

# St. John's Lutheran Church

## Mission Statement:

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

### GO TEAM!

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Church News - Calendar
- Letters from Pastor Halom
- Youth News

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#### Jamie Nelson

Today I'd like to introduce to you our next highly valued staff member, Jamie Nelson. I got to know Jamie through the interview process when she landed the position of Preschool Director/Teacher. As I reflect on that interview, I recall her genuine personality just jumping through my computer monitor (I was in quarantine at the time...) That lasting impression made it a very easy call to bring her aboard as we sought to resurrect our preschool from some difficult covid years.

Jamie clearly exhibited her personal skills and deep love of children in the interview and even more as she works with some very blessed kids. You can tell how much she loves those kids by the way she treats them in the classroom as well as how she talks about them, almost as if they were her own! Jamie has lived in the Bloomer area which has been another tremendous gift to our preschool as her network of connections has directly fed our preschool enrollment. Her name recognition and trusted leadership has indeed served us well in this first full year back again.

Jamie has two daughters, River (9th grade) and Ryleah (11th grade), both of whom spend their time on their respective basketball teams. She's married to Jeremy, who's a great support as well. It was great to see them get acknowledged on parent's night between the JV and varsity basketball game earlier this month - you could just see how proud they were of their daughters. That's actually one of the traits that I admire about Jamie the most - her family comes first. But her family also supports her in her work as well. I loved watch Jamie move into her classroom and see how eager she was to work with the preschool, even before she knew her class list! Her daughters came and helped decorate in the late summer, just before preschool began. I wish you could have seen the room transformation that just energized our atmosphere here and made us all wait with great expectation that preschool was back and ready to go!

When working with our preschool committee, Jamie has shown that she's willing to listen to other's thoughts and ideas, but is very willing to share from her perspective as well. This makes for a very healthy working environment where everyone wants to determine what's best for the kids. She's been quite dependable at those meetings as well as the classroom. She's even brought many great ideas for future fundraisers to benefit the preschool.

God has indeed blessed St. John's with Jamie and her caring nature. The kids are growing under her care and families can trust that their children are in great hands. I just can't wait to see what the remainder of the school year brings!

*Pastor Martin*

Office number: 715-568-5446

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

## Please Join Our Church Family In Prayer



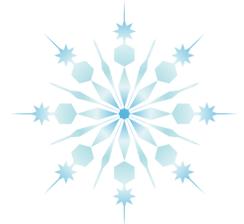
As we enter the month of January please join our church family in prayer. Below you will find a list of those who we will be praying for. If you or someone you know would like to be added to one of the list please stop by the church office, call the office at 715-568-5446, or email the information to: [stjohnsl-secretary@bloomer.net](mailto:stjohnsl-secretary@bloomer.net)

### Prayers of Healing For Our Church Family

Pat Prill; Emmett Larson; Shelli Rogge; Arlene Christianson; Bob Kerckhove; Renee Grambo; Steve Trubshaw; Dohna Kerckhove (Pat Prill's daughter); Kyle Ruffedt; Kelly Custer; Dick Keller (Jamie's father).

### Prayers For Our Active Military

Dalton Grambo, Danielle Shipman,  
Kelsey Leavens, Trenton Beaudette



### Prayers For the Saints

Prayers for the week of January 1<sup>st</sup>: Brad, Kim and Chloe Schulze; Arlette Schuster; Sharon Schwartz; Doug and Sandy Score; Nikki, Tyler, Madison and Miles Seibel; Steve and Susan Seibel.

Prayers for the week of January 8<sup>th</sup>: Josh, Sara, Adam and Arianna Shadick; Matthew, Meghan, Evan, Hazel and Henry Shadick; Patrick and Sandra Shadick; Brian, Stacy and Jackson Simmons.

Prayers for the week of January 15<sup>th</sup>: Ashley, Nathan, Lawson and Lorelei Simmons; Kim and Steve Siverling; Bryce Siverling; Emilie Siverling; Jared Siverling; Sarah Siverling; Kari, Phil, Jacob, Jensyn Skaar; Terri Smith; Donald and Karen Steinmetz.

Prayers for the week of January 22<sup>nd</sup>: Laura, Terry, Isabel and Tatum Steinmetz; Dave and Pauline Stertz; Deanna, Jordyn, Nichole and Travis Nordrum; Deanna Stuckert; Marlin and Monica Stuckert; Charlie, Nicole, Ava and Conor Sundberg.

