

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

Council Meeting Minutes

Faith Statement

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Letter from Pastor Halom	1
Prayers	2
Calendar, Faith Statement	3
Church News, Financial Update	4
Council Minutes	5,8
Youth & Family Announcements	6
Preschool News	7

GO TEAM!

Bobbi Stouffer

Bobbi joined our community back in September of 2019 and has been an absolute joy to work with. One my favorite memories of Bobbi was likely at the first Christmas Eve service she played at. After the service was over, Greg Kaufman, who serves our synod out of the bishop's office, came to me and said, "Don't lose that one!" when referring to Bobbi and her talents. It was Greg's first time worshipping with us in the ten years I've served here.

I'm grateful for the attitude that she brings to the table every Sunday. She has an ability to provide that lift that many of us need at times through both her caring nature along with her style and flare for music. I'm thankful that she has embraced expanding her music repertoire that she plays as each year has passed, including accompanying the various musicians we introduce her to. This flexibility has added that spark to our worship and we all benefit, whether in person or online.

Bobbi once worked in the Bloomer school district, which is where we found her when we were looking for additional musicians. She has since become the band teacher in the Thorpe school district, who is very blessed to have her. She has two kids who've been baptized here at St. John's - Ethan and Emma. They bring with them an energy and curiosity that is fun to experience.

As is the case with most on our staff, Bobbi does so much beyond what most of you see. This past year at Christmas, for example, she traveled in not exactly the best weather in order to rehearse with several musicians on multiple occasions. I even challenged her with several new arrangements because I have so much faith in her musical talents. Bobbi is also the primary music selector for the church, which allows the worship committee and myself the ability to focus on broader worship ideas and experiences. She spends hours of her time reflecting on the texts as she identifies music that goes with the weekly themes. She then communicates the music plan and is open to suggestions or changes, even after her hours of work. This speaks to her humility and desire to make sure everyone has an enjoyable music experience.

Despite her talents, Bobbi is not a musical diva with a sense of entitlement. That's what makes it so easy to work with her. She receives tips and suggestions like a champ (however rare that might be!) and is able to make those adjustments accordingly. I still remember making the change to background music during the prayers of intercession when I simply asked her to "Play something reflective" during those prayers. I had full confidence that she'd come up with something and that I did not need to find music for her. Little did I know that she'd simply make something beautiful up and has been doing so ever since. That's sheer gift.

I hope that you can get to know Bobbi, making time to introduce yourself to her. I'm still not sure if I value her personality or musical gifts more. I'm glad I don't need to figure that out! But I'd truly recommend building a relationship with her as you will experience the same joy that I do every Sunday morning!

Pastor Martin

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

Fumiko (Eric Larson's sister-in-law); Pat Prill; Kyle Ruffedt; Emmett Larson; Shelli Rogge; Arlene Christianson; Bob Kerckhove; Renee Grambo; Steve Trubshaw; Renee Kerckhove and Dohna Kerckhove (Pat Prill's daughters).



Prayers For Our Active Military

Dalton Grambo, Danielle Shipman, Kelsey Leavens, Trenton Beaudette

Prayers For the Saints

Prayers for the week of March 5th: Bill, Carrie, Aiden, Brennan, Calum and Jessica Anderson; Karen Anderson; Kay and Richard Anderson; Doug, Shellie, Tayler and Zachary Asher; Karlien Asplund; Matt and Penni Asplund.

Prayers for the week of March 12th: Justin, Stacey, Bentley, Journey and Riley Babbit; Kay Baier; Yvonne Baier; Greg, Tasha, Trey, Ava, Brodie and Dylan Baker; Bruce, Karen, Jay and Jon Barlow.

Prayers for the week of March 19th: Marvin and Susan Baroun; Jerome, Kristie, Alicia and Ryan Benson; Carolyn Bergh; Jill, Mark, Karsten and Madi Bergh; Matthew, Melissa, Claire and Tyler Berlin; Dale and Rita Bitney.









Prayers for the week of March 26th: Albert and Merlene Blaha; Lydia, Steven, Chase and Reagan Blaha; Annie and Bill Bleskacek; Brian, Laura, Jake, John, Jonah and Leah Bleskacek; Joselyn, Nathan, Lauren and Ryan Bleskacek.

