

# 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
- Financial Report
- Youth and Family
- Acolyte & Communion Schedule

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## WHY I VALUE RELATIONSHIPS

With today's technology advances, there's been a significant shift in how people communicate. I still remember when my parents finally caved in and got an answering machine when I was a teenager. People still wrote letters and put them in the mail. Even Long distance calling had a cost! At church, the newsletter and bulletin were the primary means of communication. Oh have things changed!

Now we utilize texting, email, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, websites, and there's probably more to come! As I've learned over the course of my life, there are benefits to each of these new technological advances, but there are also costs too. My hope, as your pastor, is to tap into the benefits of the many ways we communicate and try to minimize the deficiencies. But let me be clear – as far as I am concerned, **there is no replacement for face to face relationships.**

I have been on Facebook for several years now and I find it quite intriguing how many of you are popping up as potential friends! I've had several conversations with fellow pastors and I've concluded that being Facebook friends can be a good thing, but I want that decision to be made by you. I will not make a friend request to you so that you don't have to make that decision and deal with any unintended guilt or pressure. With that said, if you would like to befriend me via Facebook, I will say "Yes!" If you elect not to, please know that I will not judge nor ask questions. I respect your decision. But I have found that I can learn a great deal about you including prayer opportunities. I know that many of you prefer to disclose personal information much better on Facebook than in person, especially if it means making an appointment with your pastor!

As of yet, I have not entered into the Twitter zone, but if that's another way you'd like to connect with me, I would certainly consider it. I do text on my cell phone and normally reply quite quickly unless I'm engaged in another appointment.

In this new communications age, there are ample ways to stay connected. My hope is that if in person visits are too difficult to pull off that we can stay connected in these other ways. It truly benefits me to know this church better and in more meaningful ways. My other hope is that these relationships are not just centered on the pastor-member relationship, but also throughout our church family. The more connected we are, the stronger we are. The deeper we are, the more understanding we are. Relationships rooted in Christ are relationships that can last a lifetime!

Pastor Martin

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)



# *Bible Basics*



## **December 6**

Isaiah prophesied about “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness”. Whose voice was he talking about?

- A) Jesus
- B) John the Baptist
- C) The priest named Zechariah (father of John the Baptist)
- D) Nobody – it is still an unfulfilled prophecy

## **December 13**

When John the Baptist began his public ministry of baptism and repentance, how did he address his audience?

- A) Welcome my friends! Welcome to the wilderness of Jordan!
- B) You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?
- C) Greetings favored ones! Behold, the Kingdom of God is near!
- D) Come close fellow children of God! There are plenty of pews available up front!

## **December 20**

Today’s gospel lesson is named the Magnificat, which is Mary’s song that explains how something magnifies her Lord. What is magnified?

- A) Mary’s soul
- B) Mary’s vision
- C) Mary’s faith
- D) Mary’s belly (she is pregnant, after all...)

## Council Meeting December 8, 2015

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

**Opening Devotion and Prayer** by Kathy Faschingbauer

**Agenda Approval:** Motion made by Alice Zinsmaster to approve agenda, seconded by Lynette Pank. Motion carried

**Approval of November meeting minutes:** Motion made by Lynette Pank to approve minutes, seconded by Ellyn Hudacek. Motion carried.

**Congregational concerns:** Appreciation of mentioning/praying for our veterans. Concern of the security at church, which turned out to be a miscommunication of staff members not aware of either being in the church at the same time.

**Committee Reports:**

**Fellowship:** Bingo Sunday was well attended. Next Bingo Sunday is planned for January 10<sup>th</sup>. Book Club was well attended.

**Worship/Music:** Christmas trees were donated by David, Dawn LaGessee and family. Christmas Eve service times are - 4:00p.m. and 8:00p.m. Christmas Day service will be at 9:00a.m.

**Youth/Family:**

\*Confirmation scheduled for Sunday, January 17, 2016. Youth Mission Trip to Nashville is planned for June 19-25, 2016. They have 10-12 youth registered to go at this time.

\*Children's Christmas Pageant is scheduled for December 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:00p.m. There will be a free will offering taken at the Pageant. A motioned was made by Pat Boettcher to divide the offering 50/50 and given to 'The Bloomer Clothes Closet' and the 'Bloomer Clergy Association' as it was in 2014... seconded by Tom Buchner. Motion carried.

