



# 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:

- Word & Service
- Pastor's News
- Bible Basics
- Financial Report
- Calendar
- Church Council Minutes
- Youth and Family
- Preschool

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## “Word and Service” Roster

A report from Martha Libersky

I kept you updated through my seminary training and discernment process as I studied and interned to be a commissioned associate in ministry, and now I bring before you a change in how the church handles its roster of professional workers who aren't ordained.

In August of 2016 the Churchwide Assembly voted 864-32 to create a new category of lay professional leaders who will be called deacons. People on the “word and service” roster will join ordained pastors (“word and sacrament” roster) as public ministers of the ELCA, called to their positions and accountable to the church for their work.

Current lay professionals – deaconesses, associates in ministry and diaconal ministers - will be automatically placed into the new category in January of 2017. Deacons are people who “truly feel called by God to do service,” said Bishop William Gafkjen of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, chair of the group that prepared the proposal.

The word “deacon” means “service” and has long been used in the church, sometimes for people preparing for ordination (a transitional deacon), sometimes for professional lay leaders in congregations (a permanent deacon). The deacons will work, as the current lay professionals do, in a wide range of positions in ELCA congregations, synods, social service agencies, and hospitals as administrators, musicians, educators, youth workers, etc., and also others who will work outside the traditional context of the church in “non-church arenas and structures of the world,” Gafkjen said.

The report of the Word and Service Task Force to the Church Council stated that, “The recommendation to establish a single roster of Ministry of Word and Service is not only about merging leadership rosters. It is rather a matter of addressing with new urgency the church's response to the needs of the world in the 21st century. Partnerships between ministers of Word and Sacrament and Word and Service open innumerable opportunities for creative and enriched evangelical outreach and mission in the world.”

Please continue to give thanks to God for the ministry of all who have served and are serving on the present lay rosters and to express confidence that God is leading this church into God's future.



“AS THE FATHER HAS SENT ME, I AM SENDING YOU.”  
JOHN 20:21, NIV

Office number: 715-568-5446

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

## SLIDING INTO THE FUTURE!

As I write this article, many news stations and talk shows are reflecting on 2016 – the election, notable celebrity losses, the top ten list for just about anything! I love this time of year because it does remind us to see where we've come from and what we're moving into. It is with this spirit that we will introduce a similar opportunity in our gathering space.

*Sliding into the future* is a rather simple, yet very profound idea that some of us got while attending our amazing synod event, Walking Together, last spring. The premise is that we acknowledge our history and take note of important events while at the same time envision what we'd like to do as we "slide into the future"! So in the narthex area for several weeks, you will see one sheet of paper where you can write down some of your favorite/meaningful St. John's memories. On the other sheet of paper, you can write down your dreams for St. John's that you hope will become some of your favorite/meaningful memories. These sheets will be found on the "sliding" doors, of course!

Personally, I am excited about this opportunity to see what you have to share from your own unique perspective. It's another way that we can share our respective stories that we've experienced in our journeys of faith along with the hopes and dreams that you have for us today!

So come a little early or stay a little later for church and give yourself a few minutes to write down your moments in history along with your moments in the future (legibly please)! Feel free to talk to someone about your stories/dreams and help build the excitement of our ministry. Ideas can be incredibly contagious and it is our hope to build even more momentum as we enter 2017, the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lutheran Church.

*Pastor Martin*

## Christmas Pageant



# *Bible Basics*

## **December 4**

As we venture into the year where we focus on the gospel of Matthew, we meet John the Baptist in today's lesson where he proclaims, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." "The Kingdom of heaven" is mentioned 32 times in the gospel of Matthew. How many other references are there in the rest of the bible?

- A. Zero
- B. 25
- C. 32
- D. 77

## **December 11**

According to the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter of Matthew, "Among those born of women no one has arisen greater than" this individual, who is wondering if Jesus is truly the "one who is to come". Who is this person lying in doubt?

- A. Peter
- B. Thomas
- C. John the Baptist
- D. Tom Buchner

## **December 18**

In Matthew's version of the Christmas story, with whom did the angel speak?


