



# 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 and 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.

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Pastor's News
- Committee Minutes
- Financial Report
- Youth and Family
- Preschool News

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## WHEN A CHALLENGE BECOMES AN OPPORTUNITY

As we enter into the summer months, it's exciting to reflect on the current academic year and thus ponder the future. Wednesday evening ministry has flourished this year, most notably the supper, faith formation, and worship. We have consistently fed between 60-80 people during supper. We normally have nearly 90 children (including 38 in confirmation!) for faith formation. And our average worship attendance has blossomed from 52 in 2013-14 to 75 in 2014-15. Things are moving here at St. John's!

Throughout my ministry career, I've spoken with countless people that in everything, there are growing pains that come with growth. Our growing movement toward Wed. ministry has encountered a new challenge – facility space. I look forward to Wednesdays because of the life that our families have brought, but it does add a bit more stress to our volunteers who are feeding, teaching, and nourishing our children. Our church council and Youth Committee have both discussed how to address this new dynamic on Wed. evenings. We have come up with some thoughts on how to address our space limitations.

**We would like to invite any interested party, particularly those who are impacted by Wed. evening ministry, to a town hall meeting on Wednesday, May 13.** Dinner will begin at 5:15 pm and conversation will begin at 5:30. The meeting will conclude by 6:45 so that people can be dismissed for worship by 7 pm. The following proposal will be discussed. Final decisions *will not* be made without the input of impacted families and individuals as this proposal has several ripple effects and we value your suggestions and responses!

4:45-5:30	Supper
5:30-6:30	Faith Formation (all ages – confirmation, see <b>note</b> below)
6:30-6:45	Transition
6:45-7:30	Worship
7:30-8:00	Small groups (6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grade confirmation)

**Note – Confirmation students would remain with Pastor Martin during this entire time frame.**

*(continued on pg. 2)*

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)

# Pastor's News

(article continued from pg. 1)

Families who are involved in confirmation are those who will be impacted the most by this proposal and thus it is our hope to see them at this meeting. Free childcare will be offered during this meeting so that parents and youth can concentrate during the discussion.

This is a starting point. Your thoughts and ideas are also welcome, which is why we are communicating this proposal early enough that you can come prepared with suggestions.

In our conversations at council and youth committee, we've noted that there is no perfect solution or we'd already be doing it! But we feel that the above plan is a suitable plan that will ultimately free up building space during the faith formation portion by retaining the confirmation students in the dining hall. It will also allow me to have more time with the youth. At present, I normally get about 30-40 minutes to teach and the students get about 20-30 minutes in small group time to build relationships. Most churches that I've served allow for a total of 90 minutes for confirmation, whereas we get about 60 here at St. John's.

This Town Hall meeting is critical because this decision will hopefully last several years. But as I reflect on the nature of this challenge, what a great challenge to have! We are so pleased to have your children here and see how parents are fulfilling their baptismal promises. Let's give thanks to God who brings us together to be fed, taught, and nourished at the Lord's Table!

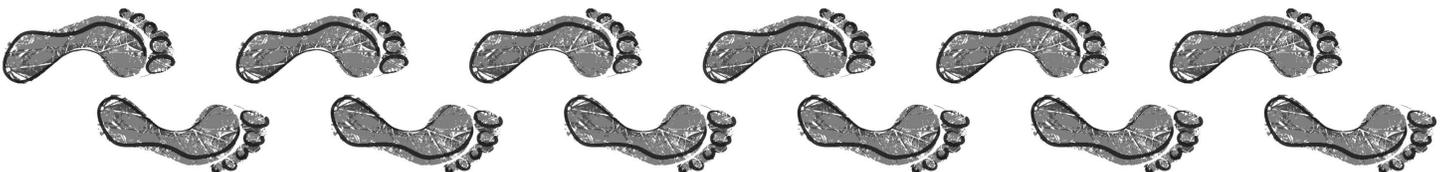
*Pastor Martin*

## WORK DAY AT LUTHER PARK

On May 8-9, our confirmation students will be starting a new tradition – a year end confirmation retreat at Luther Park! That also happens to be the same weekend that Luther Park has its annual work day to help prepare their grounds and facilities for the summer. I'd love to involve other interested parties in coming out to Luther Park, located just east of Chetek and but 30 minutes from St. John's.

