



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 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.

MOVING FROM MEMBERSHIP TO DISCIPLESHIP

As many of you know, I could easily lead a support group called statisticians anonymous. One of my tasks as pastor is to deliver a parochial report to our synod and ultimately the ELCA Churchwide headquarters in Chicago. These reports gather information about each congregation so that it's easier to identify numerical trends and interpret what those numbers mean.

Last year was the first time I ever participated in this process and did it the easy way. I assumed that our prior data was correct and simply made simple additions and subtractions in areas such as membership totals. But I also vowed to myself that I would actually count real numbers when I turned in the report this year. The results were quite interesting, well, at least to statisticians like me! Allow me to offer a few highlights:

	2010	2011	2012	2013
Baptized Membership	736	628	611	569
Baptisms	21	11	12	19
Deaths	9	6	8	6
Average Weekly worship	217	174	141	190
Baptized Worship %	29.5%	27.7%	23.1%	33.4%

As you can see, our baptized worship percentage (average weekly worship divided by baptized membership) has increased dramatically! Most churches have a percentage between 25-30%. Anything above is quite profound, which is indeed the case here at St. John's!

According to our constitution, anyone who contributes at least once financially over a two year span and has communed at least once in that time frame as well is considered an active baptized member. This year, I literally counted every family who both gave and communed. (Giving totals were not reported to me, simply giving families.)

In my mind, discipleship goes beyond these basic member requirements. Disciples are engaged. Disciples learn. Disciples are sent into the community to share God's love in word and deed.

Article continued on page 2

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Membership
- First Communion
- Pastor's News
- Council Minutes
- Council Updates
- Wedding/Baptism
- Financial
- Church News
- Youth and Family
- St. John's Preschool

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The ELCA has introduced a new category in the parochial report – *Total number of people (including children) actively participating in the life of the congregation*. Each pastor will ultimately have to define what this means, but I intend to be consistent each year when I report that number. I defined that to be people who come to worship on a monthly basis, children who participate in learning on a monthly basis, and others who volunteer their time through committees and other opportunities. This year I reported that number to be 347! I will be very curious to see how that number fluctuates over the next few years.

Numbers are not the end all be all, which as a math minor is hard for me to admit! Numbers share part of a story, but are not the story in its entirety. Rather, it is the impact that our church makes in Bloomer, Wisconsin, the United States, and beyond! Your participation is needed. And you can know that your efforts will be noticed, counted, and most importantly, valued!

Pastor Martin

Church News

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES TO BEGIN

The 5th grade learning class will begin instruction about first communion March 26, April 2, and April 9. Even if students are already taking communion by then, they are still encouraged to attend to attain new insights into this weekly sacramental practice at St. John's. Parents are also encouraged to come so that they can observe what their children are learning about for further discussion at home.

There is homework before this all begins, however! I'd like each student, with parental consent, to watch the animated film, *The Prince of Egypt*. This movie will help students learn about the story of Moses and the first Passover. They will then later connect that important event in Christian history with the Last Supper where communion is instituted. Keep an eye out for an opportunity to watch the film here at St. John's!

First Communion has historically taken place on Maundy Thursday, which is April 17 this year. Students will also bake bread for their first communion experience, likely April 16.

If there are any families who have children that would like to take communion, please let me know and I will offer instruction based on their age. As I say every worship service, all the baptized are welcome, no matter what the age!

Pastor's News

A GIFT FOR THE KIDS

You probably realize that Christmas is in the distant future. I have no idea when your children's birthdays are or even if they are coming up. And even if you don't have children, I have a gift idea for you that many of you probably haven't even considered.

In the ELCA, internship is usually the third year of four during your seminary days. Internship is an experience where students get to apply what they've learned in their classes in a real life congregation. Each intern, at some point in the year, is required to offer an internship project. My project dealt with end of life decisions. Over a series of Sunday sessions, participants learned from a hospice provider, an attorney, a funeral director, a nursing home staffer, and a pastor. These experts offered their respective insights into their respective fields to help people understand the value of preplanning so that decisions can be made before crisis hits.

