



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:

- ◆ Bible Class
- ◆ Church News
- ◆ Poinsettia Donation
- Calendar
- Council Minutes
- Youth & Family



INSIDE THIS

- Church News 2
- Poinsettia Donation 4
- Calendar 5
- Church News 6
- Council Minutes 7
- Youth & Family 10



Overview of the Bible Class

A new Bible class will begin in Lent! This Overview of the Bible class will cover the entire Bible in one year, provided we meet every week...a longer time if we miss a week here and there.

This study will follow the Bible reading plan in the Lutheran Study Bible. We'd like to hear from you to establish class days and times. Since we'll be starting the class at the beginning of Lent, which starts on Feb. 14, we still have some time.

What day of the week and what time of the day do you need to attend an overview of the Bible study? Please indicate a first and second choice for yourself and then we can collate the responses to begin one or more classes.

Notify Martha at:

715-568-4653

fmlibers@bloomer.net

1520 11th Ave, Bloomer, WI 54724-1309



BIBLE STUDY OPTIONS

Office number: 715-568-5446

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

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

Church News

**Synod Assembly
June 2-3 (Saturday-Sunday)
UWEC Davies Center**

St. John's is allowed 2 voting members in addition to Pastor Martin. If you are interested in helping elect our next Synodical Bishop, please contact Pastor Martin!



**Luther Park Annual Meeting -
Saturday, Jan. 27, 2018** at 10 am. St. John's is allowed 3 voting delegates and need to be voting members of St. John's. If you are interested in serving on our behalf at this meeting, please contact Pastor Martin.

The St. John's Lutheran Church annual meeting will be held on Sunday, Jan. 21 following the 9 am worship service. Elections will be held for the church council, we will discuss the proposed budget, and 10 voting members will walk away with a cash prize from our raffle!

Council nominees (3 to be elected)

- *Annie Bleskacek
- *Tom Buchner (current council member)
- *Ellyn Hudacek (current council member)
- *Sue McInnis
- *Kathy Tozer



ANNUAL MEETING



ANNUAL MEETING



"Come and see" (John 1:45-46)

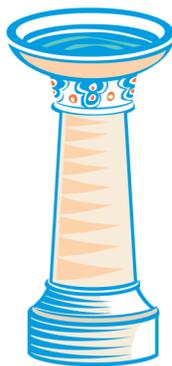
Check out the new St. John's website at <http://www.stjohns-bloomer.org/>

Inside you can find

- the most accurate calendar of events
- pictures detailing our vibrant ministry
- featured upcoming events
- an online giving feature (new!) for Paypal and credit card users

Visit Us
ONLINE 

HOLY BAPTISM



2018



ANNUAL MEETING RAFFLE!

\$5/ticket or \$25 for 6 tickets
Annual Meeting – Sunday, Jan. 21 after church
Winners must be active voting members and present to win.

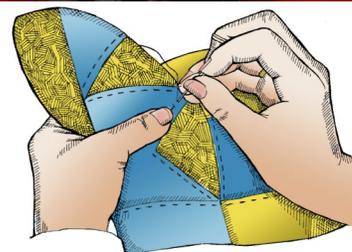
Cash Prizes (10 winners!)



- \$350 (1 winner)
- \$100 (1)
- \$50 (2)
- \$25 (6)

Congratulations to Wade Davis and Catelyn Faschingbauer on the Baptism of their daughter Sara Marie Davis!

Congratulations to the sponsors Cody Haack and Tracey McCann!



QUILTING GROUP

Quilting

Tuesday, January 16, 2017

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

We give thanks to the following families who have contributed to the beauty of our church.

Donated by

Sam & Wendy LaGesse & Family

Marlin & Monica Stuckert & Family

Vernon & Deanna Stuckert & Family

Martha Libersky

Butch & Sue Nehring

Pank Family

Darelene Hass

Bill & Annie Bleskacek

Luke, Ashley, and sisters

Bert & Kathy Tozer

Tom & Terri Smith

Dale & Rita Bitney

Richard & Arlene Mohr

Janice Turner

Dorothy, Susie, Mike, & Nancy

Don & Kathy Geissler

Bonnie & John Lueck

Don & Kim Oldenberg

Tom & Rose Marie Powell

Jane Peterson

Family

Family

Rod Schmidt Sr.