The May 9 (Saturday) work day will involve caring for the grounds (raking, cleaning up litter, etc.) as well as caring for cabins and retreat centers (windows, general cleaning, maintenance, etc.). If you are interested in coming out to Luther Park to help with this, please let Pastor Martin know. Volunteers will gather at St. John's at 8 am to carpool together or you can simply drive directly to camp. The camp will provide necessary tools/implements/supplies, but you are welcome to bring your own as well.

A free lunch is provided and volunteers are welcome to stay as long as they are able. The confirmation students will be offering their services at the camp too, so you might work side by side with them and see how their overnight retreat is going! This is another wonderful opportunity to strengthen our relationship with Luther Park and provide a service that hundreds of campers will appreciate this summer. And don't forget – God loves a cheerful giver!





# *Bible Basics*



## April 12

Jesus once told a rich man that he lacks one thing – he needed to sell all of his possessions, give the money to the poor, and follow him (Mark 10). This man of great wealth left grieving. The first Christian community formed in Acts did follow Jesus' directions and shared their wealth amongst themselves.

- A. True
- B. False

## April 19

According to Luke's gospel, when Jesus appears to the disciples for the first time, they believe that they are seeing.

- A. The resurrected Christ as the women had foretold them
- B. A ghost
- C. Nothing – they only heard his voice and were frightened
- D. A hologram of Princess Leia saying, "Help me Obi Wan Kenobi, you're our only hope"

MAY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>26</b> 9:00 AM Worship and New Member Service 10:15 AM Youth Faith Formation 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM Girl Scout Meeting	<b>27</b> 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Bible Study	<b>28</b> 11:00 AM Staff Meeting	<b>29</b> Last Wed. Meal Formation 5:45 PM Youth Faith Formation 7:00 PM Worship	<b>30</b> 6:00 PM Preschool Board Meeting	<b>1</b> 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study in Library	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Worship and Music Committee Meeting 10:15 AM Youth Faith Formation	<b>4</b> 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Bible Study	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Flower Sale 11:00 AM Pastor attending Bloomer Clergy Meeting at St. John's 6:00 PM Celebrate Children Potluck 7:00 PM Worship	<b>7</b> Flower Sale	<b>8</b> Confirmation Retreat Flower Sale 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study in Library	<b>9</b> Confirmation Retreat Flower Sale
<b>10</b>  Flower Sale 9:00 AM Worship Service and distribution of 1st gr. Bibles 10:15 AM Sundaes Sunday 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM Girl Scout Meeting	<b>11</b> Flower Sale 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Bible Study	<b>12</b> Flower Sale 11:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Church Council Meeting	<b>13</b> Flower Sale 5:30 PM Town Hall Meeting and Meal 7:00 PM Worship	<b>14</b> Flower Sale 12:00 PM WELCA Potluck followed by a meeting 5:30 PM Preschool Graduation	<b>15</b> Flower Sale Newsletter Article Deadline 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study in Library 5:30 PM Preschool Graduation	<b>16</b> Flower Sale
<b>17</b> Flower Sale 9:00 AM Worship Service and Senior Recognition 10:15 AM Sunday Brunch	<b>18</b> 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Youth Committee Meeting	<b>19</b> 7:00 PM Foundation Committee Meeting	<b>20</b> 7:00 PM Worship	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study in Library	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM Girl Scout Meeting	<b>25</b> No Bible Study	<b>26</b> 11:00 AM Staff Meeting	<b>27</b> 7:00 PM Worship	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study in Library	<b>30</b> Synod Assembly and Walking Together
<b>31</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service	<b>1</b> 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Bible Study	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 7:00 PM Worship	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study in Library	<b>6</b>

## Council Meeting April 14, 2015

**Meeting called to order:** by President Rod Johnson at 6:30p.m.

**Opening Devotion and prayer:** given by Pastor Martin

**Agenda approval:** Motion made by Alice Zinsmaster, seconded by Ellyn Hudacek to approve agenda. Motion carried.

**March council meeting minutes approval:** Motion made by Pat Boettcher, seconded by Lynette Pank to approve minutes. Motion carried.

**Council Member Comments:** N/A

**Congregational Comments/concerns:** N/A

### Committee Reports:

**Discipleship:** N/A

**Worship & Music:** Pastor has started the use of a new Liturgy now after Easter. April 26<sup>th</sup> service to welcome and acknowledge St John's new members.

