



St. John's Lutheran Church

Mission Statement:

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

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Church News-Calendar
- Annual Meeting Minutes
- Letter from Pastor Halom
- Youth & Preschool News

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THE WHOLENESS WHEEL

Social Health

This month, I'd like to lift up the importance of caring for our social health. This is a concern that has grown in my heart as your pastor ever since March, 2020. Yes, I'm sorry for bringing it upon yet another time: Covid-19.

One doesn't need to be a licensed anthropologist, therapist, or counselor to observe that Covid caused us to isolate ourselves (in the most literal sense of the word, mind you!) further and further. I recall trying to teach confirmation on zoom - ugh. I remember getting back to in person class too - better, but still ugh. It's almost like we forgot how to enjoy each other and the gift that comes with in person connection! And from my perspective, it's also what's playing a significant role in the decline of our social health. Not the ONLY factor, but a significant factor nonetheless!

A few years ago, at our first council retreat during my tenure, Pastor Erin Nelson led us in a conversation that led us to the conclusion that we needed to rebuild the relationships within our church family. Since then, I have seen our church council take that conclusion to heart and truly offer their time and energy in creating opportunities for us to gather in addition to worship. In fact, the fellowship committee was largely composed of church council members!

I hope you've had a chance to enjoy at least some of their work:

- * Chili contest
- * Dessert contest
- * Soup contest
- * Annual meeting brunch
- * Grandparents day celebration
- * Bingo with a White Elephant twist!

Each of these activities are aimed at creating community, something we all need, regardless of where we land on the introvert/extrovert scale.

This past weekend, our confirmation youth helped drive this point home. At our full night lock-in, 19 confirmation students were joined by five high school youth and a record 15 friends! I recall an early conversation with one of the friends who wasn't too pleased that we displaced her phone for the night. I was proud to see one of our youth inform her friend that you will be way too busy having fun to even notice the absence of her phone! Turns out, she was right. Instead of spending the night at home with their phones, our youth came together and had so much fun just being kids, including a very meaningful worship at the lock-in. Why? Relationships matter.

When God created the world, God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." (Genesis 2:18). What does that tell you about God? Relationships are a gift from God to be tended to, nurtured, and sustained. We were created as built in helpers to each other.

Who is in your inner circle? Who knows your faults and commits to you anyway? Whom have you welcomed into your life? Make the effort to come together. You never know what new friend is out there!

Pastor Martin

Office number: 715-568-5446

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St. John's Website: 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: stjohnsl-secretary@bloomer.net

Prayers of Healing For Our Church Family

Rich Helgeson; Jessica Schwarzenberger; Sarah Wittrock; Arne Windsor; Pat Prill; Art Klingenberg; Nancy Zogleman (Amanda Larson's grandmother); Renee Grambo; Wayne Zogleman (Amanda Larson's Grandfather); Arlene Christianson; Steve Trubshaw; Dohna Kerckhove (Pat Prill's daughter).

Prayers For Our Active Military

Dalton Grambo, Danielle Shipman, Kelsey Leavens, Trenton Beaudette

Prayers For the Saints

Prayers for the week of Feb. 4th: Brian, Cathy, Mitch and Tylor Calkins; Marsha Callstrom; Kyle, Stephanie and Karter Chevrier; Arlene and Harley Christianson; Josh, Malia, Colt, Huck Clements; Jeff Cole; Barbara and Mel Crisp.

Prayers for the week of Feb. 11th: Thomas and Kylie Culver; Kelly, Laken and Tavyn Custer; Jacqueline and Jay Dachel; Pamela and Russ Dachel; Payton Dachel; Keenan, Samantha, Ivy and Jennings Dahl; Steve Durch; Judy and Teena Ellison.

Prayers for the week of Feb. 18th: Adam, Tracia, Connor and Mason Ewings; Jackie and Thomas Ewings; Daniel and Kathleen Faschingbauer; Evelyn Ferstenou; Jackie, Monty, Addison and Brycen Fetting; Edith Fleming; Carlene Fox.

Prayers for the week of Feb. 25th: Sara, Connor and Gavin Gehrig; Don and Kathlyn Geissler; Jill, Steve, Lauren, Stephanie and Jessica Gengler; Debra and Jerry Gillette; Alan, Haley (Pierce), Keenah and Larissa (Chevrier) Gingras; Dianne Goettl.

FAITH STATEMENT






When God created the earth, animals and people he gave people an amazing gift to have free will to do what they want even if it is against God's will. And even if it disappoints God he still forgives us. We can do as much evil in the world and God still forgives. Now this is amazing to me because sometimes it's hard to forgive someone, especially if you strongly disagree with their thoughts, opinions and beliefs. But yet God still forgives. Now what can you take away from this is that God will always love you and forgive you, God will always have a plan for you and last of all God will always give you another chance not to make things right but to show that you're a child of God.

