



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

Confirmation Faith Statement

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CREATING SPACE

This past year I was incredibly blessed to be accepted into a Missional Leadership Cohort, along with eleven other ministry leaders across the state and even the upper peninsula of Michigan! Through my experience, I participated in three retreats (one virtual and two in person), twelve monthly small group cohort gatherings (all virtual), and received coaching from two very gifted synod leaders (Pastors Erin Nelson from the Northwest Synod of WI and Matt Short from the Greater Milwaukee Synod). This experience led me to consider tackling an adaptive challenge in my context. My challenge eventually turned into inviting people to verbally share their faith so that they can share it and own it.

Adaptive challenges contrast technical challenges. For example, a technical challenge that we've done here at St. John's is to offer both versions of the Lord's Prayer each year. The worship committee made that decision many years ago because someone asked why we do one and not the other. An adaptive challenge, on the other hand, doesn't necessarily fix a problem. Rather, adaptive challenges help us learn, not solve.

As I'm writing this now, just one week removed from my final retreat, I'm grateful for the depth of the conversations I've had with my colleagues. They helped me go beyond what I could have done on my own, which is why I'm hoping to do the same with you. As we reflected on the retreat, we noticed that there was a lot of time and space in our schedule to reflect and ponder. We were allowed into other people's vulnerable thoughts and therefore could ask those deeper questions. When all was said and done, I left feeling incredibly loved by my colleagues. Through their deep and intentional listening, I felt heard and understood. That space was indeed sacred.

I will continue to pursue opportunities where I get to sit down with people and talk about their faith. What questions do they have about God? Why are they passionate about certain things in life? What struggles have they faced and what role did faith play in those challenges? I'm confident that when I learn, those who share these stories will too! I firmly believe that you too can experience that sacred space and appreciate its overwhelming warmth and compassion.

This month, we will be adding a little something to our worship services. During the passing of the peace, you will be asked, "Where did you see God this week?" This is an adaptive challenge. We're not trying to fix or solve anything. We're simply trying to create a small space to have you name an experience where you felt God's presence. It's up to you to determine how deep you would like to go. So whether you worship in person or at home online, you will all be gifted with this space to share a brief story. If it's a longer story, finish it after church! If you have a story that you just need to share with another, don't feel bound to the time restriction of our worship. In fact, you may even want to consider writing about it on our Facebook worship posting for others to benefit from!

"What's the point" you may ask? To grow disciples who eagerly share Christ's love! The Christian church was founded on the death and resurrection of Jesus, a story that went viral because the disciples shared. Two thousand years later, we continue that same practice. Sometimes we just need to create that space.

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 May 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

Nancy Schindler; Julie Chojnacki; Chloe Schulze; Austin Summerfield (nephew of Jenn Larson); Bob Kerckhove; Shelli Rogge; Aubrie Bohl; Renee Grambo; Richard Rihn; Steve Trubshaw; Arlene Christianson; Kelly Custer; Dohna Kerckhove (Pat Prill's daughter); Ilene Pingel; Margueritte Werner; Maggie Olson.

Prayers for our Active Military

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

Prayers for the Saints

Prayers for the week of May 1st: Bruce, Karen, Jay and Jon Barlow; Marvin and Susan Baroun; Jerome, Kristie, Alicia and Ryan Benson; Carolyn Bergh; Jill, Mark, Karsten and Madi Bergh.

Prayers for the week of May 8th: Matthew, Melissa, Claire and Tyler Berlin; Brittany, John, Jack and Laikyn Beyer; Dale and Rita Bitney; Albert, Merlene and Mark Blaha; Lydia, Steven, Chase and Reagan Blaha.

Prayers for the week of May 15th: Annie and Bill Bleskacek; Brian, Laura, Jake, John, Jonah and Leah Bleskacek; Joselyn, Nathan, Lauren and Ryan Bleskacek; Alice Boese; Annie, Larry and Nicole Boese.

Prayers for the week of May 22nd: Bryan, Mary, Blake and Tenley Boese; Herman and Patricia Boettcher; Terri, Zach, Aubrie and Kaitlyn Bohl; Alicia, Andrew, Alexis, Colton and Kiley Bonczyk; Dalton, Joselyn and Katie Bowe.

Prayers for the week of May 29th: Jay, Kari, Cody and Kiley Braun; Tom Buchner; Joe, Kelly, Kendall and Kolten Burgess; Janelle, Raymond, Brianna, Ryan Buske; Brian, Cathy, Mitch and Tylor Calkins.

MAY 2022 CALENDAR

MAY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 AM Worship Service	2	3 11:15 AM Staff Meeting	4 'Celebrate Kids' Day 9:30 AM Bloomer Clergy Assoc. Mtg-Pastor 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Faith Formation PreK-8th (meal) 6:45 PM Worship Service	5 5:00 PM Preschool Committee Meeting	6	7 9:00 AM Spring Clean Up Day
8 HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY! Mother's Day 9:00 AM Worship Service	9 5:30 PM Church Council Meeting	10	11 5:30 PM Faith Formation Recap Dinner 6:45 PM Worship Service	12 10:00 AM Pastor's Conference	13	14
15 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Worship Committee Meeting 5:30 PM Youth In Action	16	17 11:15 AM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Quilting Group	18 6:45 PM Worship Service	19 5:30 PM Youth Committee Meeting	20	21
22 9:00 AM Worship Service	23	24	25 6:45 PM Worship Service	26	27	28
29 9:00 AM Worship Service	30 Memorial Day-Office Closed	31 11:15 AM Staff Meeting	1 Last Day of School 9:30 AM Bloomer Clergy Assoc. Mtg-Pastor 6:45 PM Worship Ser-	2	3	4

Church News

To the members of St. John's Lutheran Church,

What an absolute blessing you have all been to me over the past two years. I've never felt so welcomed, loved, encouraged, or supported in a church in a long time! I've had the most fun with our youth; watching them all grow, learn, and simply just spending time with them has been one of my favorite parts about being a part of the St. John's community. However, it is with a heavy heart that I must say my farewell.