**Fellowship:** March Bingo Party was a success. Easter Breakfast was a success. Plant sale planned for the end of May with all proceeds going towards the bathroom renovation. For more information contact Tom Buchner. St John's Book Club is now in session, open to all. For more information contact Rod Johnson.

**Social Ministry:** Baskets of Promise, 14 Baskets of Promise were able to be completed with the items collected. Additional items/extras that were collected will be held and used to disperse at Agnes Table.

**Youth & Family:** April 29<sup>th</sup> - last day of Faith Formation and Confirmation classes. May 6<sup>th</sup> - Celebration of Children with Pot-Luck. May 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> - confirmation retreat at Luther Park. Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> - Luther Park annual work day/clean-up. May 17<sup>th</sup> - High School graduate recognition.

**Property:** Bathroom renovation-Awaiting bids from the suggested contractors: Bauman construction, B&B Electric and Bohl and Proulx Plumbing. Paulson Plumbing declined job and Geissler Plumbing no response. Installing new locks/keys - A bid from Chippewa Valley Lock and Key of \$800 to replace locks on church building exterior and interior doors excluding kitchen doors was brought to the council. Motion made by Alice Zinsmaster to accept the bid, and second by Lynette Pank. Motion carried. Discussion was held. Motion was made by Pat Boettcher to amend first motion to include the kitchen doors and sacristy, all doors will have the capability of being locked if needed. Motion seconded by Lynette Pank. Motion carried.

### Pastor's Report:

**Membership update:** Membership by baptism; Damian Rihn. Transfer of members(out); John and Margaret Hagen, Transfer of members(in); Bob and Jean LaTour, Laura Franta. Motion made by Lynette Pank, seconded by Pat Boettcher to accept membership update. Motion carried.

## Council Meeting

**Pastor visits** were made to Maplewood, Hetzel's and the hospital.

**Synod Assembly/Walking Together:** Schedule for May 30<sup>th</sup> at UWEC. All are invited and encouraged to attend. Many interesting workshops available. For more information contact church office.

**Dream Team:** Objective of this team is to gather feedback from the members of St John's and the community as to what can St John's do for the community. Event of a Bon Fire to be held at North Park on June 14<sup>th</sup> open to the community was brought to the council as the first Dream Team event. Park reservation fee of \$35. Motion made by Lynette Pank to accept \$35 fee, seconded by Janice Naset. Motion carried.

**Financial Report:** Motion made by Alice Zinsmaster and seconded by Rod Johnson to accept Financial Report. Motion carried.

### Old Business:

Staff benefit policy is in process.

Credit card update-application submitted for St John's credit card and waiting for card.

**New business:** Town Hall Meeting scheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30p.m. to review Wednesday night structure. Objective of this meeting is to discuss options of structure/schedule to try and obtain more room and time for the number of children and young adults attending Faith Formation on Wednesdays.

Motion made by Janice Naset and seconded by Alice Zinsmaster to adjourn. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer led by Pastor Martin

Pauline Stertz, Secretary

Meeting attended by Pastor Martin, Rod Johnson, Alice Zinsmaster, Trey Baker, Pat Boettcher, Janice Naset, Adam Ewings, Lynette Pank, Ellyn Hudacek, Pauline Stertz

# Financial Report - April 2015

	2014	2015	Budget 2015
<b>Beginning Balance – Jan. 1<sup>st</sup></b>	\$7,513.00	\$3,150.00	
<b>Income –April</b>	\$63,518.00	\$67,724.00	\$73,634.00
<b>Expenses – April</b>	\$66,199.00	\$65,711.00	\$73,634.00
<b>Balance</b>	\$4,832.00	\$5,163.00	
<b>Loan – Security Financial Bank</b>	\$89,420.00	\$78,747.00	

Fellowship Committee:

After March and April’s successful Bingo get-together we will be taking the summer off. Please watch for more family get-togethers in your upcoming newsletters. Please offer any suggestions that you might have on what types of games you would like to play. Feel free to contact Tom at 715-568-2778

Tom Buchner  
Committee Liaison



# **SPRING FLOWER SALE**

## **MAY 6, 10, 13, & 17**

### **Before & After Worship**



**Hanging baskets, potted plants, many varieties available**

**At reasonable prices**

**Fundraiser sponsored by youth for camp & activities**

**CELEBRATE CAREGIVERS  
SUNDAE SUNDAY**

**ENJOY CULVERS CUSTARD SUNDAES  
@ 10:15 AM ON SUNDAY MAY 10**

**DESSERT FIRST!  
ALL MEMBERS INVITED**

**Bring your favorite topping to share.**



**SUMMER CAMP AT LUTHER PARK**

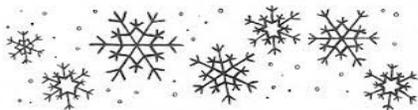
Programs for 5K through Sr. High, Family Camp, Grandparents/Kids and more. Brochures available on desk outside Marla's office. Get complete camp info & register at

[www.LutherPark.org](http://www.LutherPark.org). Enjoy a great week where faith is nurtured through Holy Play.



