



St. John's Lutheran Church

Mission Statement:

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

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Church News-Calendar
- Council Meeting Minutes
- Letter from Pastor Halom
- Youth & Preschool News

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THE WHOLENESS WHEEL Emotional Health

As many have noticed, over the past few years I've paid particular attention to mental health in my preaching and teaching. This emphasis comes directly from not only my own perspective, but also from articles and interviews by experts in the field. Even before Covid-19 isolated us in ways that many of us have never experienced, I've seen a decline that has led me to the conclusion that as a society, we are not coping in ways that are helpful and meaningful. That is why I feel that the church needs to address mental health.

As you can see in my title, my focus today is on emotional health. I do realize that mental health and emotional health are defined differently:
Mental health - a person's condition with regard to their psychological and emotional well-being.

Emotional health - one aspect of mental health. It is your ability to cope with both positive and negative emotions, which includes your awareness of them.
Scripture is filled with stories about emotions, even for God and Jesus.
Exodus 20:5 for I the LORD your God am a jealous God (God)

Matthew 25:21 "Well done, good and faithful servant!" (Jesus)

Mark 8:38 Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." (Jesus)

Luke 10:21 At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth..." (Jesus)

John 2:16 "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" (Jesus)

As far as I am concerned, we are emotional people because God is an emotional God and we've been created in God's image. I'd even make the argument that emotions are gifts from God! But there are times when we don't handle our emotions well, which can result in depression, lashing out toward others, even mental paralysis.

I have found the following statement to be incredibly helpful in striving for emotional health: "Being emotionally well means feeling the full range of human emotions and expressing them appropriately. Self-awareness is the first step. Recognizing and honoring your own feelings and those of others - stress, contentment, anger, love, sadness, joy, resentment - will help you live life with resilience." (The Wholeness Wheel)

If you ever feel that you are not handling your emotions well, I hope you have the strength to find the help that you need. If that means a free visit with your pastor, know that I'm all ears and happy to help! If I can't offer the level of help that you need, know that I can help you find that help too!

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

Rich Helgeson; Jessica Schwarzenberger; Sarah Wittrock; Arne Windsor; Pat Prill; Art Klingenberg; Nancy Zogleman (Amanda Larson's grandmother); Renee Grambo; Wayne Zogleman (Amanda Larson's Grandfather); Arlene Christianson; Steve Trubshaw; Dohna Kerckhove (Pat Prill's daughter).

Prayers For Our Active Military

Dalton Grambo, Danielle Shipman, Kelsey Leavens, Trenton Beaudette

Prayers For the Saints

Prayers for the week of Mar. 3rd: Lisa and Ted Goettl; Isabel Gonzalez; Renee, Scott, Cayce, Charlie, Dalton and Gunnar Grambo; Heidi, Jason, Brock, Emslee, Jerzei and Kordell Graski; Kayla (Gunderson), Ronnie, Harper and Henry Rihn.

Prayers for the week of Mar. 10th: Martin, Melinda, Dylan, Jaden and Nicholas Halom; Beth, Tyler, Lauren and Leo Halverson; Margery Hansen; Debra, Kevin, Darion and Samuel Hanson; Dorothy Hassemmer; Jan and Rich Helgeson; Cheryl, David and Alana Helland.

Prayers for the week of Mar. 17th: Anna and Christopher Hilger; Joseph, Kathleen, Eric, Lucas and Mitchell Hilger; Jason, Laurice, Abrina, Gabe, Isabelle Hillman; Amanda and Aubree Holm; Candi and Gregory Homme; Brett, Tianna, Benton and Greta Huber.

Prayers for the week of Mar. 24th: Ellyn and Jim Hudacek; Kelli Jackson; Janie, Robert Jacobson; Matthew, Samantha and Graham Jandourek; Preston Jenneman; Karen, and Rod Johnson; Heather, Robert and Ava Kasperek; Haley Keller; Heidi, Jamie, Jordyn and RyAnna Keller.

Prayers for the week of Mar. 31st: Jeanie, Justin, Kelsey and Wyatt Kettner; Joseph, Trista and Gauge Klemish; Art Klingenberg; Darren, Leanne, Kristine, Nicole Knutson; Laurie, Ethan, Hunter, Josh and McKenna Koehler; Dustin, Erica and Jordynn Kragness; Janet and Tom Krenz.