- A. Mary
- B. Joseph
- C. The shepherds in the fields
- D. All of the above

# Financial Report-2016

	2015	2016	BUDGET 2016
<b>Beg. Balance - Jan. 1</b>	\$2,143.00	\$4,401.00	
<b>Income-December</b>	\$217,380.00	\$217,158.00	\$252,024.00
<b>Expenses-November</b>	\$221,832.00	\$221,559.00	\$252,024.00
<b>Balance</b>	(\$2,309.00)	\$1,980.61	
<b>Loan - Security Financial</b>	\$73,554.00	\$64,793.51	Bld. Fund
<b>Loan - Security Financial</b>	\$11,000.00	-0-	Bathrooms
<b>Loan - Security Financial</b>		-0-	Gen. Fund



JANUARY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>  Welcome <b>2017!</b> No Preschool 9:00 AM Worship Service	<b>2</b> No Bible Study No Preschool	<b>3</b> 11:00 AM Staff Meeting	<b>4</b> 4:45 PM Wednesday Meal 5:45 PM Youth Faith Formation 6:45 PM Worship	<b>5</b> 5:30 PM Preschool Board Meeting	<b>6</b> No Women's Bible Study 3:30 PM Breakfast Prep 6:15 PM Recharge Departure	<b>7</b> 9:30 AM Confirmation Breakfast 7:30 PM Return from Recharge
<b>8</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service & Confirmation 10:15 AM Youth Faith Formation	<b>9</b> 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Bible Study 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Youth in Action	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9:15 AM Bloomer Clergy Meeting 4:45 PM Wednesday Meal 5:45 PM Youth Faith Formation 6:45 PM Worship	<b>12</b> 7:00 PM Discipleship Committee Meeting	<b>13</b> Healthy Leaders Conf. 12:00 PM Women's Bible Study	<b>14</b> Healthy Leaders Conf.
<b>15</b> Healthy Leaders Conf. 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Youth Faith Formation	<b>16</b> 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Youth Committee Meeting	<b>17</b> 11:00 AM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Quilting	<b>18</b> 4:00 PM St. John's Winterfest 4:45 PM Wednesday Meal 6:45 PM Worship	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 12:00 PM Women's Bible Study	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Annual Meeting (Childcare is provided)	<b>23</b> 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Bible Study 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Youth in Action	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> No Meal 5:45 PM Youth Faith Formation 6:45 PM Worship	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 12:00 PM Women's Bible Study	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Youth Faith Formation	<b>30</b> 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Bible Study	<b>31</b> 11:00 AM Staff Meeting	<b>1</b> 4:45 PM Wednesday Meal 5:45 PM Youth Faith Formation 6:45 PM Worship	<b>2</b> 5:30 PM Preschool Board Meeting	<b>3</b> 12:00 PM Women's Bible Study	<b>4</b>

## Council Meeting December 13, 2016

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

Opening devotion: Phil Skaar

Agenda Amendment: Move Budget from Old Business to first item on agenda.

Approval of Amended Agenda: Motion made by Tyler Halverson to accept amended agenda, seconded by Tom Buchner. Motion carried.

Approval of November Meeting minutes: Motion made by Lynette Pank to accept November minutes, seconded by Tyler Halverson. Motion carried.

Congregation concerns/comments: Having a volunteer schedule sheet of person/s that would want to prepare Sunday morning coffee in Narthex.

Financial Report: Motion made by Janice Naset to accept financial report, seconded by Tom Buchner. Motion carried.

### **Committee/Mission Reports:**

Discipleship: Completed 2017 commitment/pledge cards returned back to St. John's(66)  
January 2017 Financial Peace University starts.

Fellowship: November Bingo(46 attended) November 20<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Service (44 attendance), served beverage and treats served after. December 4<sup>th</sup>, New Auburn Community Choir, served beverage and treats after.

December 10<sup>th</sup> "Martin Luther: Art and the Reformation" bus trip (30 attended)

December 18<sup>th</sup>, Tom Buchner and Boy Scout Troop are preparing and serving meal at Senior Citizen Center.

Social Ministry: Discussed possible fund raising to fund 2017 outreach projects. Agnes Table December 27, 2016, Meals on Wheels January 2017. Outreach Grant update-Buck Paulson will review the project area when he gets caught up with his work schedule.