**WEATHER ALERT!**

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.

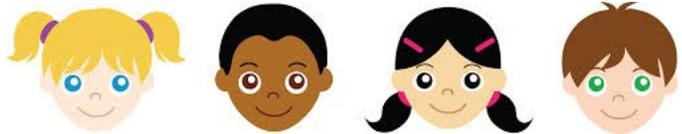


**LEARNING SCHEDULES**

**Sunday, May 3 @ 10:15 am**

Wednesday, May 6 @ 6:00 pm, Sunday & Wednesday Preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Celebrate Children Pot Luck Meal, all members & guests invited

**CELEBRATE CHILDREN  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6**



**6:00 PM**

- ◆ Pot Luck meal, all members & guests invited
- ◆ Hot Dogs, Baked Beans & beverage provided

**7 PM WORSHIP**

- ◆ Children's voices share music
- ◆ 1<sup>st</sup> Grade children receive Bibles

**FOOD, FUN & FELLOWSHIP ST. JOHN'S STYLE**

**6<sup>TH</sup>, 7<sup>TH</sup> & 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE YEAR END CELEBRATION**

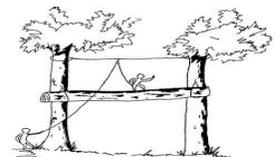
**MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFIRMATION RETREAT**

**MAY 8 & 9 @ LUTHER PARK**

**WORSHIP**



**HIGH ROPES**



**SERVING OTHERS  
SAVE THE DATE**

# The Parables of Jesus



VBS JUNE 22-25

ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN AREAS LISTED BELOW :

Counselor housing Sunday-Thursday,  
3-4 counselors estimated

Counselor Lunches

Prepare & serve Snacks

Monitor Free Time

Staff Registration Table

Teacher Assistants

## FIRST GRADE BIBLES

PRESENTED WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

7:00 PM WORSHIP



## SENIOR RECOGNITION

SUNDAY, MAY 17

9 AM WORSHIP

10:15 AM BREAKFAST BRUNCH, GRADUATES, FAMILY MEMBERS & GUESTS, & ALL MEMBERS OF ST. JOHN'S INVITED

### CONGRATULATIONS TO GRADUATES

Abigail Dinger

Lauren Gengler

Austin Koehler

Allison Knoepke

Nicole Knutson

Mariah Miller

Alex Morning

Kaylee North

Kali Pecha

Sheldon Seidling



# Class of 2015



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL DAY CAMP**

**JUNE 22-25, 2015**

**Bible Study, Arts & Crafts, Nature, Games, Worship**

**Children Completing Kindergarten Through  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade Welcome**

**TO REGISTER: EMAIL CHILD'S NAME & GRADE JUST  
COMPLETED, PARENT/GARDIAN NAME & PHONE NUMBER  
TO [stjohnsl-marla@bloomer.net](mailto:stjohnsl-marla@bloomer.net)**

## St. John's Preschool News

Spring is surely here and we have many outings to look forward to with the preschoolers. Our bus trip to the Children's Museum of Eau Claire will be Thurs. April 23<sup>rd</sup>. We'll be walking to the public library to enjoy story time activities with Ms Kathy May 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>. A walk to the Bloomer Ambulance & Fire Station on May 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>, will give us the chance to see what trucks and equipment are there, and how they are all used.

May 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> are the last days of preschool for this year. We'll celebrate with graduation programs and pot-luck suppers. There are openings in the enrollment for the 2015-16 school year, and anyone with questions about the preschool are welcome to call Michelle Gasper @ 568-1060.

Thank you to congregational members who recently directed their Thrivent Choice Dollars to the preschool: Elmer and Evelyn Ferstenou, Kay Baier and Gloria Lambert. As a result of their allocations, \$127 was deposited into our account. We greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity!