\*A down payment was made towards 2016 Vacation Bible School planned for June 2016

\*Youth Camp being held January 29 and 30<sup>th</sup> in Menomonie at Stout University, Campus Ministry.

**Dream Team:** Discussion of Mission Statement for St. John's and the congregation becoming familiar with the 'Mission Statement'

**Social Ministry:** St John's will be hosting Agnes Table on December 29<sup>th</sup>, the Blood Mobile on December 30<sup>th</sup> and will be delivering Meals on Wheels in January.

**Property:** Gathering bids on carpet replacement still in process. Had an issue with the refrigerator, called in repair person that replaced a part. Refrigerator seems to be working okay now.

**Chair Report:** Discussed if Thrivent members are aware of their 'Choice Dollars' and how the program works. Rod was going to check into having a Thrivent Representative come in and explain the program. Discussion was held in regard to whether the three year office term possibly deterred members from running or accepting positions on council.

## Council Meeting

### Pastor's Report:

\***Membership:** Membership by baptism-Brooks Rego and Hank Prince. Membership transfer to Church Triumphant-Celia Weiher. Motion made by Tom Buchner to accept membership update, seconded by Ellyn Hudacek. Motion carried.

\***Visitations:** Hospital

\***Leading Well Retreat:** Attended the first of three sessions of the retreat. First was in 11/2015, the second in 11/2016 and the third and final in 11/2017. This retreat is 75% funded by the Seifert Foundation. The retreat was uplifting, inspirational and motivational. It was a time for setting 2016 goals and tasks personal and for St John's Lutheran. I(Pastor) am eternally thankful to St John's congregation for allowing me to attend this retreat.

\***Housing allowance:** Motion was made by Pat Boettcher to keep the housing allowance the same as last year, seconded by Alice Zinsmaster. Motion carried.

**Financial Report:** Motion made by Pat Boettcher to accept financial report, seconded by Kathy Faschingbauer. Motion carried.

**Old Business:** Review, discussion and changes made on suggested budget viewed in November meeting. Motion made by Pat Boettcher to submit budget with changes, seconded by Adam Ewings. Motion carried.

### New Business:

\*Elections at annual meeting – nominating committee to seek members interested in taking on council position.

\*Projectors-Audio Architects Inc met with some council members and issues and concerns were discussed on repair verses replace equipment. Audio Architects will put together some proposals and present them at a later date. The temporary fix till February 2016 will be the projector that is set up in front by piano.

\*Hellen Faschingbauer bequest: Motion was made by Pat Boettcher to utilize a portion of the generous bequest/gift from our sister in faith to pay off the small loan of \$7,000(summer of 2015) and the remainder to be deposited into the undesignated funds, seconded by Alice Zinsmaster. Motion carried.


\*Audit Committee: Lynette Pank will again ask Kathy Geissler and Kathy Tozer to take part in the audit.

Motion made by Alice Zinsmaster to adjourn meeting and seconded by Kathy Faschingbauer. Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 9:30p.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, Pauline Stertz. Absent: Janice Naset (Prayers for a quick recovery) Thank you to Trey for bringing in the delicious holiday treats that were enjoyed by the council members during the meeting.