One of my favorite quotes from the Bible is about forgiveness "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." **Colossians 3:13** This is very important to me because it reminds me to not judge someone as I do not know why they did it, if something is going on in their life, or if they even meant to do it and it was an accident.

FEBRUARY 2024 CALENDAR

Faith Statement

FEBRUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Worship Committee/Music	29 8:00am Bible Study	30	31 1:00pm Staff Meeting 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Wednesday Meals 5:30pm - 6:30pm Faith Formation	1	2	3 10:00am Luther Park Annual Meeting
4 9:00am Worship Service-Baptism Abraham Sarauer 	5 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Smiles in Motion at Preschool 11:30am - 2:30pm Preschool Parent/Teachers Conferences 4:00pm - 6:30pm Preschool Parent/Teachers Conferences	6 9:00am Smiles in Motion at Preschool 11:30am - 2:30pm Preschool Parent/Teachers Conferences 4:00pm - 6:30pm Preschool Parent/Teacher Conferences	7 No Preschool 10:30am Bloomer Clergy Association Mtg 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Wednesday Meals 5:30pm - 6:30pm Faith Formation-Confirmation Only 6:45pm Worship Service - Tentative First Communion 	8 No preschool 9:30am Pastor's Conference 7:00pm Conference Assembly via Zoom	9 No preschool	10
11 9:00am Worship Service - First Communion 5:30pm Youth In Action 	12 8:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Preschool Committee Meeting	13 1:00pm Staff Meeting 5:15pm Youth Committee Meeting	14 Valentine's Day Ash Wednesday 2:00pm Bible Study 5:30pm Hunger Awarene: 6:45pm Worship Service 	15	16 3:30pm Youth Quake	17 9:00am Walking Together, Bethany Lutheran in Rice Lake
18 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Council Retreat at Luther Park	19 8:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Church Council Meeting	20 1:00pm - 4:00pm Quilting Group 	21 2:00pm Bible Study 3:30pm - 4:30pm Fed & Forgiveness 4:45pm Wednesday Meals 5:30pm - 6:30pm Faith Formation 6:45pm Worship Service	22	23 DEADLINE FOR MARCH NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS	24
25 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Music for Mission meeting	26 8:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Staff Meeting	27	28 2:00pm Bible Study 3:30pm - 4:30pm Fed & Forgiveness 4:45pm Wednesday Meals 5:30pm - 6:30pm Faith Formation 6:45pm Worship Service	29	1	2

Statement of Faith

I have seen God impact my life many times. God has had a huge impact in my gymnastics career. From helping me through an injury, to helping me succeed in many of my goals, helping me mentally, and being there during my meets. Going through so many injuries including back, ankle, elbow, hip, knee, etc, I have seen God help me through these all. When I had an ankle injury before one of my meets, I was upset because I wanted and needed to compete at my full potential. Of course it didn't disappear in a day, but when meet day came, I was back to my full and best potential I could've hoped for.. Trying to get new bar skills is always the hardest for me, but after lots of hard work and with some help from God, I was able to get new bar skills. Many mental struggles have always been there, but one always stuck out. I had succeeded on a hard skill on beam, and later that month it wasn't there anymore. Later after dedication, I got it back quickly too. God is always there at my meets. Knowing God is there at my gymnastics meets helps me to go at my full potential. God has always been there for me and I am more than grateful for that. Knowing he is there makes me feel better. God is very important to me. My life is in God's hands, and whenever I am struggling and going through hard times, I always think that everything happens for a reason. God has this plan for me and it happened to me and my family because we could handle it, and will handle it. God is always right and God's plan is what I will always agree with. God is such an amazing person.

Bible Verse: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." – Philippians 4:13

Annual Meeting Minutes Jan. 21, 2024

"Post Annual Meeting" Council Meeting Minutes

Call to Order – meeting was called to order at 10:02 am by Dorene Turner, Council President. 74 people present, 69 in person and 5 online.

Opening Devotion – led by Pastor Martin, he shared from Called by God to Serve, "Focus on Mission".

Approval of 2023 Minutes

A **motion was made** by Amanda Larson to approve the minutes from the 2023 Annual Meeting, seconded by Sarah Wittrock. Motion carried.