MARCH 2024 CALENDAR

Church News/Holy Week Services

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Music for Mission meeting 5:30pm Youth In Action	26 8:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Staff Meeting	27	28 2:00pm Bible Study 3:30pm - 4:30pm Fed & Forgiveness 4:45pm Wednesday Meals-Soup & Sandwich 5:30pm - 6:30pm Faith Formation	29	1 No preschool	2
3 9:00am Worship Service	4 NO SCHOOL - SPRING BREAK 8:00am Bible Study	5 NO SCHOOL - SPRING BREAK	6 NO SCHOOL - SPRING BREAK 10:30am Bloomer Clergy Association Mtg 2:00pm Bible Study 5:30pm Wednesday Meals-Soup & Sandwich 6:45pm Worship Service	7 NO SCHOOL - SPRING BREAK	8 NO SCHOOL - SPRING BREAK	9
10 9:00am Worship Service	11 8:00am Bible Study 5:15pm Youth Committee Meeting	12 1:00pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Preschool Committee Meeting	13 2:00pm Bible Study 3:30pm - 4:30pm Fed & Forgiveness 4:45pm Wednesday Meals-Soup & Sandwich 5:30pm - 6:30pm Faith Formation	14 9:30am Pastor's Conference	15	16
17 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Music for Mission Meeting	18 8:00am Bible Study 5:45pm Preschool Family Fun Night 6:00pm Church Council Meeting	19 1:00pm - 4:00pm Quilting Group	20 2:00pm Bible Study 3:30pm - 4:30pm Fed & Forgiveness 4:45pm Wednesday Meals-Soup & Sandwich 5:30pm - 6:30pm Faith Formation 6:45pm Worship Service	21	22	23
24 Palm Sunday 9:00am Worship Service	25 8:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm - 6:30pm Host Luther Park Board Meeting	26 Deadline for April 2024 Newsletter	27 2:00pm Bible Study	28 6:45pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service	29 No Preschool 6:45pm Good Friday Service	30
31 Happy Easter!! 7:00am Sunrise Easter Worship Service 8:00am Easter Breakfast 9:00am Easter Worship Service	1 No Preschool	2	3 10:30am Bloomer Clergy Association Mtg 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm Wednesday Meals 5:30pm - 6:30pm Faith Formation 6:45pm Worship Service	4	5	6

Quilting Group
Will be meeting on
March 19th
at 1:00-4:00 p.m.

SEW CUTE!
Everyone is welcome!!

New Auburn Community Choir
Sat. March 16th
2 pm

Volunteers needed to supply bars. Sign up located in the Narthex

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

WED, MARCH 27 – NO SERVICE OR ACTIVITIES

MARCH 28TH – MAUNDY THURSDAY
6:45 P.M. WORSHIP

MARCH 29TH - GOOD FRIDAY, 1:00 P.M.
ECUMENICAL SERVICE AT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

6:45 GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

EASTER SUNDAY
7:00 A.M. SUNRISE EASTER SERVICE
8:00 A.M. EASTER BREAKFAST
9:00 A.M. EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE

SAVE THE DATE!
Saturday, April 20 from 9am-1pm

ELCA Women's Chippewa Valley Conference
DAY OF RENEWAL
• Hope Lutheran Church, 2226 Eddy Lane, Eau Claire
A Musical Journey
"How to Renew Our Minds"

Details and registration forms are located on bulletin boards at both church entrances.

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Feb. 19, 2024

Call to Order - meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Dorene Turner, Council President.

Opening Devotion – Council shared highs and lows.

Approval of the Agenda -A motion was made by Janelle Yeakey to approve the agenda with flexibility, seconded by Alicia Bonczyk. Motion carried.

Approval of last Council Minutes - A motion was made by Janelle Yeakey to have Alicia Bonczyk’s term end in 2026, seconded by Kay Anderson. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dorene Turner to approve the minutes from the January 21st, 2024 meeting, seconded by Jamie Keller. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alicia Bonczyk to approve the minutes from the January 15th, 2024 meeting, seconded by Dorene Turner. Motion carried.

Financial Report -

	Year to Date (Jan-2024)
Income	\$ 22,351.41
Expenses	\$ 22,257.62
Difference	\$ 93.79

Transfers: January 29th transfer of \$1000 from council fund to congregational for bills.
 January 30th transfer of \$1000 from council fund to congregational for payroll.

CD's	\$100,000	\$200,000
Location	Security Financial Bank	Security Financial Bank
% APR	5.25	5.25
Timeframe	12 months	12 months
Expires	8-8-24	8-3-24

All money is insured through FDIC

A motion was made by Alicia Bonczyk to accept the financial report. Seconded by Jeff Cole. Motion carried.

