

# St. John's Lutheran Church

## Mission Statement:

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

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Church News - Calendar

News from Pastor Halom

Youth & Family Announcements

NW Synod News

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Annual Meeting Minutes	1,6
Prayers	2
Church News	3
Finance Update	3
Calendar	4
Council Minutes	5,6
News from Pastor Halom	7
Youth News	8
NW Synod News	9

Our church is part of the Chippewa Valley Conference, one of the conferences of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. Our church contributes dues to the conference which allows it to support ministries within our Synod. At the January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting, the Chippewa Valley Conference voted to send \$500 each to the following ministry organizations: Lutheran Campus Ministry at UW-Stout, Luther Park Bible Camp, the Lay School of Ministry, and Clergy Life Coaching. With these donations, YOU have made an impact on ministry that makes a difference for people of all ages. These donations are reminded that the church is bigger than our individual being and that together we make a positive difference far beyond our walls.



## Minutes—Annual Meeting on Jan. 17, 2021

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM by Church Council President Tyler Halverson.

**Attendance:** 56 voting members, present virtually, via Zoom.

**Parliamentarian:** Tyler Halverson.

**Devotion:** By Pastor Martin Halom.

**Approval of Minutes from 2020 Annual Meeting:** A motion was made by Phil Skaar, seconded by Rodney Johnson, to approve the minutes. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Financial Report:** Council Treasurer Lydia Blaha reviewed the 2020 financial report. A motion was made by Kathy Tozer, seconded by Phil Skaar, to approve the financial report as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Presentation of 2021 Budget:** Council Treasurer Lydia Blaha presented the budget. A motion was made by Suzi McInnis, seconded by Kim Schultze, to approve the 2021 Budget as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

*(Continued on page 6)*

Office number: 715-568-5446

Like us on Facebook! **St. John's Lutheran Church - Bloomer, WI**

St. John's Website: [www.Stjohns-bloomer.org](http://www.Stjohns-bloomer.org)



## Please Join Our Church Family In Prayer

As we enter the month of February, 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

Carolyn Bergh, Maggie Olson, Tom Buchner, Arlene Christianson, Ilene Pingel, Merv Marquardt, Willard Rogge, Rod Martin, Donna Kerckhove & Rene Kerckhove (Pat Prill's daughters), Steve Trubshaw, Friends of Darlene Hass, Margueritte Werner.

### Prayers for our Active Military

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

### Prayers for the Saints

Prayers for the week of February 7<sup>th</sup>: Terri and Tom Smith; Dona Stanford; Donald and Karen Steinmetz; Dave and Pauline Stertz; Steven Stertz; Deanna Stevens and Jordyn, Travis and Nichole Nordrum.

Prayers for the week of February 14<sup>th</sup>: Vernon and Deanna Stuckert; Marlin and Monica Stuckert; Jonathon, Shawna and Gabriel Stump; Charlie, Nicole and Conor Sundberg; Dale, Sanja, Alyson and Andrew Swan.

Prayers for the week of February 21<sup>st</sup>: Clark, Kristi, Chloe and Clayne Swartz; Eric, Katie, Genevieve, Scarlett and Vincent Telschow; Cody, Susan, Abigail and Ben Thiede; Jerome, Tia and Tiana Thomley.

Prayers for the week of February 28<sup>th</sup>: Owen Thompto; Bert and Kathy Tozer; Brent, Ilona, Izibel and Trent Tozer; Mary and Steve Trubshaw; Jeff, Dorene, Alicyn and Morgyn Turner; Kenneth and Janice Turner.

Prayers for the week of January 31<sup>st</sup>: Janice Turner; Melissa and Kianna Turner; Ross, Jessica, Avery and Madelyn Waldofski; Luke, Jennifer, Kayden and Morgan Walta; Jessica and Dehija Walters; Bob, Cathy and Nathan Weber.

# Church News

## HELP WANTED!

The Luther Park annual meeting will be held virtually **Saturday, Feb. 6 at 10 am.**

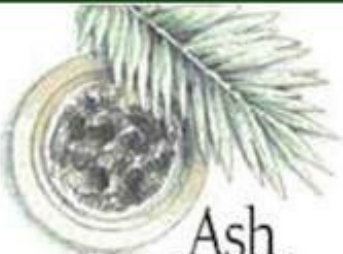
**St. John's is allowed two voting members in addition to Pastor Martin.**

We're looking for two people with Zoom capabilities to attend this meeting. Please contact Pastor Martin if you have any interest!