Youth/Family: Reviewed- 2017 Budget amount, designated funds in regard to 2017 activities, 2017 Mission Trip in June 25-30<sup>th</sup> (Cincinnati, OH). Upcoming events/dates: Confirmation worship January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Winterfest January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Vacation Bible School June 18<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017.

Dream Team: New addition to team-Malia Clements.

### **Pastor Report:**

Elderly visit: WELCA, Bingo, Monday Bible Study, St. John's apartments, Atrium/Dove Healthcare worship leadership, Denise Rihn, Jim Doers, Marquerite Werner.

Pastoral Matters: Funeral-Mary Asplund, private pastoral care, Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship, Nominating Committee.

Membership update: Transfer to Church Triumphant-Mary Asplund. Motion made by Lynette Pank to accept member update, seconded by Tom Buchner. Motion carried.

## Council Meeting

### Old Business:

Policies/Practices: Policies have been reviewed, amended (wedding policy waiting for more information before finalization). Motion was made by Adam Ewing to accept amended Policy Document, seconded by Tom Buchner. Motion carried

Practices: Motion was made by Nick Zakrzewicz to accept amended and added practices of St John's, seconded by Lynette Pank. Motion carried.

Nominating committee: Kathy Faschingbauer and Kathy Geissler

2017 Budget: Motion was made by Pauline Stertz to accept 2017 Budget of \$258,551.00, seconded by Phil Skaar. Motion carried.

Committee Reports due by December 26<sup>th</sup> for print of annual report.

Constitutional changes: Printed copies available in Narthex area for congregation

### New Business:

Pastor's housing allowance: Motion made by Adam Ewings to keep the \$24,000 housing allowance the same in 2017, seconded by Tyler Halverson. Motion carried.

Lutheran Social Services Youth and Family Programs: WELCA donated \$100 in support of the program.

Wednesday Christmas Program offering: By discussion of council, the loose/cash offering of the Christmas Program will be donated to the LSS Youth and Family Program. Minimum of \$250 will be donated (council will donate funds needed to reach the minimum amount if needed). The donation money will be used to help support a shelter to help victims involved in human trafficking. Motion was made by Phil Skaar to accept donation to LSS as written, seconded by Tyler Halverson. Motion carried.

Annual Meeting ideas: how to get larger number of congregation members to attend annual meeting.

Adjournment: Motion made by Lynette Pank to adjourn meeting, seconded by Nick Zakrzewicz, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45p.m. with the 'Lord's Prayer'

Pauline Stertz/Secretary

Meeting attended by Pastor Martin, Rod Johnson, Adam Ewings, Tyler Halverson, Nick Zakrzewicz, Phil Skaar, Tom Buchner, Lynette Pank, Janice Naset, Pauline Stertz. Absent: Alice Zinsmaster, Ellyn Hudacek.

**FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULES**

**Sunday: 10:15am-11:25am**

Faith 5 Small Groups: Preschool Age 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade,  
**Jan. 8, 15 & 29**

**Wednesday: 5:30pm-6:30pm**

Preschool: Ages 3, 4, & sometimes 5 Faith 5 Small Groups:  
Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, **Jan. 4, 11 & 18**  
Confirmation: 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, **Jan. 4, 11, & 18**

**Sr. High Youth in Action: Monday, Jan. 9 & 23, 5-7 pm,  
pizza & beverage provided**

**Sunday, January 22: St. John's Annual Congregational Meeting** immediately after worship, Children's Activities & Child Care provided during meeting  
*(no Faith Formation scheduled)*



**9<sup>th</sup> GRADE  
CONFIRMATION WORSHIP  
9:00 AM SUNDAY  
JANUARY 8**

**CONFIRMED IN CHRIST**

- Taylor Buchholz
- Mitchel Calkins
- Cayce Grambo
- Dalton Grambo
- Nicholas Halom
- Isabelle Hillman
- Charlie Lewis
- Cal Lueck
- Josh Prill
- Trent Tozer
- Kelly Yeakey