MARCH 2023 CALENDAR

Faith Statement



MARCH 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:00am Worship Service 5:30pm Youth In Action	27 8:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Staff Meeting	28	1 2:00pm Bible Study 3:30pm - 4:30pm Fed & Forgiveness 4:45pm - 5:30pm Wednesday Meals-Lenten Supper 5:30pm - 6:30pm Faith Formation 6:45pm Worship Service	2	3  Preschool Closed for Spring Break	4
5 9:00am Worship Service	6  Preschool Spring Break 8:00am Bible Study	7  Preschool Spring Break	8  Preschool Spring Break 9:30am Bloomer Clergy Association 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm - 5:30pm Wednesday Meals 6:45pm Worship Service	9  Preschool Spring Break 9:30am Pastor's Conference	10  Preschool Spring Break	11 Synod "Walking Together" in Rice Lake
12 9:00am Worship Service	13 8:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Staff Meeting	14 4:30pm Preschool Committee Meeting	15 2:00pm Bible Study 3:30pm - 4:30pm Fed & Forgiveness 4:45pm - 5:30pm Wednesday Meals-Lenten Supper 5:30pm - 6:30pm Faith Formation 6:45pm Worship Service	16 Preschool Bakery Field Trip Preschool PJs and Movie Day 5:30pm Youth Committee Meeting	17  HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY! Preschool Bakery Field Trip Preschool PJs and Movie Day	18
19 9:00am Worship Service 1:00pm B-I-N-G-O!!	20 8:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Church Council Meeting	21  1:00pm - 4:00pm Quilting Group	22 2:00pm Bible Study 3:30pm - 4:30pm Fed & Forgiveness 4:45pm - 5:30pm Wednesday Meals-Lenten Supper 5:30pm - 6:30pm Faith Formation 6:45pm Worship Service	23	24	25
26 9:00am Worship Service 5:30pm Youth In Action	27 8:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Staff Meeting	28	29 2:00pm Bible Study 3:30pm - 4:30pm Fed & Forgiveness 4:45pm - 5:30pm Wednesday Meals-Lenten Supper 5:30pm - 6:30pm Faith Formation 6:45pm Worship Service	30	31	1

FAITH STATEMENT

I believe that God is everywhere, all the time. When I look around, I see him in everything. He blessed me with my wonderful family and friends, he provides me with endless opportunities to do the things I love, and he has given me the strength to push through the toughest of times. There have been times where I have questioned why bad things still happen to me if God exists. But, I have come to learn that God will never give me more than I can handle and he will always provide a way out. I have gone through some health issues recently, and if I have learned anything from them, it is that faith is incredibly important. I truly believe that faith is a huge reason I recovered and I know that my faith will always have the utmost importance to me in my future. I know that God will continue to be with me for the rest of my life. Knowing this gives me a sense of peace and reassurance, knowing that when all else fails God will be there and will be all I need. I will forever put all my trust and love into God.

Bible Verse: Romans 8:28 "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."

Church News

Pizza Fundraiser

The youth are trying a new fundraiser this year! We have made arrangements with Harms Way, Valley Tavern, Fat Boys, and The Quarthouse to sell pizzas! Each restaurant has a variety of pizzas to order from that range in price from \$12-25 for either 12 or 16 inches.

Ever wonder which place in town has the best pizza? Here's a great opportunity to try them all out!

As usual, the proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit our kids who attend summer bible camp, weekend retreats, lock-ins, and other important youth opportunities.

Youth that would like to participate in this fundraiser can use the attached document to take orders. Hard copies of each document can also be found at church. Families are encouraged to collect money at the time of order and write a single check to St. John's for the total raised. Coupons will be available to distribute to buyers the week of March 13.



CREATION CARE MESSAGE

If you are interested in planting some native trees/shrubs this spring, you will find information and an order form on the Chippewa County website at the Conservation Tree Program. Click on the 2023 tree order form. Packages of 25 seedlings range from \$12.00 on up. Orders must be in by April 4th, 2023 and the earlier you order, the greater your selection.



Wednesday Meals in Lenten Season

- ▶ Every Wednesday during lent the families of the confirmation class will be providing delicious HOT SOUP & SANDWICH meals.
- ▶ The suggested amount for the meal is \$5.00 per person, or \$15 per family. Proceeds provide funding for camp, mission trips & youth activities.

Begins each Wednesday at 4:45 p.m.

▶ PLEASE COME AND ENJOY



"HARRY POTTER" BIBLE STUDY

Sunday, Mar. 12th
2:00 -5:00 p.m.
For ALL AGES!