## FINANCE UPDATE

Year-To-Date as of Jan. 29, 2021

Year-To-Date:	
Weekly Contributions	\$ 23,593.83
Other Raised Funds	24.00
<b>Total Received</b>	<b>\$ 23,617.83</b>
- Expenses	\$-19,707.12
<b>Total remaining after expenses</b>	<b>\$ 3,910.71</b>



Ash  
Wednesday

Dear Lord, As we enter this Solemn and Holy Season, we pray that you would send your Holy Spirit upon us that we might prepare ourselves for these coming 40 days of Lent. Even though we may no longer wear sackcloth and ashes, we do seek to humble ourselves so that we can understand the magnificence of Your Love for us as You humbled Yourself and gave Your Life on the Cross that we might receive the gift of Eternal Glory with You. AMEN.

*jucoolimages.com*

### Deadline for March Newsletter

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

**February 25th.**

Thank You!!

## February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>31</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service (In person with safety protocols) 10:00 AM Worship Committee Meeting	<b>1</b> 6:00 PM Preschool Board Meeting (zoom)	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 11:00 AM Bloomer Clergy Assoc. Mtg-Pastor 5:30 PM Faith Formation - Group A 6:45 PM Worship Service (In person with safety protocols)	<b>4</b> Youth Ministry Extravaganza	<b>5</b> Youth Ministry Extravaganza	<b>6</b> Youth Ministry Extravaganza 10:00 AM Luther Park Annual Meeting
<b>7</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service (In person with safety protocols) 5:30 PM Youth In Action	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 3:30 PM Staff Meeting (zoom) 5:30 PM Church Council Meeting	<b>10</b> 5:30 PM Faith Formation - Group B 6:45 PM Worship Service (In person with safety protocols)	<b>11</b> 10:00 AM Pastor's Conference	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service (In person with safety protocols) 5:30 PM Youth In Action	<b>15</b> 5:00 PM Youth Committee Meeting (zoom)	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Ash Wednesday 5:30 PM Faith Formation - Group A 6:45 PM Worship Service (In person with safety protocols)	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 9:00 AM Walking Together (Synod Event) - Virtual
<b>21</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service (In person with safety protocols)	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 3:30 PM Staff Meeting (zoom)	<b>24</b> 5:30 PM Faith Formation - Group B 6:45 PM Worship Service (In person with safety protocols)	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Youth Quake	<b>27</b> 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM Youth Quake
<b>28</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service (In person with safety protocols) 5:30 PM Youth In Action	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 11:00 AM Bloomer Clergy Assoc. Mtg-Pastor 5:30 PM Faith Formation - Group A 6:45 PM Worship Service (In person with safety protocols)	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>

# Church Council Minutes (via Zoom) January 12, 2021

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 5:30 PM by President Tyler Halverson.

**Opening Devotion:** Prayer by Pastor Martin.

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by Suzi McInnis, seconded by Marcy Trubshaw, to approve the agenda, with flexibility. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, December 8, 2020:** A motion was made by Suzi McInnis, seconded by Tom Ewings, to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

## **Financial Report:**

Gathering information to apply for second PPP loan.

Audit will be completed Friday, January 15, 2021.

A motion was made by Marcy Trubshaw, seconded by Tom Ewings, to approve the financial report. Motion carried.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Youth and Family Ministry:**

- Planning has begun for 2021 Mission trip. Plan A is to travel to Colorado. Plan B is a mission closer to home.

- Ecumenical Progressive Christmas Pageant was a success, with Gregory Chojnacki in a speaking role and Emmitt, Henry, and Lucy Anderson as shepherds. This will hopefully become an annual event in Bloomer.

- Preschool:

Working on licensing procedure and hiring process and looking for ways to integrate preschool with our youth program.

### **Council President's Report:**

Call to members to "attend" Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 17, 2021 at 10:00 AM.

Reminder to submit items to be included on the next agenda by noon Tuesday of the week prior to council meeting.

### **Pastor's Report:**

- Prayer Vigil: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 6:00 PM.

Virtual prayer vigil prior to Inauguration.

Will advertise in Bloomer Advance, Facebook, worship announcement.

### **Membership Update:**

- Transfer in: Pastor Melinda, Jaden, and Dylan Halom.

- Transfer out: Rod Schmidt, Richard and Michelle Gasper, Nadine and James Bresina.

A motion was made by Tom Ewings, seconded by Marcy Trubshaw, to approve the membership update. Motion carried.