I bring this up because I can help you make these arrangements. Over the past 18 months, I have conducted 15 funeral/memorial services, 10 of whom were members of St. John's. Any time someone dies, I meet with the family to discuss the worship arrangements. During these discussions, the one question I hear the most is, "What would mom/dad have wanted?" I am thankful that I haven't had to put out any fires because various decision makers disagreed about certain decisions. But it could happen.

I am also thankful that a few of you have already come in to speak with me about preplanning your service. I feel that this is a tremendous gesture of kindness to those who would otherwise be guessing at what you want in your service. Gift those decision makers with a major task that has already been completed so that they can take time to mourn.

By preplanning your funeral, and I don't care how old you are, you will bring relief to your family with yet another task while they grieve. Talk with me about the service. Talk to an area funeral home about the arrangements. What better time to get these things done than now when you are still of sound mind!

Pastor Martin



How much do you know about St. John's Lutheran Church worship?

Worship Wonderings

Feb. 2

Which of the following is true regarding "Give us today our daily bread"?

- A. Daily bread can only come through communion
- B. Daily bread is all that we need to physically nourish us
- C. Daily bread is everything our entire bodies need
- D. Daily bread is on sale at Shadick's when older than a day

Everything our bodies need such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, fields, livestock, money, property, and upright spouse, upright children, upright workers, upright and faithful rulers, good government, **good weather**, peace, health, decency, honor good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

Feb. 9

In the Lord's Prayer, we pray, "Forgive us our _____". Which of the following words are used by Christian churches to fill in the blank?

- A. Trespasses
- B. Sins
- C. Debts
- D. All of the above
- E. a and b

Opheilema is the Greek word used in Matthew's version of the Lord's Prayer and is most commonly translated *debts* or *sins*. Luke's version of the Lord's Prayer uses the word hamartia, which is most commonly translated as *sins*.

Feb. 16

We pray, "Save us from the time of trial..." What trial are we talking about?

- A. The trial that Job faced when he lost all of his wealth and most of his family
- B. The trial that the disciples faced when they grew weary in the Garden of Gethsemane
- C. The trial we face on the day of judgment
- D. All of the above
- E. The OJ Simpson case

Luke 8:13 The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away.

Feb. 23

We pray, "...but deliver us from evil." When could this deliverance be?

- A. During the present age – the here and now
- B. Following our death
- C. When Christ comes again to judge the living and the dead
- D. All of the above

"We ask in this prayer, as in a summary, that our Father in heaven may deliver us from all kinds of evil – affecting body or soul, property or reputation – and at last, when our final hour comes, may grant us a blessed end and take us by grace from this valley of tears to himself in heaven."
Luther's Small Catechism

Council Meeting

February 11, 2014

Committees

WORSHIP

-Janice Naset
Chair/Liaison
-Lisa Goettl
-Janet Helgeson
-Kathy Geissler
-Janelle Yeakey

FELLOWSHI

-Lyn Pank
-Pauline Stertz
Liaison
-Sue Zwiefelhofer
-Sue Seibel
-Nylah Gust
-Heidi Morning

SOCIAL

-Art Klingenberg
Chair
-Pauline Stertz and
Jordyn Keller
Liaisons
-Heidi Keller
-Jeff Cole
-Gregg Anderson

YOUTH & EDUCATION

-Adam Ewings
Liaison
-Michelle Ruffedt
-Kelly Custer
-Marla Paulson

DISCIPLESHIP

-Kathy Faschingauer
and Alice Zinsmaster
Liaisons
-Michelle Gasper
-Alice Zinsmaster
-Sue Nehring
-Carrie Anderson
-Terri Bohl

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

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

President Pat Boettcher called the meeting to order at 6:40 P.M.

Kathy Faschingbauer opened the meeting with prayer.

- ◆ **Motion made by Alice Zinsmaster and seconded by Janice Naset to approve agenda.** Motion carried.
- ◆ **Motion made by Shelly Lane and seconded by Pauline Stertz to approve the e-mailed January meeting minutes.** Motion carried.