Old Business-

Townhall Meeting Dates – upcoming April 7th & 10th ; again in the Fall.

Volunteer Appreciation Days - decision was made to use Main Street Café, \$10/person (sausage, eggs, French toast, pastries and orange juice); this includes tax & tip. Dates to check: April 21st, April 28th, & May 5th. Pastor & Janelle will determine the RSVP process.

New Business –

Monthly Bulk Mailing of Newsletters: March and April newsletters will be sent first class, not bulk mail. Pastor will include an article with information that the newsletter only being mailed to those who ask. Sign up at church to determine how to send newsletter, via email, pickup, or mail.

Council Retreat Notes

Goal: Working on creating relationships by noticing what is happening in people’s lives

- Lock-ins that include community service – youth committee can help with brainstorming ideas.
- Catching people doing good, cards, joys & sorrows, etc.
- Process will begin on Easter, Victoria will purchase cards and families will be encouraged to take one to send to someone who they are thankful for. Cards should have a saying such as ‘St. John’s Lutheran church family is thinking of you’.
- Prayers for joys and sorrows
- Post it notes and baskets will be provided for people to share joys and sorrows on Wednesdays and Sundays. Joys and sorrows will be included in the weekly prayers.
- Wording and Signage- change the sending during service to “ok we will, thanks be to God” at Easter.

Music For Mission Event Details

Council Minutes Continued

MUSIC FOR MISSION

Join us for one of the more exciting new opportunities of the year - **MUSIC FOR MISSION!**

Sunday, April 14 starting at 2 pm

Bloomer High School Commons

Cost: Advance tickets/**Door Price**

Adult \$25/ **\$30**

Youth (Grades 1-12) \$15/ **\$15**

Children (K and under) free/ **free**

Family \$75/ **\$80**

Table (max 8 people) \$150 / **N/A**

50/50 raffle \$1/ticket or 6 for \$5

Instrumentalists to include youth and adult talent from St. John's playing a wide variety of music. The Hearts of the North band will also be featured with guest artist, Sue Orfield, a local Eau Claire star and sax instructor.

All proceeds of the event will benefit two organizations:

*The Blackhawk Foundation - This group purchases all school supplies in the district for both elementary and middle schools. Additional funding would help support field trips, special teaching aids, and literacy. See more at www.BlackhawkEducationFoundation.com.

*The Scenic Hills Youth Ranch - Scenic Hills Youth Ranch provides a place of simplicity through mentorship and horses. They strive to inspire hope and purpose in youths throughout Western Wisconsin that have been through life challenges or traumas. See more at <https://www.shyr.org/>.

You can purchase tickets in advance and before or after worship when available.

- Call the church office to reserve your tickets and pay when you pick them up.
- Reserve on the St. John's Facebook pages and pay when you pick them up.

Limited table reservations will be made on a first come, first served basis.

We hope to have a great showing, so please mark your calendars now to make a difference in our community and enjoy a great day of music!

Pastor Martin

(Council Minutes Continued)

-Minorities – Neighbor 2 Neighbor

Committee Reports

Appreciation Days April 6th – 12th : Preschool Staff - Preschool Committee will be organizing, may us up to \$50 from staff appreciation budget. **April 26th**: Administrative Assistant Day – will discuss at March Council meeting

Pastor's Report A motion was made by Janelle Yeakey to welcome Abraham

Sarauer as a baptized member to St. John's Lutheran Church. Seconded by Aubrie Bohl. Motion carried.

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

Fellowship Minutes - looking for more members to join to help with the 'fun' planning

Preschool Minutes – enrollment discussions for 2024/25 school year happening

Social Ministry Minutes - none

Property Minutes –

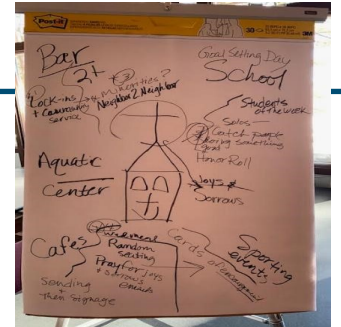
Worship & Music Minutes –

Youth Minutes – Past Event: Youth Quake; Future Events: Flower Fundraiser, National Youth Gathering in New Orleans

