



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

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HERE WE GO AGAIN!

With the emphasis on "GO"! If you haven't already received the memo, the church council has loosened our mask mandate to an optional status, dating back to Feb. 27. Some of you reading this will feel as though this is another step back to "normalcy". We got a taste of this during the late summer and early fall months and here we are, hoping that our Covid-19 numbers (cases, hospitalizations, deaths) remain low moving forward. So here we go again!

What does this mean for St. John's? Time will tell. But from my perspective, I am hopeful that we can reinvigorate our ministry efforts and see what our volunteer base has to offer. Here are some areas in particular where we would love to add some people:

Custodian - we still need people to help clean bathrooms, vacuum hallways, stairs, and classrooms, recycle, and sanitize high touch areas. To volunteer online, visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e48a5a629a7fe3-stjohns> which is also on our homepage.

- Fellowship committee - There are rumblings that we need to get each other back together. Be a part of this planning team where we can get some more fun on our church calendar!

- Discipleship committee - This year, it'll be important to reconnect with not only our volunteer base, but also our financial giving base. The discipleship committee could use 6-8 people to plan our fall campaign and help reconnect our church family.

- Worship committee - Thankfully we have a base to start from, but additional new members could help us think about how we worship, how we can introduce new ideas, and make sure our in person and at home viewership are all being served with meaningful worship experiences.

Youth committee - We also have a great base here too, but we could really use some middle or high school aged youth here too! If you participate here, you won't be disappointed. Your time will be very well spent!

Personally, I'm still not quite sure how to define "normal" any more. In some ways, I don't care. I'd rather focus our efforts on reality. This pandemic has shifted the world and our church is no exception. We are in a new era of church, redefined, and how we respond will create our new path to follow.

Later this month, Katie and I will join the church council on a one day retreat to determine how we can best utilize the gifts of this church - namely you. We will push the reset button with your elected leadership to determine a new path forward. Your involvement in the above highlighted areas or new ways that you have to offer will undoubtedly help. Please consider offering your gift of time so that we can "go again"!

Pastor Halom

Office number: 715-568-5446

Like us on Facebook! **St. John's Lutheran Church - Bloomer, WI**

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

Please Join Our Church Family In Prayer



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

Prayers of Healing for our Church Family

Family and friends of Clyde Shipman; Renee Grambo; Richard Rihn; Jennifer Evitch (Amanda Prill's mom); Shelli Rogge; Arlene Christianson; Dohna Kerckhove (Pat Prill's daughter); Ilene Pingel; Maggie Olson; Margueritte Werner; Kelly Custer; Steve Trubshaw.

Prayers for our Active Military

Dalton Grambo, Danielle Shipman, Kelsey Leavens,
Trenton Beaudette, Ryan Heiss

Prayers for the Saints

Prayers for the week of March 6th: Dale, Sanja, Alyson & Andrew Swan; Cody, Susan, Abigail & Ben Thiede; Jerome, Tia & Tiana Thomley; Owen Thompto; Bert & Kathy Tozer.

Prayers for the week of March 13th: Brent, Ilona, Izibel & Trent Tozer; Marcy & Steve Trubshaw; Dorene, Jeff, Alicyn & Morgyn Turner; Janice Turner; Melissa & Kianna Turner.

Prayers for the week of March 20th: Jessica, Ross, Avery & Madelyn Waldofski; Jennifer, Luke, Morgan & Kayden Walta; Jessica & Dehija Walters; Bob, Cathy & Nathan Weber.

Prayers for the week of March 27rd: Carol & Tom Webster; Carol & John Weideman; Marie Weideman; Margueritte Werner; Lon, Pat & Eric Wilson; Arnold, Marlene Windsor; Sharon Winfield.