Council Comments: None

Congregational Comment: None

Committee Reports:

- ◆ **Youth & Education**-Hunger Awareness Meal is 3/5/14 kicking off the Lenten Soup & Sandwich fund raiser. Winterfest attended by 40-50.
- ◆ **Discipleship**-Stewardship Conference to be held 3/24/14 at Luther Park. Work on a Ministry Volunteer Booklet to start in March.
- ◆ **Worship & Music**-Donations are coming in for new hymnals. Next meeting in March.
- ◆ **Fellowship**-None
- ◆ **Social Action**-Art Klingenberg is resigning as chairman of committee. Exploring shared chairmanship of main ministries of Meals On Wheels, Blood Mobile and Agnes Table.
- ◆ **Property Management**-Bid for just under \$3500.00 for new furnaces in office area from Gene's Heating & Cooling. Water running continuously in Altar Guild room due to frozen water main.

Chair Report: None

Pastor's Report:

- ◆ Two baptisms have been postponed. **Motion made by Tom Buchner and seconded by Alice Zinsmaster to accept membership of Travis & Tina Myers.** Motion carried.
- ◆ **Motion made by Kathy Faschingbauer and seconded by Pauline Stertz to have check ready for substitute pastor at 3/9/14 service.** Motion carried.
- ◆ **Motion made by Alice Zinsmaster and seconded by Adam Ewings to compensate a worship assistant with a \$50.00 gift card.** Motion carried.
- ◆ Pastor Melinda Halom to lead worship 2/19/14 as Pastor Martin will be at a Strategic Planning meeting for the Bloomer school district.
- ◆ Laptops to be updated to coordinate with the office computers 2/12/14.
- ◆ **Wednesday Dinners**-Approximately 60 on average per week.
- ◆ **Parent's Nite Out**-Friday 2/28/14.
- ◆ **Imagine Together**-speaker presented "Culture & Discipleship." Ponder & raise question to membership of "who are we and who do we want to become." Possible interactive sermon with input this spring.
- ◆ **Walking Together**-enjoined to Synod Assembly 6/7/14. Pastors Halom to contribute to program.

Council Meeting February 11, 2014

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-Janet Helgeson
-Kathy Geissler
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MANAGEMENT

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Liaison
-David Lane
-Stub Naset
-Pete Zeman
-Val Rubenzer
-Dennis Rubenzer
-Nadine Bresina
-Rod Schmidt
-Shelly Lane

Audit Report: None

Financial Report:

- ◆ **Motion made by Janice Naset and seconded by Jordyn Keller to accept Financial Report.** Motion carried.

Audit: Check with Lynette Pank that written audit verification is signed and on file.

Old Business:

- ◆ Annual Meeting-None
- ◆ Commitment Update-None
- ◆ Pictorial Directory-Finishing up in the next two weeks.

New Business:

- ◆ Parochial reports to the ELCA will show 523 baptized and 408 confirmed members.

Motion made by Shelly Lane and seconded by Janice Naset to adjourn.

Motion carried. Pastor Martin led the council in the Lord's Prayer.

Shelly M. Lane, secretary

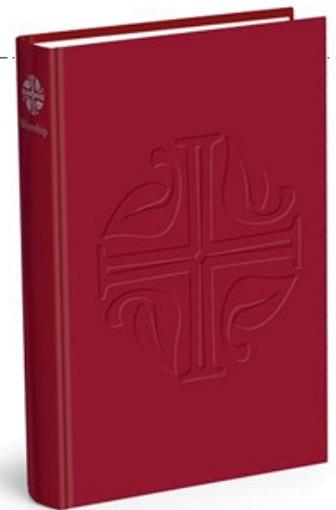
Meeting attended by Pastor Martin, Pat Boettcher, Adam Ewings, Janice Naset, Kathy Faschingbauer, Tom Buchner, Alice Zinsmaster, Pauline Stertz, Rod Johnson, Jordyn Keller and Shelly Lane.

Council Updates

A message from the Worship Committee:

The new Cranberry Hymnal Fund has been started and we have already received \$875.00 in donations. Would you like to purchase a hymnal? The cost is \$22.50. You can purchase one in memory of, in honor of someone, or given by, the name will be printed on an inside cover bookplate. If you feel like you would like to just make a donation to the fund that would be very much appreciated. There are sheets available on the welcome center counter in the narthex for you to sign up for one. Thanks for any contributions made!