# Church Council Minutes (continued)

## Old Business

**COVID Update:** Discussed parameters for reopening St. John’s for worship.

- A motion was made by Melissa Sarauer, seconded by Suzi McInnis, to return to in-person worship, beginning Sunday, January 31, 2021 at 9:00 AM and Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 6:45 PM, according to social distancing guidelines set by Worship Committee in June 2020. Motion carried.
- Online worship will continue to be offered on a weekly basis.
- Youth committee will meet regarding decision to return to in-person learning.
- Annual Meeting: Pastor Martin will send link for joining Annual Meeting. Access can be made via internet, smart phone, or telephone. Please plan to join us at 10:00 AM Sunday, January 17, 2021.
- A motion to adjourn was made at 7:00 PM by Melissa Sarauer, seconded by Suzi McInnis. Motion carried.

**Closing Prayer:** The Lord’s Prayer led by Pastor Martin.

**\*\*ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD VIA ZOOM ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2021 AT 10:00 AM.\*\***

Next regular meeting of council will be February 9, 2021 at 5:30 via Zoom.

Lisa Prill, Secretary

Present via Zoom: Pastor Martin, Tyler Halverson, Melissa Sarauer, Lydia Blaha, Suzi McInnis, Kathy Tozer, Tom Ewings, Adam Anderson, Marcy Trubshaw, Lisa Prill. Absent: Pat Prill, Driah Zakrzewicz.

\*\*\*\*\*

**(ANNUAL MEETING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)**

## New Business:

### Constitution/Bylaw Revisions:

A motion was made by Phil Skaar, seconded by Suzi McInnis, to approve the constitution and bylaw revisions as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Introduction of Church Council Candidates:** Tom Ewings presented the candidates for three council positions and one youth representative:

- |                |                      |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Alicia Bonczyk | Terri Smith          |
| Janelle Yeakey | Kaitlyn Bohl (youth) |

Thank you to the nominating committee: Nancy Schindler, Tom Ewings, Lisa Prill.

There being no other nominations, a motion was made by Barb Ross, seconded by Tom Ewings, to close nominations and declare a unanimous ballot of candidates for council. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Synod Assembly Voting Members – April 17, 2021 – to be held virtually:** One male and one female representative are needed. None volunteered at this time.

### Additional Announcements:

**In-person worship** will return on Sunday, January 31, 2021 at 9:00 AM and Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 6:45 PM. Social distancing guidelines and safety protocol will be in place to prevent spread of COVID-19. In-person worship will continue providing that Chippewa County does not return to severe risk category. Virtual worship service will continue online, with the possibility of introducing a livestream worship service.

**Prayer vigil** is scheduled to be held virtually on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 6:00 PM via Zoom. Prayers will be lifted for our nation for a peaceful transition of power during the Presidential Inauguration.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Barb Ross, seconded by Suzi McInnis, to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 AM. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Closing Prayer:** Pastor Martin ended the meeting with prayer.

Submitted by Lisa Prill

St. John’s Lutheran Church Secretary

# News From Pastor Martin

## THE RETURN FROM EXILE

In the 8+ years of serving at St. John's, it dawns on me that I spend very little time teaching and preaching about the Old Testament return from exile. The books of Ezra and Nehemiah, likely originally written as one collective book, outline Israel's return after being held captive in the empire of Babylon. After the kingdom of Persia captures the kingdom of Babylon in 538 BCE, King Cyrus declared that Israel could return home to Jerusalem around 536 BCE. Nearly 100 years later in 445, Ezra and Nehemiah return to Jerusalem as leaders of the Israelite nation to restore some order to the city and to its people. Suddenly, returning to in person worship for the first time since October 4th doesn't seem so bad! It's all about perspective, my friends. It's all about perspective.

I know that returning to in person worship is a BIG DEAL to many of us. Yes, yes it is. But if there's anything I've learned from the Faithful Innovation Network process, it's realizing that how we do church, how we practice our faith, is not equal to how we do worship. Worship is indeed a critical part. It is where we hear the Word, where we are fed and nourished, and where we are sent out into the world! That's why I'm looking forward to in person worship again. But to think that people worshiping from home are not hearing the Word, are not sent into the world, and are not part of us, is simply folly. They are simply missing out on communion. They still are a part of our family.

I hope that we can all realize that growing in our faith, following as disciples of Christ, is not limited to in person worship. When Ezra brought back a group of Israelites from Babylon, they instituted a very important reminder. Ezra led a Covenant renewal ceremony where the Israelites would hear once again what is known as the Torah (the law), what we know as the books of Genesis-Deuteronomy. Ezra reminded them once again what it meant to live as the Jewish nation, following God's commands as a part of everyday life. This ceremony was not focused solely on worship. It was about life!

