



# St. John's Lutheran Church

## Mission Statement:

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

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Church News Calendar

Letter from Pastor Halom

Youth & Family Announcements

9th Grade Faith Statement

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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

### 9th Grade Faith Statement

I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. I also believe that Jesus Christ will always be there for me no matter what I'm going through in my life. He will be there for the tough times and also the fun times.

Having faith in Jesus Christ makes a difference in my life by knowing that he died on the cross for our sins. When you go to church and do communion you know that your sins are forgiven. Knowing that my sins are forgiven it makes me feel like a good person throughout my lifetime. Also knowing the Ten Commandments impacts my life by knowing what's right and wrong. If I weren't a Christian I wouldn't know what the Ten Commandments were.

My parents encouraged my faith. They influenced me by making me go to church and Wednesday School. I really enjoy going to those things. My mom also tells me to go to Youth in Action which I thought I wouldn't like but that is one of my favorite things I have done church related.

One of the most helpful spiritual growth opportunities in my life was going to camp. This experience helped me become a person of Faith by making new friends and singing and dancing along at the church services at camp.

Being confirmed is affirmation of baptism and continuing to live out my faith as a Christian. It also means that I will live out the promises that my parents and my sponsors made for me at my baptism.

I want to commit myself by following Jesus into adulthood. Keep On Believing in God. Also keep on going to church because I want to end up going to heaven the day I pass away.

I want to remain an active member at St. John's Lutheran, because it's full of very nice, caring, accepting, and wonderful people. It's important to belong to a community of believers, because they help me grow my faith even more.

I'm still willing to participate in church related things. I am willing to volunteer to play games/ run games for the little kids.

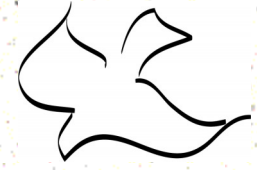
The greatest gift God has given me is my family. I plan to share this gift with my family and by telling them how thankful I am for everything they have done for me in my life.

Office number: 715-568-5446

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

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 June, 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

Donna Kerckhove, Rene Kerckhove, Tom Buchner, Ilene Pingel, Carolyn Bergh, Willard Rogge, Maggie Olson, Dick Gladitsch, Merv Marquardt, Brian Bleskacek, Alice Zinsmaster, Arlene Christianson.

### 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 June 7<sup>th</sup>: Jackie and Tom Ewings; Daniel and Kathleen Faschingbauer; Evelyn Ferstenou; Jackie, Monty, Addison and Brycen Fetting; Edith Fleming; Carlene Fox.

Prayers for the week of June 14<sup>th</sup>: Laura Franta; Michelle, Richard and Breanna Gasper; Travis Gasper; Sara, Connor and Gavin Gehrig; Don and Kathleen Geissler; Jill, Steve, Lauren, Stephanie and Jessica Gengler; Debra and Jerry Gillette.

Prayers for the week of June 21<sup>st</sup>: Alan, Haley and Keenah Gingras; Dianne Goettl; Lisa and Ted Goettl; Isabel Gonzalez and Laura, Tatum and Terry Steinmetz; Renee, Scott, Cayce, Charlie, Dalton and Gunnar Grambo.

Prayers for the week of June 28<sup>th</sup>: Heidi, Jason, Brock, Emslee, Jerzei and Korclan (Kobylarczyk) Graski; Donald Gravunder; Ronnie, Kayla (Gunderson), Harper (Bohl) and Henry Rihn; Martin, Melinda, Dylan, Jaden and Nicholas Halom.

# Church News

## UPDATE ON CHURCH ACTIVITIES DUE TO GOVERNMENT MANDATED SOCIAL DISTANCING

Pending events include:

1. Senior recognition
2. Farewell celebration for Marla
3. Katie O'Connell installation (first day of work is June 1)  
VBS (tentatively scheduled for July 13-16)

**St. John's Lutheran will remain closed through June 30.**

Meetings with limited number of attendees are allowed with safety considerations honored. See St. John's Facebook page or homepage for details.

