



# St. John's Lutheran Church

VOLUME 39, NUMBER 7

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Pictorial Directory
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Church Council Update
- Council Minutes
- Financial
- Youth Events
- Preschool News

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## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

**Pictorial Directory task force:** 3-5 people are needed to assist in setting up our new pictorial directory. The last directory was distributed back in 2007, so it's time for a new one in a new era! We are looking for people who may have some of the following gifts:

- ♦ organization
- ♦ time to make phone calls
- ♦ editing skills
- ♦ computer skills

If you are willing to help serve on this task force, please contact Pastor Martin at [pastormartin@bloomer.net](mailto:pastormartin@bloomer.net) or 568-5446. The task force will help determine the time line for the pictures as well as the directory distribution.

### WANTED: PEOPLE WITH A HEART FOR GIVING

Pastor Martin is looking for 5-7 people to form a task force for the Discipleship Committee. This subcommittee will look at the financial side of discipleship and help develop a method for a fall drive. Please contact Pastor Martin if you have any interest (financial background is not required) in helping with this committee as we seek to support the mission of St. John's through our financial giving in new and creative ways!



### MEALS ON WHEELS IS IN NEED OF YOUR HELP!

We have lots of vacant spots on our July Meals On Wheels calendar, located in the Narthex of the church. Though we get busy during the summer months with our own activities we need to remember our fellow community members who look forward to and/or are in need of that one good meal. So if you could make time to help with delivering these meals it would be greatly appreciated. You can sign up on the sheet or call Art Klingenberg at 715-237-2498 or Pauline Stertz at 715-568-3416.

# Pastor's News

## SYNOD ASSEMBLY REFLECTIONS

As I reflect back on my time at the synod assembly (my first in this synod!), I continue to marvel at the work of the Holy Spirit as we elected a new bishop. Pastor Rick Hoyme, pastor at Central Lutheran in Chippewa Falls, will say good-bye to his old flock and hello to an entire synod consisting of 198 congregations and over 105,000 members! He will be a great leader and I look forward to his innovative thinking in the office of bishop.

I also learned about two initiatives that our synod is involved with that I hope to have St. John's participate in over the next year.

1. *Imagine Together* is an initiative that Pastor Kathy Tulman (former St. John's intern!) reported on. This initiative hopes to
  - ◆ equip our congregation with practical tools for discipleship, building community, faith formation, and living out faith as accompaniment.
  - ◆ actively be aware of God in our midst and see God's actions in everyday life.
  - ◆ get out of our church buildings and into the community for mission and ministry.
  - ◆ equip our congregation to articulate who God is, who we are and how our stories intersect.
  - ◆ build a practical toolbox to improve congregation vitality.
  
2. *Vibrant Faith @ Home* is a segment of Vibrant Faith Ministries in Minneapolis. All six synods in the state of Wisconsin have partnered together to receive a grant from the Siebert Foundation that helps congregations equip parents to teach faith at home. This initiative is part of former Bishop Duane Pederson's initiative that claims, "Raising up leaders happens best when home and church partner in deeply instilling the Christian faith during the first third of life."

I left energized from the synod assembly knowing that we have a new leader with imagination never-ending, along with two new opportunities to broaden our scope and impact with those we love and those we will come to love. Look for more to come with regard to both of these new initiatives!

*Pastor Martin*



## AN ODE TO NEW LIFE!

I once got a phone call where Pastor Todd Iverson said,  
“There’s this place called Bloomer and that’s where you should head!

They’re a little bit hurt from the vote that took place,  
because the former pastor took off for another worship space.

Unfortunately, that space is right there in Bloomer you see.  
They call it Christ Lutheran and are now LCMC.

But there’s no reason to doubt the strength of St. John’s,  
For they won the vote and are ready to move on!”

I said, “Thanks for the call, but where is this Bloomer?  
Does it have a store, a gas station, or even a single consumer?”

When I got there in October, they wondered about this dude,  
but they welcomed me well and stuffed me with good Lutheran calorie-free food!

Each week I quiz them on all things ELCA,  
putting all the misconceptions from my predecessor at bay.

I teach them about camps, to colleges, to getting ordained,  
We start worship with an exam, and I have yet to be maimed!