JANUARY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b> No Faith Formation <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship Service	<b>28</b> No Preschool <b>8:00 AM - 9:30 AM</b> Bible Study	<b>29</b> No Preschool	<b>30</b> No Faith Formation and Wednesday Night Meal No Preschool Red Cross Mobile at Bloomer Middle School <b>6:45 PM</b> Worship with guest preacher (Martha Libersky)	<b>31</b> No Preschool Office Closed	<b>1</b>  No Preschool No Women's Bible Study	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> No Faith Formation <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship Service	<b>4</b> Preschool Resumes From Christmas Break <b>8:00 AM - 9:30 AM</b> Bible Study	<b>5</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting	<b>6</b> <b>4:45 PM</b> Wednesday Night Meal <b>5:30 PM</b> Youth Faith Formation <b>6:45 PM</b> Worship	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Women's Bible Study in Library <b>6:00 PM</b> Departure for Luther Park Recharge	<b>9</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Return from Luther Park Recharge
<b>10</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship Service <b>10:15 AM</b> Youth Faith Formation <b>1:00 PM</b> Bingo <b>6:00 PM</b> Mission Trip Meeting	<b>11</b> <b>8:00 AM - 9:30 AM</b> Bible Study <b>6:15 PM</b> Youth Committee Meeting	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>4:45 PM</b> Wednesday Night Meal <b>5:30 PM</b> Youth Faith Formation <b>6:45 PM</b> Worship	<b>14</b> Synod Conf. Meeting	<b>15</b> Newsletter Article Deadline <b>12:00 PM</b> Women's Bible Study in Library <b>3:30 PM</b> Breakfast Prep	<b>16</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Breakfast for Confirmation families
<b>17</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship Service and 9th Grade Confirmation <b>10:15 AM</b> Youth Faith Formation	<b>18</b> Quake Zone Registration Deadline <b>8:00 AM - 9:30 AM</b> Bible Study	<b>19</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting <b>1:00 PM - 4:00 PM</b> Quilting	<b>20</b> <b>4:45 PM</b> Wednesday Night Meal <b>5:30 PM</b> Youth Faith Formation <b>6:45 PM</b> Worship	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Women's Bible Study in Library	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship Service <b>10:15 AM</b> Annual Meeting with childcare provided <b>2:00 PM</b> Painting Party Fundraiser for the Mission Trip	<b>25</b> <b>8:00 AM - 9:30 AM</b> Bible Study	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Youth Faith Formation <b>4:30 PM</b> Winterfest Activities <b>4:45 PM</b> Wednesday Night Meal <b>6:45 PM</b> Worship	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Women's Bible Study in Library	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship Service <b>10:15 AM</b> Youth Faith Formation	<b>1</b> <b>8:00 AM - 9:30 AM</b> Bible Study	<b>2</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting	<b>3</b> <b>4:45 PM</b> Wednesday Night Meal <b>5:30 PM</b> Youth Faith Formation <b>6:45 PM</b> Worship	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Women's Bible Study in Library	<b>6</b>



Congratulations to Shawna and Jonathon Stump on the recent Baptism of their son Gabriel James Stump!

Congratulations to the sponsors, Alex Morning, Chris Stump, Rebecca Stump, and Bobby Stump!

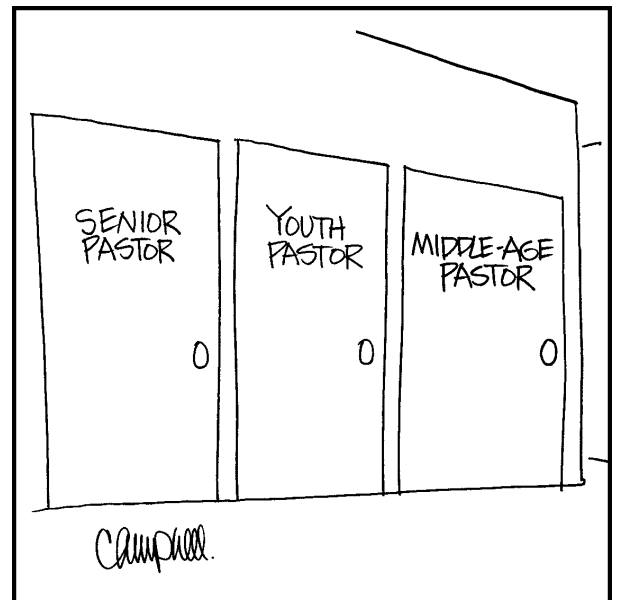


Congratulations to Sara and Damian Prince on the Baptism of their son Hank Clifford Prince!

Congratulations to the sponsors, Dave and Pauline Stertz!



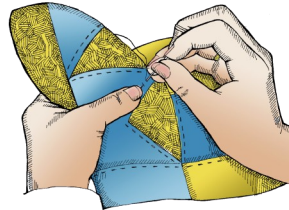
Those that walk with God reach their destinations.  
~God's Little Acre



Bingo returns on January 10, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. Bring a friend, two, or three. A special prize will be given to the person who brought the most non-member friends. Light refreshments and baked goods will be offered. Donations are welcome.



Quilting will meet on January 19, 2016 from 1-4 p.m. All are welcome to participate.



QUILTING GROUP

A big *Thank You* to David and Dawn LaGesse and family for donating the Christmas trees for our church this year. And thank you to all people who helped decorate the church for Christmas. Pastor Martin's parents donated their services again this year. They thought it was the 3rd year in a row they were in Bloomer the same weekend as church decorating. Tom Buchner treated us to Bloomer Bakery rosettes, and Jeff Cole provided Christmas music. Feel free to join us next year for this holiday tradition.