Quilting Group

Will be meeting on
March 21st
at 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Everyone is welcome!!



Deadline for April 2023 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 23rd.**

Thank You!!

	Month of	Year to Date
	JAN 2023	JAN - JAN
INCOME	\$18,880	\$18,880
EXPENSES	\$19,450	\$19,450
Difference	(-\$ 570)	(-\$ 570)

Financial Update

Current Balance on Line of Credit
\$10,404

Church Council Minutes

February 20, 2023



Call to Order - meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Dorene Turner, Council President.

Opening Devotion – Pastor asked the council to share a Lenten memory then closed in prayer .

Approval of the Agenda - a motion was made by Alicia Bonczyk to approve the agenda with flexibility, seconded by Kyle Prill. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes - a motion was made by Alicia Bonczyk. to approve the minutes from the January 10th & February 2nd, 2023 meetings, seconded by Kaitlyn Bohl Motion carried.

Financial Report -

	Year to Date (Jan 2023)
Income	\$ 18,879.87
Expenses	\$ 19,464.32
Difference	(\$ 584.45)
Current SFB Line of Credit	\$10,404.44

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

Old Business

Church council retreat – March 26th at Luther Park, leave St. John’s at 10 am

Meal Accommodations – pizzas from Youth Fundraiser, dessert – Janelle

New Business

Town Hall comments: *Exterior carpets* – Jamie Keller will communicate with the property committee about carpeting on the front steps and front doors.

Preschool Staff Payroll Timing

A motion was made by Jamie Keller that if payroll falls on a weekend that staff is paid the Friday before. Seconded by Jeff Cole. Motion carried.

Income boost with large fundraiser (raffle? Concert?) Creation of task force to help dream up ideas to implement.

Future Town Hall options – will implemented 3 times a year, January, May & September

Church cancellation procedures: Current procedure is to close church if school is cancelled for the day, future conversation will be had to determine if changes need to be made to the procedure.

Reports

Worship – Wednesday worship will take a break during the summer months and resume in the fall.

Pastor’s report: A motion was made by Alicia Bonczyk to accept membership changes of welcoming Ruthanne Hruby, Mike Shannon, and Paxton Shannon through baptism and transferring membership to the church triumphant for Herman Boettcher and transfer of membership for Sam Lanzer to Lutheran Memorial in Madison. Seconded by Jamie Keller. Motion carried

Website pics from council members

Additional Items and Announcements

Next Meeting: March 20th at 6 pm

Adjournment - a motion was made at 7:49 pm by Alicia Bonzyck to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Janelle Yeakey. Motion carried.

Members Present: Dorene Turner, Jamie Keller, Jeff Cole, Pastor Martin, Janelle Yeakey, Alicia Bonczyk, Kyle Prill, Kaitlyn Bohl. **Members Absent:** Sarah Wittrock, Terri Smith, Pat Prill
Minutes submitted by Janelle Yeakey, Secretary

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.

Our Youth in Action for March will take place on Sunday, March 26th .

Quake Trip Update

Amanda Ritchie and Jean Rihn took eight of our middle- and high school students to Wisconsin Dells: The Wilderness Lodge this past month for Quake. It was a lot of fun for all of our students, and we are excited to share pictures of the trip in the coming month via a slideshow during service.

Information on the next Lock-In

Our next all-night lock-in will take place on Friday, April 14th from 7:00PM until 7:00AM. This lock-in will be for middle school students (6th grade and up), and high school students can serve as leaders to assist with the lock-in's success. Students are not required to stay all night and can be picked up early at the parents discretion. Please contact Amanda Ritchie or Pastor Martin if you have any questions.

Harry Potter Bible Study

We are going to be hosting a Harry Potter bible study beginning on beginning on Sunday, March 12th 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 Order of the Phoenix at this event. All ages are welcome! We do ask that if you have not seen the first four 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

Lenten Suppers – Soups and Sandwich Dinners

Our JAM and confirmation families will be helping with dinner during the session of Lent. February 22nd our JAM families will be helping with dinner, while February 29th/ March 1st/ March 15th/ March 22nd/ March 29th our confirmation groups (families) will be in charge of meals and clean up. Dinners during Lent will be various soups and sandwiches.