Pastor Martin

## ALL THINGS NEW MOMENT

Julie and I experienced a spiritual reawakening 10 years ago when we made the decision to join St. John's church in Bloomer. We both had a faith background previously but we felt like we had found our spiritual "home" as we adjusted to life as part of the St. John's congregation.

Our worship experiences at St. Johns felt like coming home to family for me, as each week we came back and reconnected with God and with the people of his church, whom we felt so close to. The baptisms of our children only deepened our feeling of belonging to a church family as they flourished in our church environment. These warm and welcoming people embraced us and our children, and we loved to tell any new person we'd meet about the unhindered, accepting faith family we had found at St. Johns.

Then what we thought could never happen did. A large part of our church leadership reacted negatively to many of the messages published in the ELCA's Social Statement on Sexuality in 2009 and by the fall of 2010 we were a house divided. It is hard to describe the feelings we had as we studied the issues, listened to the debates and ultimately slowly began to realize that our congregation would never be the same.

Following our sense of denial that this was serious, and our naive optimism that reason and the accepting hearts we thought we knew would win out, we were hit hard in the faces with reality. Members of our faith family turned on one another. Heated arguments ensued. Each week we witnessed further division, and many of the people we thought we knew didn't seem the same anymore. We felt betrayed, deceived, and despairing. (I was downright angry.) Our spot in the second pew from the front of the church was no longer a place of spiritual peace, so, brokenheartedly, we left and began attending another ELCA church.

Then came the vote and the cathartic split. We chose to return...home to St. Johns...and hope that we could heal...together. A few deep breaths and we realized that just maybe this tempering process God had put us through might just make better Lutherans of us. The hollow feeling didn't go away all at once....more than one Sunday we looked around and wondered why we couldn't just push the "refresh" button and start over again. Still, the church found its core again; good people persevered and we were guided and encouraged by Pastor Jeannie and many others.

Last August came the final proof that God had our backs all along as our call committee found the Halom family and Pastor Martin. Hope grew in us as the prospect of finally having a permanent pastor in place moved from prayer asked to prayer answered. After Pastor was installed, we did what all good Lutherans do: we ate a meal! Moving through the food line that day, I paused and looked up. Through teary eyes I saw the most beautiful sight. Our dining hall tables were FILLED with people, sharing a meal, conversation, laughter. We were together and we were healing and growing stronger. Today, we still don't always sit in that second pew from the front at St. John's... Because if we don't get there early enough, there's no room! We worship a full house nearly every Sunday and you know what, I haven't heard one single complaint about the lack of elbow room!

Julie and I are so glad to be with Pastor Martin here today and we thank the ELCA for standing firm in its social beliefs. And I thank the once again growing congregation at St. Johns for showing Julie and I that almost 150 years of German Lutheran tradition does not preclude that new ways of coming to and walking with Christ can be found and assimilated each and every new day.

**CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE**

Tom Ewings has submitted his resignation to the church council due to a work conflict. Tom Buchner has accepted the church council's offer to fill the vacancy until the 2015 annual meeting. Other news from the council:

**Executive Committee**

President – Pat Boettcher  
 Vice President – Rod Johnson  
 Treasurer – Lyn Pank  
 Secretary – Shelly Lane  
 Pastor Martin

**Council Liasons**

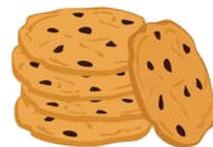
Discipleship – Kathy Faschingbauer  
 Fellowship – Pauline Stertz  
 Property – Tom Buchner  
 Social Ministry – Pauline Stertz & Jordyn Keller  
 Worship & Music – Janice Naset  
 Youth & Family – Adam Ewings

The church council will normally meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30

**PARTY WITH THE FAITHFUL!**

The Bloomer clergy association would like to invite you to an evening of fun on Wednesday, July 17 at 6 pm at the north park! The King's Countrymen will be on hand to provide some good ol' fashioned blue grass music! Desserts will be provided and family friendly games will be involved as well.

Members from several denominations will be there and we hope that you can as well. Let's show the community of Bloomer how strong we still are and enjoy the company of our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. The normal Wednesday evening worship will be cancelled that night to allow you this opportunity to gather and realize that faith can be fun. If you have any questions, please ask Pastor Martin!