[www.stjohns-bloomer.org](http://www.stjohns-bloomer.org)

Check out our calendar of events on St. John's webpage for schedule updates

**Excerpt from memo from Chippewa County Department of Public Health:**

- All residents are strongly encouraged to follow these disease prevention guidelines, including:
  - o Maintaining distancing of six (6) feet between people;
  - o Washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer;
  - o Wear a cloth face covering when going out in public;
  - o Covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands);
  - o Regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces;
  - o Not shaking hands; and
  - o Following all other public health recommendations issued by Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

### FINANCE UPDATE

Year-To-Date as of May 28, 2020

Year-To-Date:

Weekly Contributions	\$ 90,586.54
Other Raised Funds	<u>6,315.83</u>
<b>Total Received</b>	<b>\$ 96,902.37</b>
- Expenses	<u>\$ -96,651.10</u>
<b>Total remaining after expenses</b>	<b>\$ 251.27</b>

### Lost & Found

(Across from bathroom near Church Office)

There are many items in our Lost & Found area that need to be reunited with their owners. Please take some time this month to take a look and see if you recognize anything. All items remaining in the boxes on June 7th will be donated to the Clothes Closet.

### Deadline for July Newsletter

If you would like to submit anything for the newsletter please make sure to get it to the church secretary no later than June 24th . Thank You!!



June 2020

Sunday		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>31</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service-Online Only 10:15 AM Faith Five-to be determined	<b>1</b> 8:00 AM Bible Study(tentative, keep up-to-date by checking St. John's Facebook page)	<b>2</b> 5:30 PM Pre-School Board Meeting- TENTATIVE 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Bloomer Cub Scouts Meeting-TENTATIVE	<b>3</b> 2:00 PM Bible Study(tentative, keep up-to-date by checking St. John's Facebook page) 4:45 PM - 5:30 PM Wednesday Meals-to be determined 5:30 PM Confirm/Faith Five (TBD) 6:45 PM Worship Service-Online	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	
<b>7</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service-Online Only 10:15 AM Faith Five-to be determined	<b>8</b> 8:00 AM Bible Study(tentative, keep up-to-date by checking St. John's Facebook page)	<b>9</b> 4:00 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Church Council Meeting 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Bloomer Cub Scouts Meeting - TENTATIVE	<b>10</b> 2:00 PM Bible Study(tentative, keep up-to-date by checking St. John's Facebook page) 4:45 PM - 5:30 PM Wednesday Meals-to be determined 5:30 PM Confirm/Faith Five (TBD) 6:45 PM Worship Service-Online	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	
<b>14</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service-Online Only 10:15 AM Faith Five-to be determined 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Youth In Action - to be determined	<b>15</b> 8:00 AM Bible Study(tentative, keep up-to-date by checking St. John's Facebook page)	<b>16</b> 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Quilting Group - TENTATIVE	<b>17</b> 2:00 PM Bible Study(tentative, keep up-to-date by checking St. John's Facebook page) 4:45 PM - 5:30 PM Wednesday Meals-to be determined 5:30 PM Confirm/Faith Five (TBD) 6:45 PM Worship Service-Online	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	
<b>21</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service-Online Only 10:15 AM Faith Five-to be determined 1:00 PM B-I-N-G-O - TENTATIVE	<b>22</b> 8:00 AM Bible Study(tentative, keep up-to-date by checking St. John's Facebook page)	<b>23</b> 4:00 PM Staff Meeting	<b>24</b> 2:00 PM Bible Study(tentative, keep up-to-date by checking St. John's Facebook page) 4:45 PM - 5:30 PM Wednesday Meals-to be determined 5:30 PM Confirm/Faith Five (TBD) 6:45 PM Worship Service-Online	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	
<b>28</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service-Online Only 10:15 AM Faith Five-to be determined 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Youth In Action - to be determined	<b>29</b> 8:00 AM Bible Study(tentative, keep up-to-date by checking St. John's Facebook page)	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b> 2:00 PM Bible Study(tentative, keep up-to-date by checking St. John's Facebook page) 4:45 PM - 5:30 PM Wednesday Meals-to be determined 5:30 PM Confirm/Faith Five (TBD) 6:45 PM Worship Service-Online	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	