New Business

Elections - The nominating committee, represented by David Lane, presented the candidates for 2 council positions and youth representative. **Kay Anderson, Jason Graski, Aubrie Bohl – Youth Representative**

A **motion was made** by Tyler Halverson to accept the nominations and declare a unanimous ballot, seconded by Beth Halverson. Motion carried

2024 Council Members with term end dates:	*Dorene Turner	2026	*Janelle Yeakey	2029
	*Kyle Prill	2026	*Alicia Bonczyk	2029
	*Jeff Cole	2025	*Sarah Wittrock	2025
	*Jason Graski	2029	*Aubrie Bohl	2025
			*Jamie Keller	2025
			*Kay Anderson	2029

Nominating Committee for 2025 elections: no volunteers, council will determine committee at a later date.

Synod Assembly: David Lane from the nominating committee presented Tyler and Kristine Mickelson to represent the church at the Synod Assembly. A **motion was made** by Ellen Hudacek to have Tyler and Kristine Mickelson attend the Synod Assembly, seconded by Karen Johnson. Motion carried.

Old Business – none

Reports -

- Written Reports - no questions.

- Financial Report – no questions.

A **motion was made** by Jan Helgeson to approve the financial report, seconded by Kay Anderson. Motion carried.

- Approval of Budget – Barb Ross explained the changes to the budget and items that were added. No questions or discussion. A **motion was made** to approve the 2024 budget by Rita Bitney, seconded by Beth Halverson. Motion carried.

- Declaration of Election Results – see elections above

Closing Prayer – Pastor led the church in a closing prayer.

Adjournment—A **motion was made** to adjourn the meeting at 10:21 am by Jeff Cole, seconded by Amanda Larson. Motion carried. Minutes submitted by Janelle Yeakey, Secretary

Council Meeting—Post Annual Meeting

A **motion was made** by Sarah Wittrock to elect Dorene Turner as President. Seconded by Janelle Yeakey. Motion carried unanimously.

A **motion was made** by Jamie Keller to elect Jeff Cole as Vice President. Seconded by Sarah Wittrock. Motion carried unanimously.

A **motion was made** by Sarah Wittrock to elect Kay Anderson as Treasurer. Seconded by Aubrie Bohl. Motion carried unanimously.

A **motion was made** by Sarah Wittrock to elect Janelle Yeakey as Secretary. Seconded by Dorene Turner, Motion carried unanimously.

The four elected officers will have check signing ability for the church.

Committees – explanation of committees was given and council members determined which ones they would serve on. *Discipleship* – Dorene Turner; *Fellowship* – Janelle Yeakey, Kay Anderson & Aubrie Bohl; *Preschool* – Sarah Wittrock; *Social Ministry* – (none); *Property* – Jamie Keller & Jason Graski; *Worship & Music* – Jeff Cole; *Youth* – Alicia Bonczyk.

Council Retreat – A discussion on possible dates for the Council Retreat with February 11th being the top vote getter. February 18th & 25th were a close 2nd and 3rd option. Pastor will share more details as it is organized.

Next Meeting – Future meetings will occur on the 3rd Monday of the month at 6pm. Next meeting will be February 19th at 6 pm.

Members Present: Pastor Martin, Janelle Yeakey, Barb Ross, Dorene Turner, Jamie Keller, Jeff Cole, Sarah Wittrock, Kyle Prill, Aubrie Bohl, Kay Anderson. Others Present: NA **Members Absent:** Alicia Bonczyk.

Minutes submitted by Janelle Yeakey, Secretary.

Church Council Minutes

January 15, 2023

Call to Order - meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Dorene Turner, Council President.

Opening Devotion – Jeff led the council in a devotion from Christ in our Home .

Approval of the Agenda -A motion was made by Janelle Yeakey to approve the agenda with flexibility, seconded by Jamie Keller. Motion carried.

Approval of last Council Minutes - A motion was made Terri Smith to approve the minutes from the December 18, 2023 meeting, seconded by Jeff Cole. Motion carried.

Financial Report -

	Year to Date (Jan-Dec 2023) (w/estate gift of \$349,201.25)	Year to Date(Jan-Dec 2023) (w/o estate gift \$349,201.25)
Income	\$ 587,492.39 (Inc CD interest income)*	\$238,291.14
Expenses	\$ 258,594.68	\$258,594.68
Difference	\$ 328,897.71	- \$ 20,303.54

*Note: correction from Council Minutes to include interest earned on balances.

CD's	\$100,000	\$200,000
Location	Security Financial Bank	Security Financial Bank
% APR	5.25	5.25
Timeframe	12 months	12 months
Expires	8-8-24	8-3-24

All money is insured through FDIC

A motion was made by Barb Ross to accept the financial report. Seconded by Janelle Yeakey. Motion carried.

Old Business-

Budget: Finalized last meeting.