St. John's Lutheran Church - Bloomer, WI



St. John's has joined the world of Facebook. For up to date church and preschool events please like our page and share with your family and friends.

Announcements

## Council Meeting June 9, 2013

### Committees

#### WORSHIP

- Janice Naset  
Chairman
- Lisa Goettl
- Janet Helgeson
- Kathy Geissler
- Janelle Yeakey

#### FELLOWSHIP

- Pauline Stertz  
Chairman
- Sue Zwiefelhofer
- Sue Seibel
- Nylah Gust
- Heidi Morning

#### SOCIAL

- Pauline Stertz and  
Jordyn Keller  
Chairman
- Heidi Keller
- Pauline Stertz
- Jeff Cole
- Gregg Anderson

#### YOUTH &

#### EDUCATION

- Adam Ewings  
Chairman
- Tasha Baker
- Brian Mawby
- Teri Henneman
- Michelle Ruffedt
- Kelly Custer
- Brad Ruff
- Marla Paulson

#### DISCIPLESHIP

- Kathy Faschingbauer  
and Alice Zinsmaster  
Chairman
- Michelle Gasper
- Alice Zinsmaster
- Sue Nehring
- Carrie Anderson
- Terri Bohl

#### PROPERTY

#### MANAGEMENT

- Tom Buchner  
Chairman
- David Lane
- Stub Naset
- Pete Zeman
- Val Rubenzer
- Dennis Rubenzer
- Nadine Bresina
- Rod Schmidt

President Art Klingenberg called the meeting to order at 4:03 P.M.  
Art Klingenberg opened the meeting with prayer.

#### New Business:

#### Pastor's Report

**Motion made by Lynette Pank and seconded by Alice Zinsmaster to acknowledge membership changes.** Motion carried.

Baptized-Paige Widiker & Arianna Pecha.

Transfer in-Dick & Jean Marquardt.

Transfer to the Church Triumphant-Paul Lanzer, Sr.

#### Council roles

**Motion made by Tom Ewings and seconded by Lynette Pank to nominate Pat Boettcher for council President.** Motion carried.

**Motion made by Kathy Faschingbauer and seconded by Alice Zinsmaster to nominate Rodney Johnson for Vice President.** Motion carried.

**Motion made by Alice Zinsmaster and seconded by Kathy Faschingbauer to nominate Shelly Lane for Secretary.** Motion carried.

**Motion made by Kathy Faschingbauer and seconded by Alice Zinsmaster to nominate Lynette Pank for Treasurer.** Motion carried.

#### Committee Liasons

Discipleship-Kathy Faschingbauer

Fellowship-Pauline Stertz

Property-Tom's replacement

Social Ministry-Pauline Stertz

Worship & Music-Janice Naset

Youth & Family-Adam Ewings

#### Council Meetings

Council meetings will be held the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 P.M.

#### New Musicians

**Motion made by Janice Naset and seconded by Alice Zinsmaster to hire musicians Nancy Schindler and Kathy Larson.** Motion carried.

Mission statement review, Council/Committee retreat & committee framework-tabled.

## Council Meeting June 11, 2013

### Committees

#### WORSHIP

-Janice Naset  
Chairman  
-Lisa Goettl  
-Janet Helgeson  
-Kathy Geissler  
-Janelle Yeakey

#### FELLOWSHIP

-Pauline Stertz  
Chairman  
-Sue Zwiefelhofer  
-Sue Seibel  
-Nylah Gust  
-Heidi Morning

#### SOCIAL

-Pauline Stertz and  
Jordyn Keller  
Chairman  
-Heidi Keller  
-Pauline Stertz  
-Jeff Cole  
-Gregg Anderson

#### YOUTH & EDUCATION

-Adam Ewings  
Chairman  
-Tasha Baker  
-Brian Mawby  
-Teri Henneman  
-Michelle Ruffedt  
-Kelly Custer  
-Brad Ruff  
-Marla Paulson

#### DISCIPLESHIP

-Kathy Fasching-  
bauer  
and Alice Zinsmas-  
ter  
Chairman  
-Michelle Gasper  
-Alice Zinsmaster  
-Sue Nehring  
-Carrie Anderson  
-Terri Bohl

#### PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

-Tom Buchner  
Chairman  
-David Lane  
-Stub Naset  
-Pete Zeman  
-Val Rubenzer  
-Dennis Rubenzer  
-Nadine Bresina  
-Rod Schmidt

President Pat Boettcher called the meeting to order at 6:37 P.M.