MARCH 2022 CALENDAR

MARCH 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Worship Committee Meeting 10:15 AM J.A.M. 5:30 PM Youth In Action	28	1	2 ASH WEDNESDAY 9:30 AM Bloomer Clergy Assoc. Mtg-Pastor 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Faith Formation PreK-8th 6:45 PM Worship Service	3	4	5
6 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM J.A.M.	7	8 11:15 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Pre-school Committee Meeting	9 4:30 PM Fed & Forgiveness 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Faith Formation PreK-8th 6:45 PM Worship Service	10 10:00 AM Pastor's Conference	11 7:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pseudo Lock-In	12
13 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM J.A.M. 10:30 AM Church Council Retreat 5:30 PM Youth In Action	14 5:30 PM Church Council Meeting	15 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Quilting Group	16 4:30 PM Fed & Forgiveness 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Faith Formation PreK-8th 6:45 PM Worship Service	17	18	19
20 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM J.A.M.	21 6:00 PM Care of Creation Meeting (zoom)	22 11:15 AM Staff Meeting	23 4:30 PM Fed & Forgiveness 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Faith Formation PreK-8th 6:45 PM Worship Service	24	25 Deadline for Newsletter Submissions	26
27 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM J.A.M. 10:30 AM Rite of Confirmation 5:30 PM Youth In Action	28	29	30 4:30 PM Fed & Forgiveness 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Faith Formation PreK-8th 6:45 PM Worship Service	31	1	2

Church News

Care for Creation – Self Care

To care for our creation, we can use less water with shorter showers, turn off the water when brushing our teeth or shower every other day. Do you really need a shower in the morning if you are going out fishing, gardening, or shoveling snow and being outside all day?

Products are available for purchase that are earth friendly. Bamboo toothbrushes, floss, and picks. Shampoos and conditions in bar form in boxes!

This is the twist...weren't we created by God. Aren't we one of God's creations....so let's think about caring for ourselves. Genesis 1:27 "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him, male and female He created them."

There are so many reasons we do not care for God's special creation, time, money, and responsibilities. It is the toughest part, caring for ourselves. It takes the most time and effort. This author finds it the most difficult! It is easier to take a shorter shower than exercise. We all know the drill. Eat well, get enough sleep, exercise, challenge your brain and get fed spiritually.

So can we...

Pray in the car on the way to work and put down the cell phone?

Don't always park in the closest spot?

Grab some fruit for your snack?

Have some "down time" before bed without electronics?

Read. Take a short course. Learn a new skill.

There are plenty of other opportunities. Jump in and try.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price, therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

Someone caught this tree trying to sneak out of the lake!



Bloomer/New Auburn Food Pantry Needs Your Help!!



Each Friday the FOOD PANTRY serves over 100 families plus school children for weekend meals and YOU CAN HELP! The primary needs for FEBRUARY are condiments, seasoning packets, canned fruit or fruit cups and canned soup.

Please see the information flyer on the bulletin boards at either of the church entrances for additional information.

THANK YOU!

Quilting Group

Will be meeting on
March 15th
at 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Everyone is welcome!!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP
Is March 2 at 6:45 p.m.

Please mark your calendars for this important church festival that marks the beginning of the

Lenten Season!



Deadline for April 2022 Newsletter

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

March 25th.

Thank You!!

CUSTODIAN HELP STILL NEEDED

Please contact Pastor Martin to volunteer and receive training!

Vacuum hallways
(about one hour per week)

Clean bathrooms
(about 30 minutes per week)

Sanitize high touch areas
(about 30 minutes per week)

Recycle (about 30 minutes per month)

FINANCE UPDATE

Year-To-Date as of Feb. 24, 2022

Year-To-Date:	
Weekly Contributions	\$ 27,263.86
Other Raised Funds	255.61
Total Received	\$ 27,519.47
- Expenses	\$- 28,452.02
Total remaining after expenses	\$ - 932.55

****Our current balance on our Line of Credit is \$23,669 and the principal balance on our building loan is \$46,730.**

Church Council Minutes

February 14, 2022

Call to Order – meeting was called to order at 5:34 pm by Adam Anderson, Council President

Opening Devotion – Pastor Martin led the council in a scripture discussion. The council read Matthew 14:22-33 and answered the questions: What do you notice?, What do you wonder about?, What is God calling you to do in this text?. Council will continue with similar devotions in the future. Pastor then led the council in prayer.