Prayers for the week of January 29<sup>th</sup>: Dale, Sanja, Alyson and Andrew Swan; Cody, Susan, Abigail, Ben Thiede; Jerome, Tia, Tiana Thomley; Owen Thompto; Bert and Kathy Tozer; Brent, Ilona, Izibel and Trent Tozer.



# JANUARY 2023 CALENDAR

## News from Pastor Halom

JANUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> HAPPY NEW YEAR!! 9:00am Worship Service	<b>2</b>  Office Closed Preschool Closed 5:30pm Staff Christmas Party	<b>3</b> Preschool Back to School	<b>4</b> 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm - 5:30pm Wednesday Meals 6:45pm Worship Service	<b>5</b> 5:00pm Preschool Committee Meeting	<b>6</b> 7:00pm LOCK-IN (7p to 7a)	<b>7</b> 2:00pm Private Baptism - Elaina Rihn
<b>8</b> 9:00am Worship Service - Rite of Confirmation	<b>9</b> 8:00am Bible Study	<b>10</b> 5:30pm Church Council Meeting 7:30pm - 8:30pm Fellowship Committee Meeting	<b>11</b> 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm - 5:30pm Wednesday Meals 6:45pm Worship Service	<b>12</b> 9:30am Pastor's Conference	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am - 11:00am Town Hall Meeting 2:00pm - 5:00pm Harry Potter Bible Study	<b>16</b> Preschool PJs and Movie Day 8:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Staff Meeting	<b>17</b>  Preschool PJs and Movie Day 1:00pm - 4:00pm Quilting Group	<b>18</b> 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm - 5:30pm Wednesday Meals 5:30pm - 6:30pm Town Hall Meeting 6:45pm Worship Service	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  No Preschool	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am - 11:00am St. John's Annual Meeting 5:30pm Youth In Action	<b>23</b> 8:00am Bible Study	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm - 5:30pm Wednesday Meals 6:45pm Worship Service	<b>26</b> Deadline for Feb 2023 Newsletter Submissions	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:00am Worship Service	<b>30</b> 8:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Staff Meeting	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm - 5:30pm Wednesday Meals 6:45pm Worship Service	<b>2</b> 5:00pm Preschool Committee Meeting	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>

### FED AND FORGIVEN 1ST COMMUNION OPTIONS

For families who would like to consider taking first communion classes, please read about the following upcoming options available to you, regardless of your child's age!

#### Option 1 - First Communion Retreat at Luther Park on Friday, Jan. 20

Last year, for the first time, we offered a first communion retreat at Luther Park. We had a total of 11 kids take advantage of this opportunity and it was a booming success! This option is a full one day event where all sessions are incorporated so participants are done in just one day. We ask that each child bring a parent or adult to join the fun as historically we've asked for parent participation regardless. Adults are simply asked to help with crowd control as chaperones, but really it's a great reminder that we can have fun together. (Not to mention the fact that many adults appreciate the lessons too!) There would be a \$10-15/person cost for this option that would pay for lunch and the meeting space. I'm imagining the retreat to last from 8:30-3 (perhaps earlier).

#### Option 2 - 4 hour long sessions at St. John's (March 1, 15, 22, and 29)

For this option, we would meet from 3:30-4:30 each week. The final session would involve baking the communion bread and "test driving" the communion experience. We would still ask for adult participation if possible as schedules may allow. There would be no cost for this option.

Depending on how things play out, each group would select the actual first communion date that would work for all families in that group.

Even if your child has already had instruction, you're still welcome to participate in either option as it might re-enforce anything they've forgotten and continue to bond the group together! For those of you unfamiliar with Luther Park, I'd strongly recommend option 1 as it can help familiarize you with the camp, especially since we'll be utilizing their new ministry center and experiencing their tasty food! This could lay the groundwork for an amazing weeklong summer camp experience!

Please let me know by **Sunday, January 8** which option you prefer so that we can make plans and reserve the space. Please know that scholarships can be available upon request, which will remain confidential as always. I will also need to know how many adults to plan for as well. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask!

*Pastor Martin*

# Church News

## Questions about the annual budget?

Join a townhall gathering  
**Sunday January 15th** after church  
 or **Wednesday January 18th**

**5:30pm - 6:30pm** to talk with  
 Council Members.  
 Refreshments provided.



Join us for St. John's Annual Meeting

2023  
January  
22

10:00 a.m.