So as much as I look forward to seeing some of you in person again for worship, I also want us to treat this "return from exile" as a covenant renewal moment. No, I'm not going to ask us to memorize Genesis-Deuteronomy, but I do hope that we all can remember "Growing disciples who eagerly share Christ's love." This is the official St. John's mission statement. It is a statement of purpose, of direction, from which everything we do comes from. Regular worship is a part of this statement, however that might be. But discipleship is more than just worship. It's about sacrifice, about loving our neighbor, about forgiveness – you get the gist.

With a newly elected church council, it is my hope that we can once again not only return to in person worship, but that we can once again renew our mission. We need you and your God-given gifts. We need your recommitment to grow as a faithful follower of Christ. And this can be done in the name of St. John's (thank you Meals on Wheels volunteers!) as well as beyond, even at your place of work. Just like with Ezra: following God's commands as a part of everyday life.

Welcome back everyone. Whether you choose to come in person or remain safe at home, welcome back. Now let's get back to our business of making disciples who eagerly share Christ's love!

*Pastor Martin*

# Youth Announcements

## YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

### CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

Confirmation students, please join us on Zoom for class! If you have any questions about which week you are in, please email or call Katie or Pastor Martin.

- 2/3: Group A
- 2/10: Group B
- 2/17: Group A
- 2/24: Group B



### YOUTH IN ACTION



**Who:** 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth  
**When:** Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>  
 @ 5:30-7:30pm  
**Where:** St. John's Lutheran Church  
 Join us for a time of fellowship, games, and most importantly...FOOD!! We are FINALLY able to be together in person again!

## QUAKE

*(aka Youth Quake)*

Join us at St. John's Lutheran Church for a virtual option of Quake! Activities include: worships, workshops, improv comedy games, virtual escape rooms, and other social activities.

We are capping our numbers at 15, so sign up now!

Cost is \$50.

### JAM SCHEDULE

Starting February 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will be holding JAM in person! Pre-K will meet Sundays @ 10-10:30 AM.  
 Kindergarten-5<sup>th</sup> Grade will meet alternating Wednesdays at 5:30-6:30 PM.  
 Please see schedule below.

- 2/3: Kindergarten-2nd Grade
- 2/10: 3rd—5th Grade
- 2/17: Kindergarten—2nd grade
- 2/24: 3rd—5th Grade



# Northwest Synod Announcement



## Leaving a Legacy Workshop:

*Plan now to make a future gift from your estate to support the work of Christ.*

If you are considering an estate plan, reviewing/updating a plan, or would simply like to know more about thoughtful estate planning that will consider your heirs and your church, this event is important for you!

Each session will focus on thoughtful estate planning and giving. Cindy Halverson, our Regional Gift Planner from the ELCA Foundation, will lead the presentation and discuss how each of us can make informed decisions that will bless the work of Christ into the future.

You will learn:

- + The role of a will in planning your estate
- + Tax-wise giving tips
- + How to get the best assets to the right beneficiaries
- + Why 70% of estate plans fail to pay out the way the donor intended
- + How to express your values through your estate planning
- + Resources to accomplish your goals

*Sponsored by the Northern Great Lakes Synod in partnership with the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin and The ELCA Foundation*

The Endowment Fund of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin is made possible by many generous gifts, both from estates as in a planned gift and from single gift donations. Annual disbursements from this endowment continue to support ministry that includes:

- + Equipping and supporting leaders through seminary debt assistance and training lay leaders
- + Strengthening congregational vitality
- + Developing ministry for the next generation through first third of life



**Cindy Halverson**  
ELCA Regional Gift Planner

N46W28717 Willow Brook Ct.  
Hartland, WI 53029  
cynthia.halverson@elca.org  
(773) 380-2572  
elca.org/Give/ELCA-Foundation

February 11, 2021  
6:00-7:30 p.m.

or

February 13, 2021  
9:00-10:30 a.m.

To register, go to:

<http://nwswi.org/generosity/leaving-a-legacy-workshop>



Northwest Synod of Wisconsin  
— Episcopate, Ministry, Church, Community —  
endowmentfund.org



**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
1403 Newman Street  
Bloomer, WI 54724

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

715-568-5446  
Email: [stjohnsl-secretary@bloomer.net](mailto:stjohnsl-secretary@bloomer.net)

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage Paid  
Permit #15  
Bloomer, WI

**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](mailto:pastormartin@bloomer.net)