Approval of Agenda – a motion was made by Alicia Bonczyk to approve the agenda , seconded by Jeff Cole. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes – a motion was made by Alicia Bonczyk to approve the minutes from the January 24th, 2022 meeting ,seconded by Sarah Wittrock. Motion carried.

Financial Report – All bills have been paid for January, February payments are looking good. January income was \$18,301.45, expenses were \$18,482.65. Finances will be taken one month at a time , \$5000 in donations a week would be really good but would like to see \$4000 a week.

Motion was made by Janelle Yeakey to give \$50 to each of the 3 benevolences (Luther Park, Luther Social Services, & NW Synod of WI). Seconded by Sarah Wittrock. Motion carried

Motion was made by Alicia Bonczyk to approve the Financial Report, seconded by Jamie Keller. Motion carried.

Discussion was had on how to report the financial situation to church members. Monthly and year to date figures will be given for income and expenses in a table format similar to table below. Figures will be updated on a monthly basis once accounts have been reconciled. The table will be available in the monthly newsletter, weekly bulletin, and announcement slides. The bulletin or announcement slides will also be made available on Facebook.

	Month of _____	Year to Date
Income		
Expenses		
Difference		

Reports

Discipleship, Fellowship, Property, and Council President had no new updates.

Social Ministry – discussion on feedback of Care of Creations initiatives, positive comments about the displays

Worship & Music – Discussion about the possibility of having the Silent Messenger group from Baldwin, WI perform the Good Friday Service. The UCC Church is interested in participating. Questions which need to be asked are: Can the performance be live streamed? What is the cost? What is needed for set up/ tear down? How will to handle if our COVID protocols are different from other churches? How will social distancing be handled? The Church Council gave Pastor permission to pursue Silent Messenger for the evening service on Good Friday. Pastor will keep the Council updated.

Youth & Family – The question was asked if the Church Council wants to take over the charcoal chicken fundraiser. Suggestion was made to have the funds go towards the mission support of the church. Marcy Trubshaw and Alicia Bonczyk are willing to help organize. Pastor will reach out to Lisa Prill, Barb Ross, and Susie McGinnis to see if they can help as they have worked the fundraiser in the past.

St. John’s Youth attended the Youth Quake February 11th-13th in Wisconsin Dells. 3 boys, 4 girls, and chaperones attended and had a great time.

1st communion will be taking place February 20th & 23rd for youth who attended Fed and Forgiveness at Luther Park in January. Another session of Fed and Forgiveness will be offered in March.

Confirmation will be held on March 27th in a private Worship Service.

Church Council Minutes *(continued)*

Lent Worship Information-Lenten Dramas

Pastor Report -

A motion was made to by Alicia Bonczyk and seconded by Sarah Wittrock to transfer membership of Pete and Marla Paulson to Central Lutheran in Chippewa Falls, transfer in membership of Theodore Sarauer by baptism, and transfer membership of Clyde Shipman to church triumphant. Motion carried.

Pastor will be on vacation the 1st weekend in March. Martha Libersky will preach and Katie O'Connell will lead worship.

Old Business

Annual Meeting - meeting was a success once we had a quorum. The council was thankful for the questions and participation from members.

New Business

Council Retreat - Sunday March 13th from 10:30 am - 4 pm at Luther Park. Council members will carpool after church to Luther Park. Pastor Erin Nelson will assist the council in creating a new direction and to determine what the council wants to accomplish in 2022. Council will have lunch at Luther Park, Marcy and Sarah volunteered to supply some snacks and water.