# Church Council Minutes (via Zoom)

## May 12, 2020

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

**Opening Devotion:** By Pastor Martin.

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by Kathy Tozer, seconded by Melissa Sarauer, to approve the agenda as amended, with flexibility. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Tyler Halverson, seconded by Tom Ewings, to approve the minutes of Special Meeting of Council on April 18, 2020. Motion carried.

### **Financial Report:**

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

A motion was made by Melissa Sarauer, seconded by Marcy Trubshaw, to contribute \$1500 benevolence from general fund to support NW Synod of WI. Motion carried.

Discussed online giving options and ways we can streamline giving process. Will revisit in June.

Discussed asking Youth Committee to consider contributing to Luther Park benevolence from Youth funds.

**Committee Reports:** Youth: (see attachment)

**Property:** Received bids for repair of wall near creek, ranging up to \$8000. Repair of wall is not urgent at this time, therefore project has been tabled.

### **Old Business**

**Employee Handbook Revisions:** A motion was made by Melissa Sarauer, seconded by Tom Ewings, to approve the revisions to the Employee Handbook. Motion carried.

**PPE Drive Update:** Three members have volunteered to sew face masks. Marcy will be putting them in bags with care instructions and delivering to the Food Pantry.

### **New Business**

**Zoom Pro Subscription:** A motion was made by Marcy Trubshaw, seconded by Lisa Prill, to subscribe to a Zoom Pro membership, for use by St. John's groups, at a cost of \$15/month to be paid from pastor's professional expense fund. Motion carried.

**Preliminary Draft of Church Constitution and Bylaw Revisions:** Discussed proposed revisions. Changes would be presented for vote at Annual Meeting and sent to Synod for ratification.

**Congregation Council Terms/Seats:** Will revisit at June meeting and propose any changes by August.

### **Additional Comments:**

Discussed policies/procedure to follow when it is deemed safe to open our facility. Pastor will be meeting with local clergy to form unified plans for future reopening. Will need to implement building use plans for groups of less than ten in the initial phase, including wearing of masks, social distancing, remaining in one area of the building, how to ensure sanitizing of space after use, etc. Will revisit at June meeting, or before depending on state guidelines.

Plan to continue online worship even as building is reopened and restrictions are lifted as well as brainstorming to add opportunities for youth and bible study groups.

Will need to address how to keep members safe through all phases of recovery.

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:25 PM by Kathy Tozer, seconded by Melissa Sarauer. Motion carried.

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

**Present via Zoom:** Pastor Martin, Tyler Halverson, Melissa Sarauer, Lydia Blaha, Kathy Tozer, Tom Ewings, Adam Anderson, Marcy Trubshaw, Lisa Prill.

# Special Church Council Meeting Minutes May 19, 2020 (via Zoom)

**"Growing disciples who eagerly share Christ's love."**

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

**Opening Prayer:** By Pastor Martin.

**Discussion of Post COVID-19 Building Closure Regulations:**

Both Chippewa County Health Department and Wisconsin Council of Churches recommend waiting to re-open building to groups of more than ten.

Need to protect our vulnerable population.

Decided to continue virtual worship until further notice.

A group of less than ten may meet in the dining hall, beginning June 1<sup>st</sup> in accordance with attached guidelines.

Leader of any group of less than ten that wishes to gather in St. John's dining hall will be asked to communicate requirements to members, especially need for wearing a facemask.