Brunch to follow!

## Volunteers needed...

...for brunch on **January 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
 following St. John's Annual Meeting.

Set up, cooks, and clean up help  
 needed.

Please sign up on sheets in  
 narthex. **Questions?**  
 contact **Janelle Yeakey**  
**715-933-0816**



## I'm Not Going Outside



Until The Temperature Is  
 Above My Age.

## 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

## St. John's is beginning to set up Meals On Wheels For January



If you would be available for one  
 or more weeks in January to drive  
 and/or deliver meals, please sign up in  
 the Narthex or contact

**Janice Naset at 568-5615 -- or --**  
**Martha Libersky at 568-4653**

To schedule.

Thank you for helping with this  
 community project!

## Quilting Group

Will be meeting on  
**January 17<sup>th</sup>**  
 at 1:00-4:00 p.m.

*Everyone is welcome!!*



## Deadline for February 2023 Newsletter

If you would like to  
 submit  
 anything for the newslet-  
 ter, please make sure to  
 get it to the church sec-  
 retary no later than  
**January 26th.**

Thank You!!

	Month of	Year to Date
	NOV 2022	JAN - NOV
INCOME	\$14,525	\$265,058 <i>(Incl gift of \$82K)</i>
EXPENSES	\$20,236	\$204,589
Difference	(\$ 5,711)	\$60,469

## Financial Update

Current Balance  
 on Line of Credit  
 \$10,685

# Church Council Minutes

## December 13, 2022



**Call to Order** - meeting was called to order at 5:36 pm by Adam Anderson, Council President.

**Opening Devotion** – Pastor Martin led the council in reflection asking the questions “What is our purpose? What is our mission? Why does St. John’s exist?”

*Responses were:*

A place for a community of people to build each other up through common faith in God.

A safe space for people to gather.

An outreach into the community by allowing nonmembers to have baptisms, weddings, funerals, and communion.

Open doors to the community with goal for inclusivity.

We develop leaders of all ages.

A place for youth ministry.

To help people find a sense of belonging.

Pastor then led the council in prayer.

**Approval of the Agenda** - a motion was made by Marcy Trubshaw to approve the agenda, seconded by Sarah Wittrock. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes** - a motion was made by Alicia Bonczyk to approve the minutes from the November 14, 2022 meeting, seconded by Terri Smith. Motion carried.

**Financial Report -**

	Year to Date ( Jan 2022-Oct 2022)
Income	\$264,949.30 (includes gift of \$82,000)
Expenses	\$204,663.12
Difference	\$60,286.18
Current SFB Line of Credit	\$10,883.36

**Note:** The past several months we have been about \$3400 short in donations to meet expenses. The shortfall has been paid using money from the gift of \$82,000 or line of credit from the bank.

A motion was made by Alicia Bonczyk to take \$3400 from the council fund to pay bills (utilities, payroll, insurance, building loan, & elevator) for the month of December. Seconded by Sarah Wittrock. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Terri Smith to approve the financial report. Seconded by Janelle Yeakey. Motion carried.

**Old Business**

**Committees –**

**Nomination Committee-** continuing to work on council candidates

**Fellowship Committee –**

Annual Meeting: Worship at 9 am, Meeting at 10 am, brunch to follow

Town Hall Meetings: Council members present to answer questions about annual budget and other concerns. Sunday Jan 15th after church & Wednesday Jan 18th 5:30-6:30

**Preschool** – midyear evaluations happening, hours changing to be done at 11:30, another class section being added starting in January.

**Discipleship** – Gary Heading will be invited to speak about stewardship on Sunday January 22nd

# Youth & Family Announcements

## Youth in Action

We are still looking for high school families to host for one YIA gathering each month. If you would be interested in learning more about that, please contact Amanda Ritchie - mobile (715)279-6962 or email [amanda\\_stjohnspreschool@aol.com](mailto:amanda_stjohnspreschool@aol.com).

Our Youth in Action for January will take place on Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## Quake

Middle and high school students, save the following date.

**February 10-12 (Wisconsin Dells)**

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! If your child is interested in attending, if you would like to chaperon, or if any questions arise, please contact Pastor Martin or Youth Director, Amanda Ritchie.