COVID Update - The COVID Task force met and suggested council consider masks to be optional in 6 weeks.

A donation of KN95 masks was given to the church by a member of the congregation. They are available upon request and while supplies last. Discussion was had on COVID procedures.

A motion was made by Marcy Trubshaw to have masks be optional beginning February 27th with continued social distancing measures in place and KN95 masks available until supplies last. Seconded by Sarah Wittrock. Motion carried. Announcements will be made on February 20th & 23rd of the new policy.

Discussion at March meeting will include necessary precautions for Easter and serving of meals.

Worship Attendance - Discussion had about low attendance at worship. How should the council reach out to members? How do we update contact information for members? Reaching out to others with the question of "Is there anything we can do as a church to suit your needs/serve you?" Discussion will continue at council retreat.

Additional Items - Next Meeting: March 14th at 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

Adjournment - A motion was made by Alicia Bonczyk, seconded by Jamie Keller to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8 pm.

LENTEN DRAMAS TO FOCUS ON OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Lent is a 40 day season (excluding Sundays) that has historically been used as a time for self reflection. This year will be no exception. Each week we will focus on the following subjects:

- March 9 "The GodPhone's User Guide: Powering Up" Confession
- March 16 "The GodPhone's User Guide: AutoPray" Prayer
- March 23 "The GodPhone's User Guide: Selfie" Self Centeredness
- March 30 "The GodPhone's User Guide: GPS" Direction in Life
- April 6 "The GodPhone's User Guide: Removing the Sin Card" Surrender

These weekly dramas will not only entertain, but they will also highlight a number of our shortcomings, no matter what our age is. These dramas will definitely speak the language of our youth and young families, but will for sure grant lessons to each of us. Don't miss out on yet another inspiring worship opportunity!

We will once again return to "Holden Evening Prayer" as our liturgical framework, so bring your singing voices as we fill our sanctuary with the beauty of that music. Consider bringing a friend and share with them that they are welcome at the Lord's table as well. Let's make this Lent a season to remember!

Pastor Martin

Youth Announcements

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

JESUS & ME (JAM)

Who: Pre-K – 5th Grade
When: Sunday @ 10:15am &
 Wednesday @ 5:30pm

Join us in the sanctuary on either Sunday or Wednesday for Jesus & Me (aka JAM)! Your kids will learn about a new Bible story each week, play some fun games, and grow in their faith with their peers.

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Who: 9th Grade Confirmands
When: Sunday, March 27th @ 10:30am

We will have our Rite of Confirmation service after our regular 9am worship on Sunday, March 27th.

Families, please be sure to have your child's faith statement, bible verse, and individual picture to Katie or Pastor Martin by Sunday, March 20th.

Keep an eye out for an email about when we will be decorating prayer jars.



YOUTH IN ACTION



Who: 9th-12th Grade Youth
When: March 13th & 27th @ 5:30pm

Join us for some fun, fellowship, and FOOD! All are welcome (yes, even friends)! It's bound to be a good night for all.

PSEUDO LOCK-IN

Who: 6th-12th Grade
When: Friday, March 11th @ 7pm-12am

Join us at St. John's for a half night of fun and games! We'll start the night with some mixer games, leading into some games led by our high schoolers, and ending it all with a short worship.

Bring a snack to share, lots of energy, and a positive attitude!

CONFIRMATION

Who: 6th-8th Grade
When: Wednesday @ 5:30pm

This year our confirmation students are learning about the 10 Commandments. Join us as we grow with our peers to explore our faith, ask great questions, and have a lot of fun together!

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

715-568-5446
Email: stjohnsl-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

A Special Milestone—Congratulations to First Communicants



Emmitt Anderson



Henry Anderson



Jack Beyer



Lauren Bleskacek



Brock Graski



Benton Huber



Wyatt Kettner



Connor McCurdy



Leora Metcalf



Miles Mohr



Blaine Yeakey