



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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Prayers	2
Church News	3
Finance Update	3
Calendar	4
Council Minutes	5,6
News from Pastor Halom	7
Youth News	8
Youth Committee Minutes	9

Meet St. John's Newly Nominated Members to Church Council



Kaitlyn Bohl



Alicia Bonczyk



Terri Smith



Janelle Yeakey

My name is **Kaitlyn Bohl**, I am a 14 year old Freshman at Bloomer High School. I have been a lifelong member at St. John's Lutheran where I have been baptized and attended confirmation. One of my fondest memories is attending the church lock-ins. During the lock-ins, I learned church is not only a place for worship, but it's also a place to have fun and spend time with friends. My family consists of my mom and dad (Terri and Zach Bohl) and my sister Aubrie. Some of my interests include volleyball, golf, water skiing and spending time with friends and family. I am excited to be a member of the St. John's Lutheran Church Council!

My name is **Alicia Bonczyk**, I grew up in Chetek with two amazing parents and two brothers. After completing my degree in Marketing and Advertising I met my husband Andrew one fateful night shining deer with my younger brother and we haven't looked back since. Andrew and I have been married for 12 years and we have 3 wonderful children Alexis (11) Kiley (10) and Colton (7). We came to St. John's one Sunday on a search to find a church that felt comfortable for both Andrew and I, as well as a church we could get married in. It didn't take long for us to decide that both of us enjoyed services at St. John's and the people were amazing. Some of my favorite memories at St John's have been our wedding and baptism of all three of our children, as well as seeing all of the preschool programs. I have been working at Security Bank for 5 years in the loans department and absolutely love working for a company that values faith and family. I am looking forward to getting more involved at St. John's.

(continued on page 3)

Office number: 715-568-5446

Like us on Facebook! [St. John's Lutheran Church - Bloomer, WI](#)

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

Please Join Our Church Family In Prayer



As we enter the month of January, 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

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, Family & Friends of James Doers.

Prayers for our Active Military

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

Prayers for the Saints

Prayers for the week of January 3rd: Dennis, Val, Trevor, Tyler and Zach Rubenzer; Kyle, Michelle, Jenna and Mikayla Ruffedt; Gina, Michael and Ashley Sarauer; Gregory Sarauer.

Prayers for the week of January 10th: Barry, Melissa, Alexander and Morgan Sarauer; Erin, Bella and Christina Schell; Josh, Tara, Connor and Reid Schemenauer; Carly, Zachary and Madden Schimmel.

Prayers for the week of January 17^h: Nancy Schindler; Rodney Schmidt; Brad, Kim and Chloe Schulze; Arlette Schuster; Sharon Schwartz; Doug and Sandy Score; Nikki, Tyler, Madison and Miles Seibel.

Prayers for the week of January 24th: Steve, Susan and McKinsey Seibel; Josh, Sara, Adam and Arianna Shadick; Matthew, Meghan, Evan, Hazel and Henry Shadick; Patrick and Sandra Shadick.

Prayers for the week of January 31st: Clyde Shipman; Ashley, Nathan, Lawson and Lorelei Simmons; Kim, Steve, Bryce, Emilie, Jared and Sarah Siverling; Kari, Phil, Jacob and Jensyn Skaar.

Church News

Meet St. John's Newly Nominated members to Church Council—continued from page 1

Thank you for taking the time to get to know me, **Janelle Yeakey**. I am looking forward to serving St. John's as a council member. My family consists of my husband Brent, children Kelly (19), Camryn (13) and Blaine (10) as well as many wonderful animals - 3 dogs (Wilbur - 8 yrs, Lucy- 1.5 yrs, Ethel - 9 months), a cat (Lucky - 6 months), and a leopard gecko (Bandit). In our spare time we enjoy watching the kids play sports (baseball, softball, basketball, and swimming), along with campfires, skiing, snow shoeing, biking, and fishing.