Volunteer Appreciation Days: Decision was made to use main street café, \$10/person(sausage, eggs, French toast, pastries and orange juice) **Main Street Café has not returned call on if price includes tax/tip**

Good Samaritan Fund -

Annual Meeting – January 21st, 2024 with backup date of January 28th, zoom option will be made available. Pastor will work on finding a parliamentarian. Brunch to follow.

New Business –

Synod assembly voting members: Tyler and Kristin Mickelson are willing to serve

Townhall meeting - will revisit after annual meeting

Committee Reports

Appreciation Days

Pastor's Report - A motion was made by Janelle Yeakey to welcome Ryan, Samantha, Jaxin, and Jordon Lang as members at St. John's Lutheran Church. Seconded by Terri Smith. Motion carried.

Pastor will look into scheduling a council retreat for the spring.

Discipleship – needs to be started again, looking for 4-6 people

Fellowship Minutes - looking for more members to join to help with the 'fun' planning (minutes provided)

Preschool Minutes – (provided)

Social Ministry Minutes - none

(Continued on page 6)

Youth & Family News

Church Council Minutes (continued)

Quake

Middle and high school students, save the following dates: February 16-18. Quake will be happening in Wisconsin Dells at the Wilderness Lodge. We are excited about this opportunity for our youth, as it has been a success before! We are thrilled with the list of students we have going and have enough chaperone support. If your student hasn't signed up yet and is interested, please contact Amanda Larson or Pastor Martin as soon as possible.

Subs Needed for JAM

Thanks to all our returning teachers this Fall for JAM, we are looking for people who would be interested in substituting on Wednesday nights. Please contact Amanda Larson for more information so we can get you on a list. Also, if there is a specific age group you want to work with or would not like to work with, please let us know that information as well.

Upcoming Fundraisers

Please keep an eye out for upcoming information regarding our next fundraiser. We are planning on running our pizza fundraiser again. More details coming soon.

Dates to Consider

There will not be Faith Formation on Wednesday, February 14th due to the Hunger Awareness Meal for Ash Wednesday. Dinner will begin at 5:30PM. For more information regarding this meal, please contact Pastor Martin. The funds raised from this event/fundraiser are going to be donated to the Sojourners House in Eau Claire, WI as we raise awareness for homelessness in the Chippewa Valley.

Luther Park Registration Now Open

Summer camp registration for Luther Park is officially open! This year's theme is "Created to Be: Psalm 139:14." If your child is interested in attending or you have questions about camp, please go to their website (lutherpark.org) and/or contact Pastor Martin or Amanda Larson. Early bird rates end on March 1st and final camper payments are due on June 1st. *Reminder: if your child participated in two of the fundraisers, our church will reimburse 50% of the camp costs (does not include registration or canteen). Please contact Amanda Larson or Pastor Martin if you have any additional questions regarding reimbursement.

Youth Ministry Pictures

We are looking for pictures that anyone may have taken last year (2022-23 academic year). If you have any pictures that you're able to share, whether it's from JAM, confirmation, lock-in, or a youth trip, please contact Amanda Larson or Pastor Martin. We can forward you a link to a Google Drive. Otherwise, photos can get emailed to: stjohnslutheran.bloomer@gmail.com

(council minutes continued)

- Property Minutes** – (provided)
- Worship & Music Minutes** – (provided)
- Youth Minutes** – (provided)

Additional Items and Announcements

Next Meeting: will be finalized at the election meeting, tentatively set for Feb 19th

Adjournment - a motion was made at 7:00 pm by Janelle Yeakey to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Barb Ross. Motion carried.

Members Present: Pastor Martin, Janelle Yeakey, Barb Ross, **Dorene** Turner, Jamie Keller, Terri Smith, Jeff Cole, Others Present: NA **Members Absent:** Kaitlyn Bohl, Sarah Wittrock, Kyle Prill, Alicia Bonczyk,

Minutes submitted by Janelle Yeakey, Secretary

Youth *In Action*

Next meeting is **Sunday, Feb. 11th** at 5:30 p.m.



NEWS FROM PRESCHOOL STAFF!

CHURCH NEWS

Amanda



Sneak Peak Into the Program

Mrs. Larson has a lot packed into the month of February. As we start the new year, the various themes that will be explored are Dental Health, Valentine's Day, and Feelings (Kindness, Love, Happiness).

The children follow weekly focus walls that teach them their letters, shapes, colors, and numbers. As their teacher, I try to integrate these subject areas into the curriculum plans and daily activities that the children can choose from. It's going to be a busy and festive month! Make sure to follow our Facebook page to see what our students are up to.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences will be held on Monday, February 5th and Tuesday, February 6th. Sign-up sheets are on the preschool counter. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Larson about your child's conference.