Additional Items and Announcements

Next Meeting: March 18th at 6 pm

Adjournment - a **motion was made** at 7:57 pm by Janelle Yeakey to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alicia Bonczyk. Motion carried. Members Present: Pastor Martin, Janelle Yeakey, Dorene Turner, Jamie Keller, Jeff Cole, Aubrie Bohl, Kay Anderson, Alicia Bonczyk, Jason Graski—Others Present: NA—Members Absent: Sarah Wittrock, Kyle Prill. Minutes submitted by Janelle Yeakey, Secretary



Youth & Family News

Lenten Drama Series Schedule



Encourage: Middle School Youth Gathering

Attention all middle school students and families: On Saturday, April 13th there will be a middle school youth gathering opportunity for our students to attend. This event will take place at Bethany Lutheran Church in Rice Lake, WI from 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM. The cost for your child to attend is only \$25 and includes an event t-shirt, breakfast treats, and lunch. Carpooling may be an option depending on how many students sign up to attend this event. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Larson.

Subs Needed for JAM

Thanks to all our returning teachers for JAM. We are looking for people who would be interested in substituting on Wednesday nights. Please contact Amanda Larson for more information so we can get you on a list. Also, if there is a specific age group you want to work with or would not like to work with, please let us know that information as well.

Upcoming Fundraisers

Please keep an eye out for upcoming information regarding our next fundraiser. We are planning on running our pizza fundraiser again. More details coming soon.

Dates to Consider

There will be NO Faith Formation on Wednesday, March 6th (Spring Break) and Wednesday, March 27th (Holy Week). Contact Pastor Martin for more information

Youth in Action

Youth in Action will not be meeting in March and will return to our monthly gatherings in April. For more information, please contact Amanda Larson at 715-279-6962 or amanda_stjohnspreschool@aol.com

Luther Park Registration Now Open

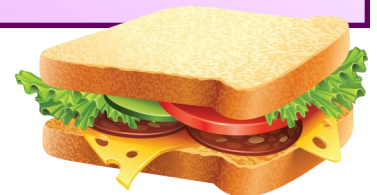
Summer camp registration for Luther Park is officially open! This year's theme is "Created to Be: Psalm 139:14." If your child is interested in attending or you have questions about camp, please go to their website (lutherpark.org) and/or contact Pastor Martin or Amanda Larson. Early bird rates end on March 1st and final camper payments are due on June 1st.
*Reminder: if your child participated in two of the fundraisers, our church will reimburse 50% of the camp costs (does not include registration or canteen). Please contact Amanda Larson or Pastor Martin if you have any additional questions regarding reimburse-

Youth Ministry Pictures

We are looking for pictures that anyone may have taken last year (2022-23) or this year so far. If you have any pictures that you're able to share, whether it's from JAM, confirmation, lock-in, or a youth trip, please contact Amanda Larson or Pastor Martin. We can forward you a link to a Google Drive. Otherwise, photos can get emailed to: stjohnslutheran.bloomer@gmail.com

Lenten Dinners

During the season of Lent, the confirmation students are taking turns serving soup and sandwiches for dinner. Dinner runs from 4:45 PM-5:30 PM with the cost of \$5/person or \$20/family. The final week of Lenten soup and sandwiches will be Wednesday, March 20th. There WILL be dinner on Wednesday, March 6th in place of Faith Formation from 5:30 PM-6:30 PM.



WEDNESDAY NIGHTS:

LENTEN DRAMA SERIES



Things of God

Feb. 21: Coin
Feb. 28: Cup

Mar. 6: Sign

Mar. 13: Thorn

Mar. 20: Sponge





NEWS FROM PRESCHOOL STAFF!

Faith Statement



Amanda



Sneak Peak Into the Program

Mrs. Larson has a lot packed into the month of February. As we start the new year, the various themes that will be explored are Read Across America week (Dr. Seuss), St. Patrick's Day (i.e., rainbows and leprechauns), and Easter.

The children follow weekly focus walls that teach them their letters, shapes, colors, and numbers. As their teacher, I try to integrate these subject areas into the curriculum plans and daily activities that the children can choose from. It's going to be a busy and festive month! Make sure to follow our Facebook page to see what our students are up to.

Family Fun Night

Parent-We are excited to host our second Family Fun Night of the 2023-24 academic year. We hope that hosting an event like this will spread awareness of our program. You can expect this event to be geared toward families who have children 4 years of age and under (older

siblings are welcome to attend), including interactive story time, music, crafts, and snacks. All families who attend will be entered in for a door prize (must be present to win). Please RSVP ahead of time via Facebook or with Amanda Larson so that we can plan accordingly.