Janice Naset
Chairman/Council Liaison



A message from the Property Committee:

On Sunday, February 2, the property committee met after church to discuss a very generous offer presented to us. We have an anonymous donor willing to pay for the repairs and/or new furnaces which heats the two offices (Pastor Martin's and Tracey's). We were given an estimate of about \$3,400 to replace the two furnaces. This generous offer will allow us to do other projects that have been put on hold.

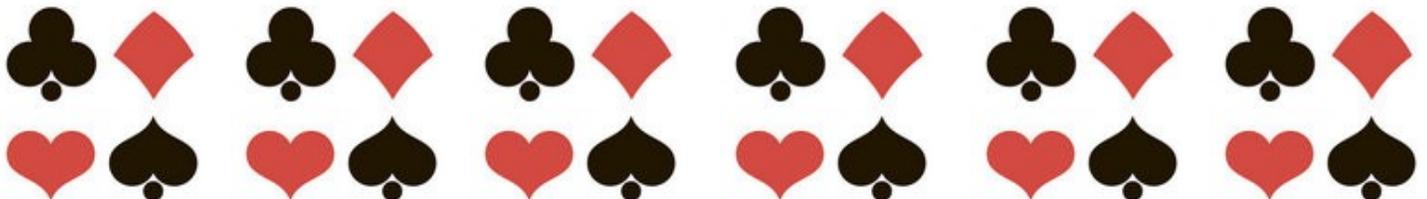
Once again a very heartfelt thank you from everyone at St. John's church.

Tom Buchner
Property Committee Liaison

A message from the Fellowship Committee:

Come one, come all, members and non-members! Bring your friends and a deck of cards and let's have some fun! A light lunch will be provided.

St John's Lutheran Church Dining Hall
Sunday March 16th
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Please call the church office to sign up (715-568-5446)
Sign up deadline is March 9th



Council Updates

A message from the Board Chair:

Maybe because we have just celebrated the Christmas season that brings so many families together (sometimes for only once each year!) and maybe because Valentine's Day is here I have been thinking much about families. Most of us are blessed to have immediate families-moms, dads, brothers, sisters, and grandparents. Some of them live near and some far away but we love them and need them to make our lives whole. If we have lost members of our immediate family there is a hole in our lives and in our hearts.

Then there is our "extended" family-aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews. Some we are closer to than to others but we recognize that they are important to our lives in different ways. Likewise if we have lost some of our extended families we miss them and grieve for them. We have "work" families - we have "social" families and both groups share different places and importance in our lives. We need them as well to share our lives and make our lives richer. The things all these "families" bring to us is a sense of community - a place to unburden ourselves - to laugh with - to cry with - a place where we are part of a bigger picture. And each family has an album - of pictures and memories that can keep us grounded and remind us that we are part of that bigger picture. We have albums of photos throughout our lives to remind us of that. Finally there is the family of St. John's. This family is going to have it's own album and 134 different family groups took the time to come and have their photos included in the album. When you look through the album you will see older families, younger families, single parents and single adults and the children who are the future of the family. What this family has in common is St. John's. We care for one another, we support one another, we provide love, faith and common beliefs. We worry when we don't see someone who is part of the family, we grieve when one of us loses someone they love, we rejoice when good things happen to them. We pray for them when they are ill or in danger and we do what we can to help them when that help is needed.

So, each and every time we look at this "Family Album" of St. John's I hope we will remember that this too is our family and that it is important to do everything we can to keep this family healthy in spirit and physically strong. That we continue to invite and encourage others to join this family and make them welcome here at St. John's.

Bless this family, Lord and keep it safe.

Pat Boettcher



Weddings and Baptisms



Congratulations to Eric and Katie Telschow on the recent Baptism of their son Vincent John Telschow!



Matthew 28:19-20 ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Financial Report – February 2014

	2013	2014	Budget 2014
Beginning Balance – Jan. 1st	\$23,002.00	\$7,513.00	
Income – February	\$21,253.00	\$23,309.00	\$34,000.00
Expenses – February	\$31,371.00	\$28,081.00	\$34,000.00
Balance	\$12,882.00	\$2,741.00	
Loan – Peoples State Bank	\$108,703.00	\$90,420.00	

Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

St. John's wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular weekly offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for individual members and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. Direct debit giving is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account. Deductions can be weekly, bi-weekly or monthly.