## Christmas Pageant

Our Christmas Pageant took place on Wednesday, December 21st. The JAM students did a great job with bringing the Christmas story to life through 'Twas the Night Before Christmas and Happy Birthday Jesus. Thank you for all who were able to attend the pageant.

## Harry Potter Bible Study

We are going to be hosting a Harry Potter bible study beginning on Sunday, January 15th from 2:00 - 5:00PM. If you are interested in attending, please contact Amanda Ritchie or Pastor Martin. We will be showing Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban at this event. All ages are welcome! We do ask that if you have not seen the first two movies before this showing that you do catch up so that the storyline makes more sense.

**"WE ARE ONLY AS STRONG AS WE ARE UNITED, AS WEAK AS WE ARE DIVIDED." -ALBUS DUMBLEDORE**

## Lock-In

Our next lock-in will take place on Friday, January 6th. We will have a Pseudo Lock-In from 7pm until midnight for the confirmation and high school students, and then from midnight until 7am will just be for the high school students. For more information, please contact Amanda Ritchie or Pastor Martin.



## Confirmation Sunday

Confirmation will take place on **Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>** during service. Pictures will be taken after service around 10:30 AM by Curtie Photography Services. If you would like to purchase an 8x10 group picture of your student, the cost is \$17 per copy. More information will be shared with the confirmation students and their families in the coming weeks. Please contact Pastor Martin or Amanda Ritchie with any questions you may have.

**HAPPY  
NEW YEAR**

# PRESCHOOL NEWS & UPDATES

**HAPPY NEW YEAR** NEWS FROM PRESCHOOL STAFF!



Amanda



## Sneak Peek into the Program

Amanda and Jamie have a lot packed into the month of January. In this coming month, our various themes that will be explored are New Years; Winter Wonderland; I Have a Dream; the Lunar New Year and Dental Health Week. The children follow weekly focus walls that teach them their letters, shapes, colors, and numbers. As teachers, we integrate these subject areas into our curriculum plans and daily activities that the children can choose from.

Jamie



## Dates to Consider

Friday, January 20th we will be closed along with the School District of Bloomer.

## PJs and a Movie Day

We will be having movie days on Monday, January 16th and Tuesday, January 17th in our theater room upstairs. Children can stay in their jammies that morning and enjoy a movie with some fresh popcorn.

## Update on our Family Christmas Party

On Monday, December 19th, we were able to gather with most of our students and their families to celebrate Christmas. The children sang two songs for their families to start out the night. Once they were done, we had crafts that the kids could make with their families and a bunch of sweet treats to snack on before the night was over. It was fun to celebrate Christmas with all our students before our long Winter Break.

## New Enrollment

We have welcomed one new student to our Monday/Wednesday/Friday classes and five students on Tuesday/Thursday. Ms. Ritchie and Miss Jamie are excited to welcome new families into the program.

## Program Time Change

After meeting with the Preschool Committee and much thought, the preschool pickup option has been changed to 11:30AM only. We are still offering staggered drop off times in the morning before the program begins at 7:15AM, 7:30AM, 7:45AM and 8AM.



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

715-568-5446  
Email: stjohndl-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

*(December 13, 2022 Council Minutes continued)*

**New Business**

**Budget** - Discussion on budget completed, email vote to happen once budget document is updated. The council is committing to increase benevolence by a minimum of 1% each year.

**Salaries** - A motion was made by Janelle Yeakey to change the financial secretary and office manager positions from hourly to salary beginning on the first payroll after the approved 2023 budget. Seconded by Marcy Trubshaw. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Janelle Yeakey to change the part time youth director position from hourly to salary beginning on the first payroll after the approved 2023 budget. The position will be approximately 15 hours per week for August -May, 40 hrs per week for June and July. Seconded by Marcy Trubshaw. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Alicia Bonczyk to make the housing allowance \$32,000. Seconded by Marcy Trubshaw. Motion carried unanimously.

**Constitution Amendments**

ELCA church wide assembly constitution amendments will be communicated to the congregation via email.

January Meeting Date—Tuesday January 10th, 5:30 pm

**Reports**

**Pastor Report** – A motion was made by Janelle Yeakey to accept membership changes of welcoming Beau Bathke through baptism. Seconded by Alicia Bonczyk. Motion carried.

**Additional Items and Announcements**

**Adjournment** - a motion was made at 8:17pm by Katelyn Bohl to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Marcy Trubshaw. Motion carried.