In honor or memory

Lewis & Ruth LaGesse; Grandchildren (Morgan, Aaron Alex, Evan, Mason, Lincoln, Lily)

Jake & Doris Stuckert

Jake & Doris Stuckert

Francis Libersky

Ernest & Joyce Delegard;

Howard & Nadine Nehring;

Our children & grandchildren

Mother, Children, Grandchildren

Violet, LaVern & Robert Hass

Sylvan & Elsie Bleskacek and Mary Olson

Levi Edin

Bud & Marie Tozer, Charles Marvin,

Laura Babbitt-Hansen, Children, Grandchildren, and Great-Grandchildren

Don & Anita Stanek and Tom & Catherine Smith-

Elmer & Evelyn Schroetter and

Eph & Mrytle Bitney

Richard & Arlene Mohr's loved ones

Donald Turner

Lorne Hassemer

Orville & Ida Bitney and Gib & Muriel Geissler-

Lois North, Douglas North and Harold Lueck

Jutes & Doris Bathke and

Leonard & Velma Oldenberg

Eckardt & Bernadette Nimtz

and Edward & Ida Powell

Bill & Bryon Peterson

Henry, Lena, and Wilbert Weideman

Alli Asplund and Doc & Mary Asplund

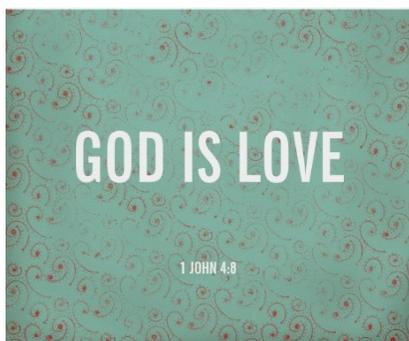
Shirley Ann Schmidt, Mr & Mrs. Otto E. Schmidt,

Charlotte Schultz and Roy Luedtke



JANUARY 2018

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|---|
| 31 9:00 AM Worship Service | 1  Church Office is Closed No Bible Study | 2 11:00 AM Staff Meeting | 3 Preschool Resumes 4:45 PM - 5:30 PM Wednesday Meal 5:30 PM Confirmation (Grades: 6, 7, 8) 5:30 PM Faith Formation 6:45 PM Worship | 4 5:30 PM Preschool Board Meeting | 5 | 6 9:30 AM Confirmation Breakfast |
| 7 9:00 AM Worship Service and Confirmation 10:15 AM Faith Formation 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Youth in Action | 8 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Bible Study | 9 6:30 PM Church Council | 10 4:45 PM - 5:30 PM Wednesday Meal 5:30 PM Confirmation (Grades: 6, 7, 8) 5:30 PM Faith Formation 6:45 PM Worship | 11 | 12 Newsletter Deadline 12:00 PM Women's Bible Study | 13 |
| 14 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Faith Formation 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Youth in Action | 15 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 - 5:30 PM Wednesday Meal 5:30 PM Confirmation (Grades: 6, 7, 8) 5:30 PM Faith Formation 6:45 PM Worship | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Annual Meeting with childcare available | 22 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Bible Study | 23 | 24 4:45 PM - 5:30 PM Wednesday Meal 5:30 PM Confirmation (Grades: 6, 7, 8) 5:30 PM Faith Formation 6:45 PM Worship | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Faith Formation 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Youth in Action | 29 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Bible Study | 30 11:00 AM Staff Meeting | 31 4:45 PM - 5:30 PM Wednesday Meal 5:30 PM Confirmation (Grades: 6, 7, 8) 5:30 PM Faith Formation 6:45 PM Worship | 1 | 2 | 3 |



Congratulations to Bryan and Mary Boese on the Baptism of their daughter Tenley Susan Boese!

Congratulations to the sponsors Adam Mohr and Brittany Ludwigson!



As We Start the New Year

The New Year can often bring a mixed bag of emotions and memories for many of us. Some may have just experienced the best year ever and look forward to an even greater one looming ahead. Others may have just trudged through one deep struggle after another. The fresh calendar year brings desperate hope for things to be better, with an ache for the still-fresh wounds to slowly begin their process of healing.

Whether you've just walked through the greatest year of your life, or are incredibly glad to see this one finally over, one truth still rings clear amidst it all. You are not alone. Not ever.