**Post COVID-19 Building Closure Regulations:**

A motion was made by Kathy Tozer, seconded by Tom Ewings, to adopt the Post COVID-19 Regulations as amended. Motion carried.

**Adjournment:**

A motion to adjourn was made at 6:40 PM by Tom Ewings, seconded by Kathy Tozer. Motion carried.

**Closing Prayer:** By Pastor Martin.

**Present:** Pastor Martin, Tyler Halverson, Lydia Blaha, Suzi McInnis, Kathy Tozer, Tom Ewings, Adam Anderson, Pat Prill, Marcy Trubshaw, Driah Zakrzewicz, Lisa Prill.

# Youth Announcements



## YOUTH AND EDUCATION

FAITH MAKES THINGS POSSIBLE  
NOT EASY

### SENIOR HIGH RECOGNITION CLASS OF 2020

Class Song: I'll Always Remember You  
by Miley Cyrus

**Taylor Buchholz**

**Mitchell Calkins**

**Cayce Grambo**

**Dalton Grambo**

**Nicholas Halom:** Attending Loras College, Dubuque, IA; pursuing a degree in sports management.

**Isabelle Hillman:** Attending UW River Falls, majoring in chemistry.

**Charlie Lewis**

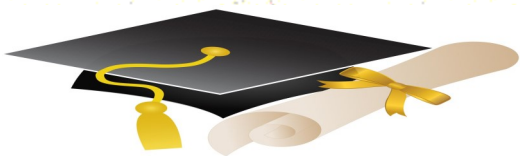
**Cal Lueck**

**Josh Prill:** Attending Ripon College majoring in Physical Therapy with a goal to advance in Doctorate degree.

**Trent Tozer:** Attending CVTC for pipe line work and CDL.

**Morgan Walta**

**Kelly Yeakey:** Attending UW Stevens-Point majoring in Family Consumer Science Education.



**WHO:** SR. HIGH YOUTH  
**TENTATIVE DATES:**  
SUNDAY, JUNE 14 & 28  
5:30-7:30 PM  
**WHERE:** ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

**FOOD, FUN & FELLOWSHIP**



**St. Johns Youth In Action Sr. High Youth group have given \$400.00 to the worship committee to be used for the purchase of a new digital video camera and an additional \$400.00 to the Luther Park general fund to help with on-going expenses. Monies are available from the fundraisers that all elementary through Sr. High youth participate in throughout the learning year with 80% staying in the designated account, 10% for church related need, and 10% to benevolence.**



#### WEATHER ALERT

SUMMER FUN IN THE SUN CAN BE HARMFUL TO YOUR HEALTH  
STAY HYDRATED  
DON'T FORGET THE SUNSCREEN

# Youth Committee Meeting

## May 4, 2020 via Zoom

Present: Pastor Martin, Marla, Melissa Sarauer, Kathy Tozer, Lisa Prill, Beth Halverson.

### Senior Recognition:

Twelve seniors. Ten blankets are done. One on the way. One more needed.  
 Reschedule for late July (19, 22, 26 or 29th?)  
 Plan A: Hold in sanctuary at worship. Plan B: Hold at a park. Plan C: via Zoom.  
 Marla will reach out to families to see if this works.  
 Will discuss brunch plans closer to date of event.  
 Marla may lead service so Pastor can participate as a parent.

### Fifth Grade Fed & Forgiven:

Wendy LaGesse would teach class on a Saturday, with bread baking afterward.  
 Dates: May 31 or June 6. (Not likely to work.)  
 Best option: Instruction on Saturday in early fall at start of learning season.  
 Wendy could help Katie with instruction in fall.

### VBS:

~~Scheduled for July 13-16.~~ **Luther Park has cancelled VBS.**  
 Luther Park has cancelled VBS in June where counselors would need housing but may make an exception for us since we are in driving distance.  
 Will have to wait to make decision: Luther Park may cancel. St. John's may still be closed.  
 Marla will send out letter to families to see if there is interest in attending VBS.  
 Registrations will be due back by June 29. We can let families know by July 1<sup>st</sup> if VBS will occur.