I have attended St. John's since I was a child as my grandparents were members of the church as well as my parents. Through the years I have gained many fond memories from St. John's. As a child I remember coming to church and sitting with my Grandpa Bob who always had lifesavers to share. As a youth I also had opportunities to strengthen my faith by being a member of the church choirs, attending confirmation retreats, and attending the National Youth Convention in St. Louis. As an adult I have been able to watch St. John's grow by being involved in many areas of the church such as the Worship Committee (5 years), Confirmation small group leader (8 years), Faith Formation instructor, and serving on the Preschool Board (2011- 2019, serving as Treasurer, Vice President, and President).

For the past 15 years I have taught High School Mathematics at Chippewa Falls Senior High School. I love the energy the kids bring to the room and watching them mature into future adults. Teaching is always an adventure which requires you to learn and adapt to various situations. Over the past 2 years I had the joy of bringing Wilbur to school as a therapy dog. Due to health issues I needed to retire him this past spring but hoping to have Ethel follow in his footsteps as Wilbur made a huge difference for many students.

Terri Smith—About Me: I've been a member of St. John's since 2012. Previously I was a member of Hope Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, where I served as Church Council secretary for two years. I was in the handbell choir at Hope and a member of Rebecca Circle, part of the WELCA.

I served briefly on the Church Council at St. John's in 2019, but withdrew after a few months because of family obligations. I'm delighted to be asked to serve again and look forward to working with such a great group of people dedicated to spreading the word about our great congregation and the love of Jesus Christ.

In 2016 I retired. I was a court reporter for 38 years in the State of Wisconsin court system. Like everyone else, I'm waiting for the pandemic to be over so I can once again enjoy being with friends and family, and plan to travel this great country of ours and take in all I can. I love to quilt, golf, be outdoors doing almost anything, and playing cards with the girls.

Deadline for February Newsletter

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

January 25th.

Thank You!!

FINANCE UPDATE

Year-To-Date as of Dec. 30, 2020

Year-To-Date:

Weekly Contributions \$204,724.87

Other Raised Funds 38,868.72

Total Received \$ 243,593.59

- Expenses \$-252,451.58

Total remaining after expenses \$ - 8,857.99

Ok friends,

we are in need of your assistance!

January is our month to deliver a hot meal to homebound friends as part of the Meals on Wheels program. If you are available to work as part of a two person team, please call Janice at 568-5615 or Martha at 568-4653 to sign up for a day, a week, or whenever you're able! The shift goes from 11-12:30 each week-day. 4 people are needed daily (2 teams of 2 people). Let's spread God's love through food and bless this community of ours!

JANUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:00 AM Worship Service Available Online	28	29	30 6:30 PM Mission Trip Meeting (Zoom)	31	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR! Office Closed	2
3 9:00 AM Worship Service Available Online	4 5:00 PM Youth Committee Meeting	5	6 11:00 AM Bloomer Clergy Assoc. Mtg.-Pastor 5:30 PM Faith Formation	7	8	9
10 9:00 AM Worship Service Available Online 10:00 AM Annual Meeting Practice 5:30 PM Youth In Action	11 6:00 PM Preschool Board Meeting	12 3:30 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Church Council Meeting	13 5:30 PM Faith Formation	14 10:00 AM Pastor's Conference	15	16
17 9:00 AM Worship Service Available Online 10:00 AM Annual Meeting	18	19	20 5:30 PM Faith Formation	21	22	23
24 Winter Theological Conference - pastor 9:00 AM Worship Service Available Online 5:30 PM Youth In Action	25 Winter Theological Conference - pastor	26 3:30 PM Staff Meeting	27 5:30 PM Faith Formation	28	29	30
31 9:00 AM Worship Service Available Online	1	2	3 11:00 AM Bloomer Clergy Assoc. Mtg.-Pastor 5:30 PM Faith Formation	4	5	6

Church Council Minutes (via Zoom)

December 8, 2020

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

Opening Devotion: Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson shared a thank you from synod staff to St. John's congregation for supporting the synod financially and through prayer. Devotion based on Matthew 7:24-27 tells us that the wise man builds his house on the rock (Jesus) and though it may feel as we are on shifting sand (pandemic), we stand firm in our faith in Christ. May we look for the opportunity to share our mission instead of focusing on negatives.