Our God is a "with us" God. On the heels of the celebration of the birth of our King, that reminder has the power to carry us right into a fresh, new start. He is Immanuel, God with us. And though things and people around us shift and change, our God never changes.

Church Council Meeting Special Meeting of Church Council December 12, 2017

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM by President Tyler Halverson.

By unanimous consent: Item D under New Business (New Bible Study) moved to top of agenda.

New Business- Item D. New Bible Study. Guest Martha Libersky asked the council permission to start a new bible study. Currently, two studies are offered, at 8:00 Monday morning and a women's bible study at 12:00 on Friday. Martha offered to lead the study, which would be an overview of the bible. The new study would start around Lent (February 14, 2018) with meeting times to be decided. Martha will coordinate with the Youth and Family Committee, with support of the council.

Opening Devotion: by Phil Skaar – “Called by God to Serve” Chapter 9.

Amend and Approval of the Agenda: A motion was made by Rod Johnson, seconded by Lynette Pank, to amend the agenda to add “Retirement Gift” to New Business, Item F. Motion carried to approve the amended agenda.

Approval of November meeting minutes: A motion was made by Barb Ross, seconded by Ellyn Hudacek, to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Council Comments: It has been reported that the oven on the new gas stove is not heating correctly. The issue is already being addressed.

Congregational Comments:

- ◆ Members have complimented the decorating of the church for Christmas, especially the moderately size trees compared to last year's large trees. Thank you to those who helped!
- ◆ Some members are wondering why Pastor Martin hasn't been posting in the newsletter.
- ◆ A few complaints were received concerning follow-up calls about commitment cards.

Financial Report: We are behind on Benevolence and still need to repay \$10,000 loan.

- ◆ A motion was made by Barb Ross, seconded by Janice Naset, to approve the financial report. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Discipleship Ministry:

- ◆ Small Groups generated many good questions, which will be addressed during services.
- ◆ Working on Annual Report/Budget.

Will use the Small Group Method again next year, with some changes.

Fellowship Ministry:

- ◆ Bingo was well attended by 40 people. There will be no Bingo in December, but will return on January 21, 2018.

Property Committee:

- ◆ Leaky roof has been repaired. Slats on bell tower still need to be fixed.
- ◆ B&B Electric will repair light in basement.
- ◆ Benedicts will come to check the gas oven to see why it isn't functioning properly.

Church Council Meeting

Social Ministry:

- ◆ Will need volunteers to deliver Meals on Wheels in January.

Worship/Music Ministry:

- ◆ None

Youth/Family Ministry:

- ◆ Thirteen Preschool bibles were distributed.
- ◆ Raffle Fundraiser brought in \$1444 for the Youth Fund.
- ◆ Youth In Action cleaned dining room tables, nursery toys, worship bags and under cushions in pews as part of their servant event.
- ◆ Twelve youth will receive the Rite of Confirmation on January 7, 2018.
- ◆ There are currently 13 youth signed up for the National Youth Gathering. A credit card is requested for use by chaperone on the trip.
- ◆ We are planning on having T shirts made.
- ◆ Youth late night was held December 8 from 8:00-midnight. Seventeen youth attended.
- ◆ A generous gift was donated to the Youth fund from Julie Anderson, congregation member, Bloomer high school teacher and recipient of a Herb Kohl Foundation Teacher Fellowship.

Dream Team: None.

Preschool:

- ◆ Preschool family night was held December 11 and 12.

Council President's Report:

- ◆ Chamber of Commerce is looking for sponsors for the Rope Jump Contest. Social Ministry will contribute \$100 from their budget.
- ◆ Discussed contributing to ELCA World Relief effort.
- ◆ Reminder to submit items to be included on the next agenda by noon Tuesday of the week prior to council meeting. Next meeting will be January 9, 2018 at 6:30.