### Mission Trip:

Group will refund \$113 per family.  
 St. John's will reimburse Ewing family and Keller family for their payments that were made in full  
 Basket raffles will be kept for fundraiser in the fall. Amanda Zwiefelhofer will chair.  
 Could combine basket raffles with Reformation meal/chili contest.

### 2021 ELCA National Youth Gathering:

June 29-July 3, 2021 at US Bank Stadium in MN.  
 Show videos ASAP in worship to promote for youth and chaperones.

### Fundraising 80/20 or 90/10:

Youth committee decided on 80/20 for youth fundraisers. 80% of funds raised by youth will stay in Youth designated fund; 10% to youth directed benevolence, and 10% to Youth in Action choice to fill a need of St. John's (i.e. video camera.)  
 Butter Braid Cake Rolls and two weeks on Soup and Sandwich were only fundraisers this year.  
 Zoom meeting with youth to decide. Could hold during May while Marla is here and use it as a celebration. Will include senior high youth in action and eighth grade.

### Youth in Action:

Eighth grade kidnapping – will take place later in fall.

Misc.: Extra Thrivent shirts will be donated to clothes closet. Bibles will be donated to library book sale.

## Letter From Pastor Martin

### GOD'S WORK, OUR (CLEAN) HANDS

One of the things I value about distributing communion is something I learned on internship. The setting: Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church in Hanley Falls, MN, 1997-98. Like my supervising pastor, Larry Olson, many in the community were farmers or came from farming backgrounds. Each time I got to administer the sacrament of Holy Communion, I'd look at their hands. At times, I even studied them. Some hands were HUGE, others were frail. Some were worn, others were clean. I learned a great deal about each individual by looking at their hands as well as when they'd come and shake my hand at the conclusion of worship. The handshake is a simple gesture, ever so common, yet very insightful.

When we moved here I used the handshake to learn. With my hand extended, I'd say, "Good morning/afternoon/evening, I'm Pastor Martin". What I meant by introducing myself was, "And you are..."! I also used my hands with the children to learn about them. As we'd share a high five, I could tell who was a bundle of energy, who was cautious, who was playful, who had a touch of anger from within, and who needed to express themselves in a super crazy way. Like the handshake, the high five is also a simple gesture, ever so common, yet very insightful.

And that is why my heart aches. At some point we will return to in person worship. As we gather before and after worship, you will find my hands in my pockets. Why? Because as valuable as the handshake and the high five is, at this time it's likely even more dangerous. In other words, I will not be shaking hands because I love you. I will not be offering high fives because I love you. I will not, as difficult as it may be, be wrapping my arms around you because I love you. This church means too much to me to put you at risk. And that will not be the only difference you'll see upon your return.

Our worship committee will soon meet to discuss what the purpose of worship is. Once we all understand that purpose well, we will construct a worship service that serves the purpose in as safe a manner as we know how. Some of the current practices that will be questioned include:

- Should we shake hands or share any gesture as we pass the peace?
- Should we pass the plates for the offering?
- Should we sing as a community?
- Should we pray out loud collectively?
- Should we offer communion and if so, how?

Every one of these questions address practices that we've had for years, decades, and even over a century. But during this pandemic, we must figure out how safe it is. If we declare that it's too risky for now, at what point should we return to that practice? These are all difficult questions right now.

With all of this said, what you should know is that when we do open our doors for in person worship, it'll likely be very different. But that doesn't make it any less meaningful. There are many ways to praise and worship God. We don't have to always do it the same way as we've always done it. Just know that however we worship in the future, it will be with God's glory in mind. It will be with your safety in mind - because we love you.

*Pastor Martin*



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

715-568-5446  
Email: [stjohnsl-secretary@bloomer.net](mailto: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](mailto:pastormartin@bloomer.net)