Important Dates to Save

There will be no school on Friday, March 1st through Friday, March 8th for Spring Break, as well as no school on Friday, March 29th and Monday, April 1st for Easter Break.

Read-a-Thon Fundraiser

We will be hosting a Read-a-Thon fundraiser from Monday, February 26th through Sunday, March 10th. If you would be interested in sponsoring a child or donating to the preschool, please contact Amanda Larson. 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. Sponsorship pledges are due back on Wednesday, March 13th.

Giving Tree

We have a giving tree set up in the preschool shared space if anyone is interested in supporting the preschool program with some additional supplies we could benefit from. Please reach out to Amanda Larson if you have any questions about this opportunity. As always, we appreciate your continued support!

Pre-Registration for 2024-25

Pre-registration will be opening on Friday, March 1st for the 2024-25 academic year. If anyone has any questions, please contact Amanda Larson - 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.

My Faith-Confirmation

Looking past the mountaintops, the beautiful sunset, the bright city lights, and the fireworks of gorgeous Colorado, I remember that all of that all started with God. He is the one that made all of what we see amazing. The relationship I hold with God is so important to me because he is the one who created the bright blue sky we stare at for hours, the big fluffy clouds we make funny shapes out of, the rain for our gardens and plants, the green grass we run barefoot in, the woods we hunt in, and most importantly the people we get to spend our time with. Even the people we don't like, we have to remember that we are one with each other and God our Father is who created us all.

When I think of the word "faith," I think of truth, justice, consideration, acceptance, and most importantly God. Faith is something that I believe is really important to have because it just makes me feel better when I know somebody is doing good or maybe I said something that put a smile on their face. God brings this feeling inside of me that when I feel something is wrong to do I won't do it or I will stick up for someone else even if that means I get hurt. One thing that I keep in mind when I think of the Lord is that just because he forgives our sins, doesn't mean it's automatically forgiven or okay to do them. I have to admit, I have done many sins and most of which I strongly regret. But, God forgave me and I have learned that even in the worst of times, it feels so much better when you do things for the good.

If a friend asked me who God is, I wouldn't say he is a spirit or ghost, I would describe him as a person because he is. Even though he can create things just by speaking and heal people just by praying, to me he is still a person. Also, praying doesn't mean you are asking him to do something or necessarily help yourself or someone else, to me praying means to thank the Lord for all he has done and apologize for sins that you may have done or have caused. The Lord is an incredible being and I think everyone in the world should at least give him a chance even if they don't believe.

Bible Verse: Luke 1:37—³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God."

	<p>ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 1403 Newman Street Bloomer, WI 54724</p>
	<p>ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED</p> <p>715-568-5446 Email: stjohndl-secretary@bloomer.net</p>

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



New Council Member Introduction Featured in March—
Kay Anderson

My name is Kathryn Anderson but you may know me as Kay, Kay Kay or even Grandma Kay. I was born in Bloomer and I have been baptized, confirmed and married in this church. I also plan to have my funeral services conducted here. I was raised in the church attending services, Sunday school and social activities. I was a Sunday school teacher for 19 years until I became disabled due to medical issues. My four children and four grandchildren have also been raised in this church.



I have been asked to join the Church Council in order to fulfill the duties of Treasurer. I have an extensive background in the area of financial management and financial responsibility. I was the Treasurer of the St. John's Preschool for four years, handling all the activities: recording tuition payments, making bank deposits, paying bills and preparing the payroll. I was also a member of the Preschool Board, attending monthly meetings while also presenting the financial reports and statements.

I have also been the Treasurer for the St. John's Lutheran Foundation's Parkview Apartments for four years. I am responsible for maintaining the financial records of income and expenses, tracking the ownership records of the tenants, preparing required financial reports and ensuring the IRS required tax forms are timely filed. I have had the opportunity to work closely with Don Geissler, the Foundation President. We have regular meetings to discuss financial issues concerning the Foundation. He has been very patient in sharing his knowledge and experience which has been beneficial to me.

I have been working for the last twenty-five years at Abrahamson Agency in Bloomer. I was hired as a receptionist but was quickly promoted to Office Manager, a position I still hold. I am responsible for client relations, office administration, advertising and supply management. I also manage Mr. Abrahamson's daily schedule.

Thank you,
 Kathryn (Kay) Anderson