Pastor's Report:

- ◆ **CELEBRATING:** Conclusion of custodian hiring process; Full slate of council nominees; Sanctuary decorations and those who helped.
- ◆ **ENCOURAGED:** Jan Helgeson to lead Holden Evening Prayer during Advent; Kelsey Kettner to play clarinet on Christmas Day; Donnie Geissler to ask Kay Anderson to serve on Foundation.
- ◆ **GO DEEPER:** Working with Discipleship Committee on integrating results from small group; working with Budget Committee on benevolence goals.
- ◆ **WORKING ON:** Setting up new staff for success; Upcoming events: Christmas, Confirmation, Annual Meeting, Godspeed for retiring staff, Installation of new staff.
- ◆ **LEARNING:** Exploring "Did you know..." information on slides about giving; Sharing questions from small group conversations; New member class sessions.
- ◆ **PRAYERS/HELP:** Recruiting participants for Walking Together; New member class sessions.
- ◆ Approached by Amanda Prill on behalf of Boy Scouts about placing a container at St John's to collect new socks through Christmas. Council agreed by unanimous consent.
- ◆ Discussed participating in a Christmas Gifts for Kids program. WELCA participates annually. Consensus was to revisit the idea in the fall of 2018 to participate in a timely manner next year.
- ◆ Participated in third recharge in Arizona and returned with many beneficial ideas.
- ◆ **Membership Update:** Baptism: Ollyn Schwarzenberger; Tenley Boese. Transfer to Church Triumphant: Jim Madision.
- ◆ Motion made by Janice Naset, seconded by Ellyn Hudacek, to approve membership update. Motion carried.

Church Council Meeting

Old Business:

- ◆ Discussed Budget for 2018-2019.
- ◆ Motion was made by Ellyn Hudacek, seconded by Barb Ross, to accept the Budget for 2018-2019 with changes that were made. Motion carried.
- ◆ Discussion of Annual Meeting. A raffle will be held with the following cash prizes: 1 - \$350; 1- \$100; 2- \$50; 6- \$25. Tickets will be sold at \$5 each, buy 5 and get one free. You must be a voting member of St John's congregation and you must be present at Annual Meeting to win.
- ◆ The Nominating Committee recommends the following for candidates for council: Tom Buchner; Ellyn Hudacek; Susie McGinnis; Annie Bleskacek; Kathy Tozer. Three will be elected for a three-year term at the Annual Meeting on January 21, 2018.
- ◆ A Nominating Committee, consisting of six members and Pastor, will be elected at the Annual Meeting. Clyde Shipman, Rod Johnson and Janice Naset have agreed to be considered.
- ◆ Synod Candidates will be elected at the Annual Meeting. This is open to the congregation.
- ◆ Kathy Tozer and Debbie Gillette will be performing the annual audit.

New Business:

- ◆ Discussed possibility of Ecumenical Choir and who would lead.
- ◆ Proceeds from Christmas Pageant will go into Wednesday meal fund, by unanimous consent.
- ◆ A motion was made by Lynette Pank, seconded by Rod Johnson, for Pastoral Housing Allowance of \$24,000. Motion carried.
- ◆ A motion was made by Barb Ross, seconded by Janice Naset, to amend Custodian/Janitor Job Description to add "Meet with property committee as needed" under Working Conditions. Motion carried.
- ◆ A motion was made by Janice Naset, seconded by Barb Ross, to approve Gregg Anderson as Custodian/Janitor, starting as soon as possible. Motion carried.
- ◆ A motion was made by Ellyn Hudacek, seconded by Rod Johnson, to pay wages for Gregg Anderson through December 31, 2017 from council budget. Motion carried.
- ◆ A motion was made by Barb Ross, seconded by Lynette Pank, to set an hourly wage of \$11 during the three month trial period for the new custodian. Motion carried.
- ◆ A motion was made by Lynette Pank, seconded by Barb Ross, to approve \$225 from council funds for staff retirement gifts. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn was made at 9:05 PM by Barb Ross, with a second by Ellyn Hudacek. The motion carried.

The meeting closed with the 'Lord's Prayer' led by Pastor Martin.

Lisa Prill, Secretary

Present: Guest – Martha Libersky; Pastor Martin, Rod Johnson, Philip Skaar, Lynette Pank, Tyler Halverson, Janice Naset, Ellyn Hudacek, Barb Ross, Lisa Prill. Absent: Tom Buchner, Pauline Stertz,

Youth and Family



Christmas Pageant 2018

“Instead of doing what might have been expected, the Lord held out a promise. He said that any and everyone who looked upon His Son as Savior would be given eternal life. Read through Scripture and you will find that invitation extended again and again. It was a promise that found its fulfillment in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of the Savior whose birth we celebrate this month.” *Rev. Ken Klaus, speaker emeritus of “The Lutheran Hour”*