If you are currently giving on a weekly basis you no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis.

As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving. Authorization forms are available at the information desk at the back of church. The only information we need is name of your bank, routing number, account number and your signature.

Church News



QUILTING
SATURDAY MARCH 15TH
9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

*EVERYONE WELCOME
NO SPECIAL SKILLS NEEDED
REFRESHMENTS SERVED*



MARCH 2014

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					



Date	Subject	Start Time	End Time	Date	Subject	Start Time	End Time
3/2/2014	Acolyte-Kendall Zeman			3/16/2014	Communion Assistants-Kendall Zeman		
3/2/2014	Worship Service	9:00 AM		3/16/2014	Worship Service	9:00 AM	
3/2/2014	Faith Formation with Friends (FFF)	10:00 AM		3/16/2014	Baptism for Kelsie Blaha	10:00 AM	
3/2/2014	No Learning	10:30 AM		3/16/2014	Faith Formation with Friends (FFF)	10:00 AM	
3/3/2014	No school but Preschool is still in session			3/16/2014	Sunday Learning	10:30 AM	
3/3/2014	Bible Study	8:00 AM	9:30 AM	3/16/2014	Worship Committee Meeting	10:30 AM	
3/5/2014	Acolyte-Lydia Berseth			3/17/2014	Bible Study	8:00 AM	9:30 AM
	Communion Assistants-Lydia Berseth & Jenna			3/19/2014	Acolyte-Jenna Ruffedt		
3/5/2014	Ruffledt				Communion Assistants-Cole Michaelsen		
3/5/2014	Hunger Awareness Meal			3/19/2014	& Payton Dachel		
3/5/2014	Wednesday Meal	5:00 PM	6:15 PM	3/19/2014	Wednesday Soup and Sandwich	5:00 PM	6:15 PM
3/5/2014	Wednesday Learning	5:30 PM	6:45 PM	3/19/2014	Wednesday Learning	5:30 PM	6:45 PM
3/5/2014	Worship Service	7:00 PM		3/19/2014	Worship Service	7:00 PM	
3/6/2014	No Preschool			3/20/2014	Preschool Board Meeting	6:30 PM	
3/6/2014	Friendship Circle	1:30 PM		3/22/2014	Quilting	9:00 AM	12:00 PM
3/7/2014	No school or Preschool				Worship Service and Baptism for		
3/9/2014	Acolyte-Sam Lanzer			3/23/2014	Miles Mohr	9:00 AM	
3/9/2014	Communion Assistants-Sam & Joe Lanzer			3/23/2014	Faith Formation with Friends (FFF)	10:00 AM	
3/9/2014	Social Committee Meeting	8:15 AM		3/23/2014	Sunday Learning	10:30 AM	
	Worship Service with Guest Preacher Roger			3/24/2014	Bible Study	8:00 AM	9:30 AM
3/9/2014	Skatrud	9:00 AM		3/25/2014	Staff Meeting	11:00 AM	
3/9/2014	Faith Formation with Friends (FFF)	10:00 AM		3/26/2014	Acolyte-Payton Dachel		
3/9/2014	Sunday Learning	10:30 AM			Communion Assistants-Dayne		
3/10/2014	No school but Preschool is still in session			3/26/2014	Kiecker & Elijah Prill		
3/10/2014	Bible Study	8:00 AM	9:30 AM	3/26/2014	Wednesday Soup and Sandwich	5:00 PM	6:15 PM
3/11/2014	Staff Meeting	11:00 AM		3/26/2014	Wednesday Learning	5:30 PM	6:45 PM
3/11/2014	Church Council Meeting	6:30 PM		3/26/2014	Worship Service	7:00 PM	
3/12/2014	Acolyte- Cole Michaelsen			3/28/2014	Glory Gals Event		
	Communion Assistants-Dayne Kiecker & Elijah			3/29/2014	Glory Gals Event		
3/12/2014	Prill			3/29/2014	Parent's Nite Out	5:00 PM	
3/12/2014	Bloomer Clergy Meeting	10:00 AM			Communion Assistants-Kendall		
3/12/2014	Pastor conducts worship at Maplewood	1:45 PM		3/30/2014	Zeman		
3/12/2014	Pastor conducts worship at Hetzels	2:30 PM		3/30/2014	Glory Gals Event		
3/12/2014	Wednesday Soup and Sandwich	5:00 PM	6:15 PM	3/30/2014	Worship Service	9:00 AM	
3/12/2014	Wednesday Learning	5:30 PM		3/30/2014	Faith Formation with Friends (FFF)	10:00 AM	
3/12/2014	Worship Service	7:00 PM		3/30/2014	Sunday Learning	10:30 AM	
				3/31/2014	Bible Study	8:00 AM	9:30 AM