## Financial Report-2015

	2014	2015	BUDGET 2015
<b>Beg. Balance - Jan. 1</b>	\$7,513.00	\$6,842.00	
<b>Income - Dec.</b>	\$231,074.00	\$230,909.00	\$208,981.00
<b>Expenses - Dec.</b>	\$231,745.00	\$235,487.00	\$208,981.00
<b>Balance</b>	\$6,842.00	\$2,264.00	
<b>Loan - Security Financial</b>	\$81,747.00	\$72,754.00	<b>Building Fund</b>
<b>Loan - Security Financial</b>			<b>General Fund</b>
<b>Loan - Security Financial</b>		\$11,000.00	<b>Bathrooms</b>

"Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year."

~Ralph Waldo Emerson



**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.

**ALL MEMBER WINTER FELLOWSHIP EVENT**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27**

**FROM 5 PM UNTIL YOUR TOES ARE FROZEN**

SKATING, SLEDING, HOT CHOCOLATE & MORE  
SEE YOU AT THE BLOOMER GOLF COURSE  
SKATING RINK & SLEDDING HILL



Sunday, January 24: St. John's Annual Congregational Meeting immediately after worship, Children's Activities & Child Care provided during meeting (no Faith Formation scheduled)



**BREAKING NEWS**



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



**January 8-9, 2016**  
**7 pm Friday-7 pm Saturday**  
**3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**Cost: \$75.00 per youth**

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



**9<sup>th</sup> GRADE**

**CONFIRMATION WORSHIP**  
**9:00 AM SUNDAY**  
**JANUARY 17**

**CONFIRMED IN CHRIST**

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



**FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULES**

**10:15 am Sunday, January 10, 17, 31**  
Preschool through 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

**5:30 pm Wednesday, January 6, 13, 20, 27**  
Preschool: Ages 3, 4, & 5  
Kindergarten-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Rotation Workshop  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Explorers  
4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Bible 101

**GOD IS GOOD!**  
**ALL THE TIME!**





Serving God By Serving Others

# Week of Hope Sr. High Mission Trip

**Destination:** Nashville, TN

**Date:** June 18-25

**Who:** 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade and Adult Chaperones

**What:** Work with lower-income children (tutoring, summer camp, basketball league, job skills, etc.), assist immigrants & refugees, assist at local rescue mission, assist with activities for older adults with cognitive or physical limitations

**Cost:** \$50.00 non-refundable deposit, assist with fundraisers, attend pre-trip planning meetings, group devotions

2 Spots available for St. John's incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade through graduating seniors or non-members. For more info or to reserve a spot contact Marla at 715-568-5446 #12 or email [stjohnsl-marla@bloomer.net](mailto:stjohnsl-marla@bloomer.net).



## PRE-TRIP PLANNING MEETING

JANUARY 10 AT 6 PM IN CONFERENCE ROOM. ALL YOUTH REGISTERED AND ONE PARENT OR RESPONSIBLE ADULT SHOULD ATTEND. YOUTH INTERESTED IN MORE INFO ARE WELCOME :-)



## 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:** \$150.00 IF REGISTERD BY JANUARY 18, 2016

**CONTACT:** Marla at [stjohnsl-marla@bloomer.net](mailto:stjohnsl-marla@bloomer.net) or 715-568-5446 #12 for more info or to register for event.

## Wednesday Worship Participants

DATE OF SERVICE	1 ACOLTYE	4 COMMUNION SERVERS
JANUARY 6	Driah Z.	Alex Hyke Violet Hyke Liz Anderson Dane Michaelson
JANUARY 13	Cal Lueck	Cal Lueck Tavyn Jones Josh Prill Mikayla Ruffedt
JANUARY 20	Gunnar Grambo	Gunnar Grambo Trent Tozer Dalton Grambo Cayce Grambo
JANUARY 27	Charlie Lewis	Charlie Lewis Paris Rogge Dylann Downey Driah Z.



## Sunday Worship Participants

DATE OF SERVICE	1 ACOLTYE	4 COMMUNION SERVERS
JANUARY 3	Dylan Baker	Dylan Baker Trey Baker
JANUARY 10	Kelly Yeakey	Kelly Yeakey Camryn Yeakey
JANUARY 17	Trey Zwiefelhofer	Skylar Zwiefelhofer Trey Zwiefelhofer
JANUARY 24	Mitchel Calkins	Mitchel Calkins Tylor Calkins Cathy Calkins
JANUARY 31	Alana Helland	Alana Helland Nicholas Hallom