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

Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, November 10, 2020: A motion was made by Tom Ewings, seconded by Suzi McInnis, to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Financial Report: A motion was made by Suzi McInnis, seconded by Tom Ewings, to approve the financial report. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Youth /Family:

Rite of Confirmation and Fed & Forgiven instruction is being done virtually.

Ecumenical Christmas Pageant is December 20, 2020 from 4:00-5:00. Begin at St.

Paul's Catholic Church, continue to Christ Lutheran Service Station, then United Methodist, next UCC Congregational and end at St. John's. Program is outdoors.

Collection will be taken for food pantry. Wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Nominating Committee: Three candidates are presented for uncontested ballot to serve three-year term on church council:

Janelle Yeakey.

Terri Smith.

Alicia Bonczyk.

*New members will meet with council via Zoom after annual meeting to elect officers.

Audit Committee: Lydia will begin recruitment.

Council President's Report:

Tyler contacted our state representative concerning need for financial aid for non-profits and small business and encourages others to do the same. Contact Tyler for more information. Reminder to submit items to be included on the next agenda by noon Tuesday of the week prior to council meeting.

Pastor's Report:

Membership Update:

Baptism: Graham Jandourek.

Transfer Out: Denise, Rene and Greyson Medina.

A motion was made by Kathy Tozer, seconded by Melissa Sarauer, to approve the membership update. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Lydia Blaha, seconded by Suzi McInnis, to go to closed session at 6:24 PM. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Suzi McInnis, seconded by Melissa Sarauer, to return to open session at 6:43 PM. Motion carried.

Church Council Minutes *(continued)*

Old Business

COVID Update: St. John's facility remains closed, except for minimal staff.

Annual Budget:

A motion was made by Lydia Blaha, seconded by Suzi McInnis, to accept the St. John's Lutheran 2021 Budget as amended. Motion carried.

**** Discussed revisiting Benevolence later in 2021 and contributing more if possible ****

Annual Meeting:

Practice "Zoom" will be Sunday, January 10, 2021 at 10:00 AM online or by phone.

Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 17, 2021 at 10:00 AM via Zoom online or by phone.

Make-up date is Sunday, January 24, 2021 at 10 :00 AM viz Zoom online or by phone.

Committee reports should be sent to Pastor or Victoria by December 24, 2020.

Tyler will send out proposed preschool by-law changes.

Pastor will email budget and annual report to congregation and make hard copies available at the back entrance of church.

New Business

Pastor Housing Allowance:

A motion was made by Suzi McInnis, seconded by Lydia Blaha, to approve pastor's housing allowance of \$32,000 for 2021. Motion carried.

January Meals on Wheels:

Volunteers are needed to coordinate and deliver Meals on Wheels in January 2021.

Pastor will reach out.

Additional Items and Comments:

Comment on sound quality on recent online service. Issue has already been remedied.

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:03 PM by Melissa Sarauer, seconded by Suzi McInnis. Motion carried.

Closing Prayer: The Lord's Prayer led by Pastor Martin.

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 12, 2021 at 5:30.**

Lisa Prill Secretary

Present via Zoom: Special guest – Bishop Laurie Skow- Anderson; 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.

News From Pastor Martin

Happy new year everyone!

As we flip the calendar to January, there are many who feel as though a huge weight has been lifted off of their shoulders. You might be one of them! But as I reflect on turning the calendar page, I realize that it is more of a symbolic change than actual change. Now don't get me wrong, symbolic change can certainly shift a mindset as much as anything. I recall in college those new beginnings: the first day of school, starting a new semester, returning from a holiday break. Those were all important new beginnings for me mentally because it broke down the larger picture into smaller fragments that were much more manageable!