**Motion made by Alice Zinsmaster and seconded by Janice Naset to approve the council agenda.**

Motion carried.

Pastor Martin opened the meeting with devotion and prayer.

#### Old Business

• **Motion made by Janice Naset and seconded by Alice Zinsmaster to approve May 5 & June 9 meeting minutes.** Motion carried.

• **Motion made by Shelly Lane and seconded by Kathy Faschingbauer to accept the Financial Report.** Motion carried.

• Staggered council terms set for new members. Installation to be at July 14 worship service.  
• Alice Zinsmaster will sign as preschool licensee. Will invite Michelle Gasper and Janelle Yeakey to September council meeting for an update on the preschool.

#### Committee Reports

• Discipleship -None

• Fellowship -Update on June 30 picnic details

• Property -Will research how best to protect church records

• Social -None

• Worship -Two pianists hired for Sunday & Wednesday worship services. Wednesday, June 12 worship will have a pianist for music. Praise Band will be back for the June 30 Worship in the Park service.

• Youth & Education -Meeting in August to discuss confirmation requirements

#### New Business

##### Pastor's Report

• Pastor's view of council's role is to work collaboratively, disagreeing respectfully if the occasion arises. Use the newsletter for means of communication.

• Staff reviews have been done by the pastor.

• Pastor's time away dates discussed. Next council meeting will be Tuesday, July 16 at 6:30 P.M.

##### Liability Coverage

• Lynette follow-up on insurance coverage as pertains to St. John's and the preschool.

• **Motion made by Alice Zinsmaster and seconded by Rod Johnson to accept the resignation of Tom Ewings (due to work schedule conflicts) from the council.** Motion carried.

According to our constitution, the council shall elect, until the next annual meeting, a successor.

##### Next Steps

• Nominating, Audit and Mutual Ministry committees discussed.

• **2014 budget process** -Committees should finalized 2014 agendas, for the 2014 budget, by October 31, 2013. These agendas to be presented to council at the November meeting. The final draft of the budget to be done at the December meeting.

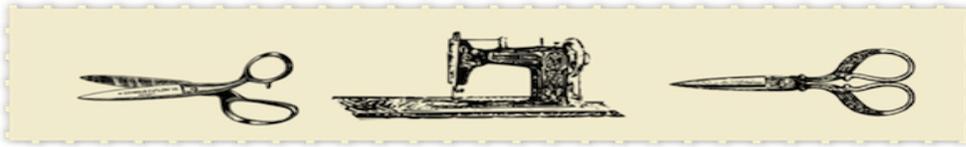
• Continue to review our mission statement-Committees to have agendas reflect our mission statement.

**Motion made by Jordyn Keller and seconded by Alice Zinsmaster to adjourn the meeting.**

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:39 P.M.

Shelly Lane, Secretary

Meeting attended by Pastor Martin, Pat Boettcher, Adam Ewings, Rod Johnson, Janice Naset, Alice Zinsmaster, Kathy Faschingbauer, Jordyn Keller, Lynette Pank, Pauline Stertz and Shelly Lane.



**Attention Thrift Sale Shoppers:** It is getting to be that time of year again when the weather gets warmer and people start putting out their used items. As you are out shopping around, please consider that the quilters are looking for these donated items.

**-Sheets**

**-Baby Care Kits:** Kits are distributed as part of emergency and relief efforts, but they are also given out as part of LWR health initiatives to encourage women to seek prenatal care. This program helps more babies in rural, poor areas receive a healthy start in life.

Items in the kit include: -t-shirts and socks -gowns or sleepers without feet -receiving blankets -jacket, hooded sweaters/sweatshirts, baby caps -hand towels, (dark color recommended) bath-size bars of gentle soaps, cloth diapers, diaper pins, large safety pins

Kits are put together by Janice Naset and Lisa Goettl.