Important Dates to Save

There will be no school on Wednesday, February 7th through Friday, February 9th. .

Valentine's Day Parties

Our Valentine's Parties will be hosted on Tuesday, February 13th (TTH) and Wednesday, February 14th (MWF). Your child is welcome to bring Valentines to share with their friends and a special treat. Letters have been sent to your child's take-home folder including a class list.

Giving Tree

We have a giving tree set up in the preschool shared space if anyone is interested in supporting the preschool program with some additional supplies we could benefit from. Please reach out to Amanda Larson if you have any questions about this opportunity. As always, we appreciate your continued support.

Smiles In Motion

Smiles in Motion will be visiting our classrooms to discuss dental health on Monday, February 5th (MWF) and Tuesday, February 6th (TTH).

Wait List

Registration is currently full for the 2023-24 academic year. For those who are interested in enrolling your child in our program, we do have an active waitlist that we started. If anyone has any questions, please contact Amanda Larson at mobile (715)279-6962 or email amanda_stjohnspreschool@aol.com. We are excited to welcome new students to our program, and we hope to see some familiar faces returning as well.

CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY

The 2024 Northwest Synod Assembly at UWEC will elect a new Bishop. A new process to elect a bishop will launch this year, starting on Thursday, Feb. 8 at the Chippewa Valley conference assembly. St. John's Synod Assembly voting members (Tyler/Kristine Mickelson and Pastor Martin) will be able to nominate any Minister of Word and Sacrament throughout the ELCA at this first online meeting. The public is welcome to attend this event, so contact Pastor Martin for the zoom link if you have interest. The meeting will be led by Chippewa Conference Dean Brad Peterson (Trinity/Boyceville) and moderated behind the scenes by our very own Amanda Larson! The Synod Assembly is scheduled for June 7-8.

SAVE THE DATE! Sunday, April 14 from 2-5 pm MUSIC FOR MISSION EXTRAVAGANZA

Proceeds to benefit

Bloomer school district foundation that offers free school supplies for the district.

Scenic Hills Youth Ranch (<https://www.shyr.org/>)

Site and cost to be determined so stay tuned!

You won't be disappointed with the music quality that St. John's has to offer. You might even see some amazing friends too!

HUNGER AWARENESS MEAL

February 14 from 5:30-6:30



Suggested Donation:
\$5/person or \$20/family

Proceeds to benefit the
homeless at Sojourner's
House, Eau Claire

Make your reservations
in the Narthex!

Details on bulletin boards at
both church entrances.



A big **THANK YOU**
to all of those who
helped deliver

"Meals on Wheels"!

Your help is much
appreciated not only
by St. John's but the
community of people
who receive the
meals. *Thanks again!*

Quilting Group
Will be meeting on
Feb. 20th
at 1:00-4:00 p.m.

SEW CUTE!
Everyone is welcome!!

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
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Bloomer, WI



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

Chippewa Valley Conference Assembly on Zoom - Thursday, Feb. 8 at 7 pm

- o The public is welcome to observe this meeting where nominations will be held for the office of Bishop of the Northwest Wisconsin Synod.
- o Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson has completed her term and will not be seeking re-election.
- o The election will be held at the Synod Assembly at UWEC on June 7-8!
- o If you're interested, contact Pastor Martin for the zoom link.

Calling all Thrivent members!
Please sign up in the narthex so that we know who you are! You can help St. John's receive funding for fundraisers that will help raise money throughout the year!

WEDNESDAY MEALS
Every Wednesday from 4:45 – 5:30 p.m. come and join your friends and family at St. John's for a **DELICIOUS** meal!
Cost is \$5 per person
OR \$15 per family




**New Council Member Introduction Featured in February—
Jason Graski**

Hello friends and families of St John's my name is Jason Graski and I look forward to serving on the church council. Here are a few things to get to know me better. My wife and I are from the Owen-Withee Thorp area and we moved to Bloomer November 2010. We chose Bloomer as it's closer for where our jobs are and it's a nice community. I work mainly in the gravel pits overseeing daily operations for Haas. We have four kids, Emslee, Jerzei, Brock, and Kordell. When not working or doing things at home or kids events we enjoy traveling, fishing, skiing, racing, or just doing anything as a family. We got to know the Prills and when looking for a church they suggested St John's. We like St John's as they have a lot of enjoyable learning activities with kids. One of my most memorable moments is when Brock and I went to Luther Park for first communion and the way it was all put together. Once again I look forward to this opportunity of serving the church.