I too am happy that we can put 2020 to rest. It has been a trial for us all. But I also want to underscore that trials are not 100% bad. In fact, it reminds me of one of the more helpful and hopeful passages in scripture for me personally:

Romans 5:1-5 Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

You'll notice that hopefulness is not rooted in a calendar change. Instead, hopefulness is rooted in God's love given to us through the Holy Spirit. That is where my hope lies – in God – not 2021.

To close, I want to have us all consider what real change we can manage in these times, not symbolic change. I truly feel that the way we do church was already changing even before the pandemic and 2020 simply ushered that along further. Whereas I do believe that we will get back to our ministry in some of our previous ways, I also believe that 2020 has opened the door to some new and innovative ways of doing ministry. Keep an open mind, adapt to our shifting world, and place your hope in the Spirit that will continue to guide us along the way. When we follow that very Spirit, I truly believe we will all experience greater endurance, greater character, and greater hopefulness!

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.

- 1/6: Group A
- 1/13: Group B
- 1/20: Group A
- 1/27: Group B



YOUTH IN ACTION



Who: 9th-12th Grade Youth
When: Sunday, January 10th & 24th
 @ 5:30-7:30pm

Where: Online via Zoom

Join us for a time of virtual fellowship, game playing, food eating, story telling, and a whole lot of fun!!



Left:
Greg Chojnacki as narrator and Emmitt, Henry, and Lucy Anderson as shepherds at the Bloomer Christmas Pageant on December 20th.

JAM LIVE LESSON SCHEDULE

Join Katie for a live Zoom JAM lesson where we will read our Bible story of the week, play a game, and have some discussion about what we've learned!

- 1/6: K/1 @ 5:30pm, 2 @ 6pm
- 1/13: 3/4 @ 5:30pm, 5 @ 6pm
- 1/20: K/1 @ 5:30pm, 2 @ 6pm
- 1/27: 3/4 @ 5:30pm, 5 @ 6pm



BUTTER BRAIDS UPDATE

Thank you

...to everyone who participated in the Butter Braids fundraiser!

- We earned \$1,848 for
- mission trips,
 - summer camp,
 - other youth & family events.



Christmas caroling at the apartments on Dec. 16th

Youth Committee Meeting December 14, 2020 *(via zoom)*

Present: Pastor Martin, Katie O'Connell, Kathy Tozer, Melissa Sarauer, Beth Halverson, Lisa Prill.

JAM:

Interactive Zoom sessions are going well.

Katie will record JAM-Zoom sessions instead of producing a Google Classroom.

Confirmation:

Attendance has been good, regular.

Will be caroling (outside) St. John's apartments next week.

Youth in Action:

Participation has been consistent, good.

Recent online events included "escape room" and "virtual headbands."

Katie will brainstorm events for two meetings in January.

Mission Trip:

ONLINE MEETING set for Wednesday, December 30 at 6:30 for families interested in 2021 Mission Trip to discuss options:

Colorado trip vs local mission.

COVID implications; vaccine requirements; airline restrictions.

Choice of dates.

\$50 deposit due date.

Scholarship opportunities.

Quake:

Virtual Quake is February 27, 2021.

Registration deadline for \$50 deposit and to receive incentives is December 28, 2020.

Luther Park Traveling Day Camp (VBS):

Proposed dates are July 11-16. Katie will check other availability.

Registration is all online. Katie will check on deadlines for registration.

Camper fee of \$25 will cover entire week. Katie will check on cost to St. John's.

Christmas Pageant:

Ecumenical and outdoors. December 20, 2020.

Gregory Chojnacki is narrator for St. John's. Need a family to portray shepherds.

Next meeting is January 4, 2021 at 5:00 PM.



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

715-568-5446
Email: 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