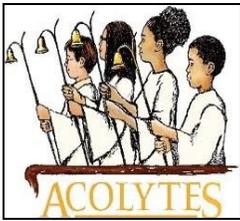
Quilting will be July 13, 2013  
from 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Everyone is welcome to attend .





**Financial Comparison**  
January thru June 26, 2013

	2012	2013	Budget 2013
<b>Beginning Balance – Jan. 1</b>	\$4,915.00	\$20,826.00	
<b>Income – Jan. 1 – June 27</b>	* \$81,958.00	\$84,868.00	\$114,860.00
<b>Expenses – Jan 1 – June 27</b>	\$90,355.00	\$97,727.00	\$114,860.00
<b>Balance</b>	\$-3,482.00	\$ 7,967.00	
<b>Loan – Peoples State Bank Balance Due 5/22</b>	\$ 117,512.00	\$ 100,184.00	
<b>*Includes Loan of \$3,000</b>			



# Communion & Acolyte



Date of Service	Communion Assistant	Acolyte
July 7	Payton Dachel  Aaron Price	Payton Dachel
July 14	Masen Miller  Trey Baker	Masen Miller
July 21	Lanie Deraitus  Hunter Alman	Lanie Deraitus
July 28	Autumn Knoepke  Rebekah Sarauer	Autumn Knoepke

**The worship committee has requested that acolytes be at church by 8:45 a.m. and light candles at 8:50 a.m.**

Please trade with any 6th, 7th or 8th grade youth if there is a conflict with the date you are scheduled. Let me know by Saturday evening who will take your place so that I can inform the adult ushers who are serving. You may contact me by email at [stjohnsl-marla@bloomer.net](mailto:stjohnsl-marla@bloomer.net) or phone 715-568-5446 ext.12.

Thank you for your patience as dates and schedules change. I appreciate your commitment to St. John's as we work to provide worship and learning that is meaningful for all families.



# JULY 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

### Schedule of Events for July 1st—July 6th

- } 7/1 8:00 a.m. Bible Study
- } 7/3 No Wednesday Worship
- } 7/4 **Happy 4th of July**



### Schedule of Events for July 7th—July 13th

- 7/7 9:00 a.m. Worship  
Guest Preacher: Martha Libersky
- 7/8 8:00 a.m. Bible Study
- 7/9 No Staff Mtg.
- 7/10 4:30 p.m. Sr. High at North Park
- 7/10 7:00 p.m. Worship  
Guest Preacher: Martha Libersky
- 7/11 12:00 p.m. Friendship Circle
- 7/13 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Quilting

### Schedule of Events for July 14th—July 20th

- } 7/14 9:00 a.m. Worship  
Baptism for Karter Chevrier  
First Communion  
Installation of Church Council
- } 7/15 8:00 a.m. Bible Study
- } 7/16 11:00 a.m. Staff Mtg.
- } 7/16 6:30 p.m. Council Mtg.
- } 7/17 4:30 p.m. Sr. High at Pastor Martin's home.
- } 7/17 No 7:00 p.m. Worship
- } 7/17 6:00 p.m. Ecumenical Outdoor Fellowship at North Park

### Schedule of Events for July 21st—27th

- } 7/21 9:00 a.m. Worship
- } 7/22 8:00 a.m. Bible Study
- } 7/22-7/24 Pastor Martin Continuing Education
- } 7/23 No Staff Mtg.
- } 7/24 7:00 p.m. Worship

### Schedule of Events for July 28th—31st

- } 7/28 9:00 a.m. Worship  
Baptism for Hazel Shadick
- } 7/29 8:00 a.m. Bible Study
- } 7/30 11:00 a.m. Staff Mtg
- } 7/31 7:00 p.m. Worship



# SUMMER CAMP AT LUTHER PARK

OFF TO CAMP WE GO!