Luther Park Bible Camp

Summer Theme this year is “Holy Trinity, Wholly Love”. This summer students will explore the concept of the Holy Trinity and the ways in which God’s love guides us through our lives. They will dive in and learn about God the creator, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, as well as how this three-in-one God is present with us always. The theme will be incorporated into morning devotion, Bible study, evening worship and campfire with lively skits, songs and messages led by staff and visiting pastors. Sign up for camp today! For more information on Luther Park, please contact Pastor Martin or go to lutherpark.org.

**** Spring Break ****

There will be no Faith Formation on Wednesday, March 8th due to Spring Break.



PRESCHOOL NEWS & UPDATES



NEWS FROM PRESCHOOL STAFF!



Amanda



Sneak Peek into the Program

Amanda and Jamie have a lot packed into the month of March. In this coming month, our various themes that will be explored are Dr. Seuss Week (Read Across America); St. Patrick's Day; Pirates and Princesses; and Zoo Animals. 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, March 3rd through Friday March 10th we will be closed along with the School District of Bloomer for Spring Break.

PJs and a Movie Day

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

Bloomer Bakery Fieldtrip

Thursday, March 16th and Friday, March 17th we will be walking to the Bloomer Bakery to purchase a cookie. Please send \$2 with your child so they can purchase a special treat to enjoy during our pajama and movie day.

Classroom Visitor

On Tuesday, February 21st and Wednesday, March 1st, we had a visitor from Smiles in Motion come in and discuss dental health with our students. The children were read a book on the importance of brushing their teeth and followed up with practicing brushing Sugar Bug Doug's teeth. We appreciate the community outreach and lesson on dental health with our students.

Read-a-Thon Fundraiser

We will be hosting a Read-a-Thon fundraiser from Monday, February 27th through March 3rd. If you would be interested in sponsoring a child or donating to the preschool, please contact Amanda Ritchie. This is such a fun way to promote early literacy to our students and their families, while supporting the mission of raising funds to help purchase new outdoor equipment and materials for our preschool.

Pre-Registration for 2023-24

Pre-registration will be opening on Wednesday, March 1st for the 2023-24 academic year. If anyone has any questions, please contact Amanda Ritchie at mobile (715)279-6962 or email amanda_stjohnspreschool@aol.com.

We are excited to welcome new students to our program, and we hope to see some familiar faces returning as well.



Non-Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Permit #15
Bloomer, WI



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

715-568-5446
Email: stjohosl-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

Church Council Minutes—Special Meeting

February 2, 2023

Call to Order – meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by Pastor Martin

Introductions – Council members introduced themselves to each other and shared a goal of what they would like to see happen at St. John's

Congregation Report – Council members looked over the report about St. John's that is given to the ELCA

Elections – A **motion was made** by Janelle Yeakey to elect Dorene Turner as President. Seconded by Alicia Bonczyk. Motion carried unanimously. A **motion was made** by Alicia Bonczyk to elect Jeff Cole as Vice President. Seconded by Terri Smith. Motion carried unanimously. A **motion was made** by Alicia Bonczyk to elect Janelle Yeakey as Secretary. Seconded by Terri Smith. Motion carried unanimously. A **motion was made** by Janelle Yeakey to elect Pat Prill as Treasurer. Seconded by Alicia Bonczyk. Motion carried unanimously.

The four elected officers will have check signing ability for the church

Committees – explanation of committees was given and council members determined which ones they would serve on

Discipleship – needs to be started again, looking for 4-6 people

Fellowship – Janelle Yeakey & Terri Smith

Preschool – Sarah Wittrock

Social Ministry –

Property – Jamie Keller & Jeff Cole

Worship & Music – Jeff Cole

Youth – Alicia Bonczyk & Kyle Prill

Council Retreat – Pastor will contact Luther Park and organize a retreat. Possible dates are Feb 26th, Mar 19th, Mar 26th.

Next Meeting – Future meetings will occur on the 3rd Monday of the month at 6pm. Next meeting will be February 20th at 6 pm.

Adjourn – A **motion was made** at 8:31 pm by Pat Prill to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Alicia Bonczyk. Motion carried

Members Present: Pat Prill, Dorene Turner, Jamie Keller, Jeff Cole, Pastor Martin, Terri Smith, Janelle Yeakey, Alicia Bonczyk, Kyle Prill. **Members Absent:** Sarah Wittrock, Kaitlyn Bohl
Minutes submitted by Janelle Yeakey, Secretary