 1-3, 2016

A TRANSFORMATIONAL WEEKEND FOR GRADES 6-12 WHERE LIVES WILL BE RENEWED AND FAITH WILL BECOME REAL.

FEATURING:

- ♦ **Echelon, a ministry organization that seeks to spread the Gospel of Christ through music and relational ministry.**
- ♦ **Pr. Jonathan Swenson: Paraphrase Theatre, has three great passions in life: faith, family and a love for the Performing arts.**

LOCATION: Hilton Airport, Bloomington, MN

COST: \$170.00 IF REGISTERD BY FEBRUARY 25, \$190.00 after February 25

CONTACT MARLA AT stjohnsl-marla@bloomer.net or 715-568-5446 #12 for more info or to register for event.

PRESCHOOL NEWS:

Registration dates for the 2016 – 2017 school year will be as follows: Jan. 25th – 29th for current families, Jan. 24th & 27th for members of St. John's Lutheran, Feb. 1st for the general public and Open House will be held Feb. 8th, 9th & 10th. If you have any questions, feel free to call Michelle at 715-568-1060. Please help us spread the word. Thank you!



Wednesday Worship Participants

DATE OF SERVICE	1 ACOLTYE	4 COMMUNION SERVERS
FEBRUARY 3	Kylie Culver	Kylie Culver Leah Bleskacek Dawson Krenz Alex Hyke
FEBRUARY 10: ASH WEDNESDAY	Driah Zakrzewicz	Violet Hyke Liz Anderson Dane Michaelson Josh Prill
FEBRUARY 17	Cal Lueck	Cal Lueck Tavyn Jones Josh Prill Mikayla Ruffedt
FEBRUARY 24	Trent Tozer	Trent Tozer Gunnar Grambo Dalton Grambo Cayce Grambo



Sunday Worship Participants

DATE OF SERVICE	1 ACOLTYE	4 COMMUNION SERVERS
FEBRUARY 7	Trey Baker	Trey Baker Dylan Baker
FEBRUARY 14	Kelly Yeakey	Kelly Yeakey Camryn Yeakey
FEBRUARY 21	Skylar Zwiefelhofer	Skylar Zwiefelhofer Trey Zwiefelhofer
FEBRUARY 28	Tylor Calkins	Tylor Calkins Mitchel Calkins Cathy Calkins