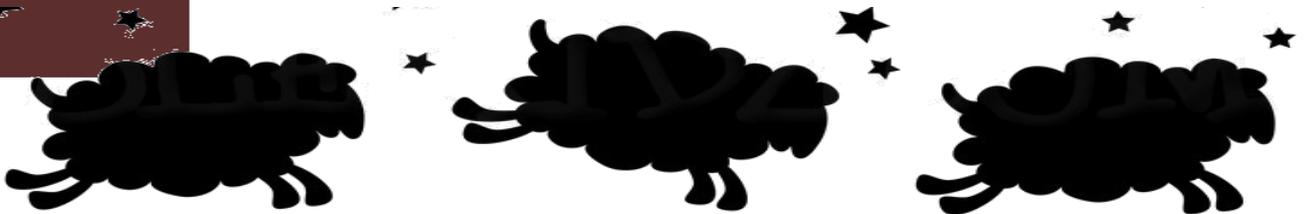
Still time to register for summer camp at Luther Park. Programs available for various age levels. Brochures available at the welcome station & office. Experience God through Holy play.



Youth and Education



Vacation Bible School participants playing sheep, sheep, go to sleep.



### SAVE THE DATE

Youth & Ed Committee Meeting:  
**August 26 at 5:30 pm** in the dining hall.

#### Committee Members

Adam Ewings: Council Rep.

Tasha Baker

Michelle Ruffedt

Kelly Custer

Brian Mawby

Your input is valued! Contact committee members with your questions and/or concerns.



### 9<sup>th</sup> GRADE SUMMER STRETCH



**Food, Fellowship, Discussion**

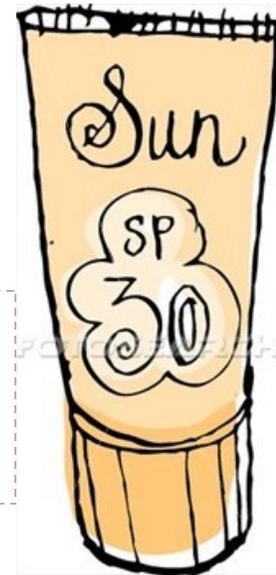
Time: **4:30-6:30 pm**

Dates: **July 10th and 17th**

**Friends Welcome!!**

Call **715-568-5446 ext. 12** or email  
[stjohnsl-marla@bloomer.net](mailto:stjohnsl-marla@bloomer.net) for

Summer fun in the Sun can be harmful to your health!  
Stay hydrated and don't forget the sunscreen.



kch0069

### LEARNING SCHEDULES

Watch the newsletter and Sunday announcements for information concerning dates and times for fall learning.



# Preschool News

Plans are underway for the 2013-2014 school year. We have 36 children registered so far, and we're looking for 4 more children to fill the enrollment. Those interested are welcome to call Michelle Gasper at 715-568-1060.

Please see the following information regarding an exciting grant opportunity. If you are an eligible Thrivent Financial for Lutherans member, we encourage you to contemplate directing your Choice Dollars to our St. John's Lutheran Preschool.

**Thrivent Choice Dollars Grant Opportunity** – Thrivent Financial for Lutherans recently launched a limited time campaign to give Lutheran educational institutions the opportunity to receive one of five \$2,500 grants.

- ◆ **Grant opportunity number 1** – Any Lutheran educational institution that has Choice Dollars directed to them between May 1 and Sept. 30, 2013 will have the opportunity to be randomly selected to receive a grant.
- ◆ **Grant opportunity number 2** – Any Lutheran educational institution that has eligible members direct Choice Dollars to their organization for the *first time* during this campaign, will have the same opportunity to be randomly selected to receive a grant.

Our own St. John's Preschool program is one of the institutions able to receive Choice Dollars from eligible members. If you would like more information regarding designation of Choice Dollars there are two ways to do so:

- ◆ **Call 800-847-4836** and when prompted say "Thrivent Choice". When prompted again say "Choice Dollars". A representative will be available to assist you.
- ◆ **Log on to: [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com)**. Sign in with your user name and password, or register for an account. Choose the "member benefits" tab, then "Thrivent Choice", then "Choice Dollars". If you are searching for a specific organization, such as St. John's Preschool, just typing "John" for the name, and then the city and state should lead you to us.

If you have questions or run into difficulties, the representatives at the number shown above are very knowledgeable and helpful.

We appreciate the Choice Dollars we've received in the past, and would be very happy to receive them during this limited time campaign as well. Thank you for your continued support!



Dear St. John's & Marla,  
Thank-you so much for the  
blanket. I will bring it with  
me when I go to UW-Platteville  
this fall.

Love,  
Jogann Besseth

Thank you card sent to  
St. John's .



V  
B  
S



water games