**BREAKING NEWS  
LUTHER PARK  
BIBLE CAMP  
CHETEK, WISCONSIN**

**2016-2017 RECHARGE**

January 6-7, 2017  
March 3-4, 2017

**WHERE:** Luther Park Bible Camp  
944 24 1/4 Street  
Chetek, WI 54729

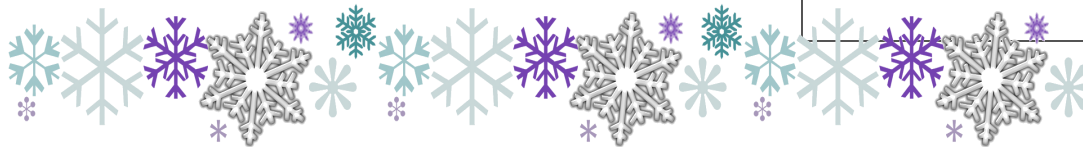
**WHO:** Individuals in Grades 3-5, 6-8,  
and 9-12.

**COST:** \$80.00, Includes programming from 7 pm Friday to 7 pm Saturday, meals, lodging, and Recharge t-shirt.

REGISTER ONLINE @ [www.lutherpark.org](http://www.lutherpark.org)



Restrooms with changing facilities can be found near the offices and men & women's restrooms in the lower level at far end of dining hall.



**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 25**

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

**SKATING, SLEDGING, HOT CHOCOLATE & MORE**

**SEE YOU AT THE BLOOMER GOLF COURSE SKATING RINK & SLEDDING HILL**

**YOUTH ENCOUNTER WISC. DELLS QUAKE  
WISCONSIN DELLS, MARCH 24-26, 20**

Quake is a weekend experience for youth grades 6-12 that makes faith come alive!

**FEATURING:**

Musicians: Bread of Stone

Speaker: Wes Halula

**LOCATION:**

Wilderness Resort, Wisconsin Dells

**PROGRAM COST:**

\$115.00 PER PERSON BY FEBRUARY 5, 2017

(meals not included)

**ROOM COST: \$223.00 PER ROOM**

(rooms house 4-5 people, cost shared according to number)

St. John's will provide approximately half the cost for each youth from designated youth funds

THANK YOU FOR  
SUPPORTING ST. JOHN'S  
YOUTH BUTTER BRAID  
PASTRY SALES

**290 PASTRIES WERE SOLD  
\$1450.00 PROFIT**



In the busyness of our lives, God calls us to be still, God calls us to a quiet place, to Know Him To Discover ourselves, to be Renewed and To Refocus our lives

**MISSING YOUR FAVORITE CAKE PAN OR SERVING DISH?**

CHECK OUT THE COUNTER NEAR THE CONVECTION OVEN IN THE KITCHEN

THERE ARE MANY LEFT BEHINDS WAITING FOR SOMEONE TO TAKE THEM HOME





Serving God By Serving Others

## **WEEK OF HOPE SR. HIGH MISSION TRIP**

Destination: Cincinnati Ohio

Date: June 25-30, 2017

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

What: Work in community garden, teach dance and literature to children, pack and sort supplies sent to families in developing nations, lead activities at Boys and Girls Clubs, prepare food and meals and take to feeding locations, work with elderly residents at assisted living with activities.

Cost: Spots reserved with \$50.00 non-refundable deposit. Total cost includes \$209.00 to Group, transportation (to be determined) and incidentals (food while traveling, fun event, etc.). Fundraisers will be implemented to offset total cost.

5 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).

Youth and Parent Responsibilities: Plan/assist with fundraisers, attend pre-trip planning meetings; participate in group devotions, and all additional areas as needed.



### **PRE-TRIP PLANNING MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 5 AT 6 PM IN CONFERENCE ROOM. ALL YOUTH REGISTERED AND ONE PARENT OR RESPONSIBLE ADULT SHOULD ATTEND. YOUTH INTERESTED IN MORE INFO ARE WELCOME**

# St. John's Preschool

Thank you for your support once again in our 2016 Bowl-A-Thon fundraiser! Without your continued support we would not be nearly as successful!

In December the children were able to learn about Baby Jesus and his birthday on Christmas, we strive to make sure the children and their family keep Christ in Christmas. We had a Christmas party on our last days of school before break. The children played marshmallow toss, stretched slime, and completed a scavenger hunt!

A huge thank you to Elmer and Evelyn Ferstenou  
for directing your Thrivent Choice Dollars  
to our Preschool!

We hope everyone had a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Years!