Youth and Family



Fishers of men lesson taught by Brittany Beyer



Mosaic button art made by 5th -8th grade youth.

RETREATS & CAMPS

- ◆ March 29: ELCA Northwest Synod of WI 6TH - 8th Grade Retreat, Bethany Lutheran, Rice Lake, WI.
- ◆ April 25-27: Youth Encounter Retreat, Three Bear Lodge, Tomah, WI 6TH Grade-SR. High
- ◆ Luther Park Summer Camp: Kindergarten-Adult, New Programs Added



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LENTEN SOUP & SANDWICH SUPPERS Camp & Activities Fundraiser Sponsored by all families & children attending camp

March 12, March 19, March 26, April 2, April 9

Enjoy delicious soups, sandwiches, & desserts made by St. John's youth & parents. Monetary donations of your choice will support camp & youth activities.

HAVE A FAVORITE SOUP YOU'D LOVE TO SHARE?

Soup donations on March 12, 19, 26, April 2 & 9 for the soup suppers would be greatly appreciated. Email Marla @ stjohnsl-marla@bloomer.net or phone 715-568-5446 ext. 12 with date you are willing to share. Thank you in advance.



Parents and youth, rule of thumb for St. John's Lutheran, when school is cancelled due to bad weather all learning events, scheduled (preschool, elementary, middle school, & Sr. high) are cancelled as well.

MARCH LEARNING

Sunday, March 9, 16, 23, 30
Preschool through 3rd Grade, 10:30 AM

Wednesday, March 5, 12, 19, 26
Preschool through 3rd Grade
4th & 5th Grade Bible 101
6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Confirmation, 5:30 PM

PARENTS & YOUTH

April 25-27: Youth Encounter Retreat, Three Bear Lodge, Tomah, WI, 6TH Grade-SR. High

Registration, event fee & planning session, Wednesday, March 12, 6:30-7 pm in dining hall. Parent participation required if your youth is attending event.



HUNGER AWARENESS/EDUCATION EVENT FOR ALL SUNDAY & WEDNESDAY PRESCHOOL THROUGH SR. HIGH YOUTH

By donating the cost of one Wed. meal (\$4 per person or \$15 per family) & participating in the awareness event you will become the hands & feet of Jesus for someone less fortunate. Parents of children & middle school youth are asked to participate in the experience with their child.

HUNGER AWARENESS MEAL WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5 AN OUTPOURING OF GENEROSITY

“They gave offerings of whatever they could-far more than they could afford-pleading for the privilege of helping out in the relief of poor Christians.” 2 Corinthians 8:4 The Message

Money given to ELCA World Hunger Sponsored by Confirmation Youth & Families Meal registrations are required.

WEATHER ALERT!

St. John's Preschool News

The school year is quickly flying by and we are already planning for the upcoming school year. Several families visited during our annual open house, held on Feb. 10, 11 & 12. It's always exciting to see the next group of children who will come and enjoy their preschool experience with us. It's also wonderful to have returning students who attended two mornings per week this year, who will return next year to attend three mornings per week. They are always so proud that they 'know the ropes' and can help the new children adjust in the fall. :)

We still have openings in the enrollment for both three and four year olds. Anyone who'd like more information regarding the program is welcome to call Michelle Gasper at home (715-568-1060) or the preschool (715-568-5446 ext. 14).