As some of you may know, my bachelor's degree is in communications, and it's a field that I've wanted to explore more, so I'm excited to announce my new position at Trinity Lutheran Church in Eau Claire as their Digital Communications Ministry Coordinator. I'm really excited for this new challenge and all that will come with it, as well as gaining more experience in the communications/social media/technology field.

I will always hold St. John's in my heart, as well as in prayer. There is a lot of really great things happening here, and it has been a privilege to have been a part of it all for 2 years. I couldn't have asked for a better place to start my "big kid" career at.

I thank you all once again,

Katie O'Connell

Quilting Group
 Will be meeting on
 May 17th
 at 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Everyone is welcome!!

Happy Mother's Day

	Month of MAR 2022	Year to Date JAN -MAR	
INCOME	\$ 16,953	\$29,471	Financial Update
EXPENSES	\$24,179	\$32,565	
Difference (loss)	(\$7,226)	(\$10,326)	Current Balance on Line of Credit
Line of Credit	Princ Paid Mar \$119	Princ Paid YTD \$1,126	\$23,451

Thank you to all who purchased EASTER FLOWERS!

Your thoughtfulness and generosity adorned our sanctuary with beauty at our EASTER services and were a lovely reminder of those we love, both here and in the church triumphant!

THANK YOU!

Spring Clean-Up

Mark your calendar and help St. John's **tidy up** for **Spring!** (indoor work only. Outdoor tasks can be claimed by anyone and done at anytime.)

Saturday, May 7
beginning at 9:00 a.m.

WANTED!! Funeral Custodian

*Job description entails cleaning bathrooms, sanctuary, narthex, dining hall (as needed), and library setup.

*Please contact Pastor Martin if you are willing to serve as the custodian for upcoming funerals. \$50/funeral. Normal year has 8-10 funerals/year.

*Can be accomplished individually or with partners!

Deadline for June 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 **May 24th.**

Thank You!!

Church Council Minutes

April 11, 2022

Call to Order - meeting was called to order at 5:35 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 Terri Smith to approve the agenda , seconded by Pat Prill. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes – a **motion was made** by Terri Smith to approve the minutes from the March 14th, 2022 meeting, seconded by Sarah Wittrock. Motion carried.

Financial Report – Currently on a month by month basis with bills, March bills were paid on time. Short term borrowing to be renewed. Discussion of the increase in costs on fuel consumption, will need to check thermostats.

	Year to Date(Jan 2022—Mar 2022
Income	\$46,408.28
Expenses	\$56,749.79
Difference	\$-10,341.51
Current SFB Line of Credit	\$23,551.44 decrease of \$53.53

A **motion was made** by Alicia Bonczyk to approve the financial report, seconded by Sarah Wittrock. Motion carried.

Old Business –

COVID Meals – The COVID Task force met to discuss the possibility of reinstating meals in the church. Through an email discussion on meals on 3/29/22 a **motion was made** by Janelle Yeakey to resume the ability to serve meals at church. Seconded by Sarah Wittrock. The motioned carried with 6 yes votes.

Easter Breakfast and Services - Following email discussion on 3/29/22, Easter services will be held at 7am and

9am with breakfast being served at 8 am. Adam Anderson will be organizing the breakfast. Donation basket will be set out for the breakfast with proceeds going into the general fund.

New Business

Silent Messengers – Performing on Good Friday. UCC Church will be hosting a reception in the dining hall following the service, Pastor Martin will reach out for volunteers to assist with drinks. The event is being promoted in both churches and Pastor Martin will create a Facebook event to help advertise.

Charcoal Chicken – Sign up for volunteers has been sent out to families. Flyers need to be distributed & newspaper ad needs to be sent. Pastor will create a Facebook event and obtain the seller's permit.

Funeral Meals/Custodian – Funeral committee will organize meals, still looking for a custodian.

April 27th Laura Ramlow – Waiting to hear back from Laura about promotional materials. A meal will be incorporated into the event with Rose Marie organizing. A Facebook event and announcement slide will be made to advertise for the event.

Church Council Minutes *(continued)*

Faith Statement

Reports –

Preschool – discussion had about salary packages for new staff and tuition. **A motion was made** by Alicia Bonczyk to approve a salary total of \$41,000 for two teacher positions. Seconded by Sarah Wittrock. Motion carried. **A motion was made** by Terri Smith to approve tuition of \$200 per month for MWF students, \$150 per month for T/Th students, and \$350 per month for M-F students. Seconded by Jeff Cole. Motion carried.

Pastor Report – **A motion was made** by Pat Prill to approve membership for Ryan Bleskacek, Mason Ewings, Charlie Grambo, Gabe Hillman, Chase Loew, Cole Ludwigson, Neveah Nitek, Addison Pecha, Lexi Pielhop, Harley Prill, Athena Rogge, Zach Rogge, Tiana Thomley through confirmation. Seconded by Sarah Wittrock. Motion carried.

Additional items and Announcements

Discussion had about reaching out to families of the congregation for input. The following God Questions were brainstormed as possible discussion starters.

1. How are we meeting your spiritual needs?
2. How can we meet your spiritual needs better?
3. If you have attended other churches, what did you like about those churches?
4. What do you find engaging/enjoyable about church?
5. Is there anything currently happening in your life that the church can support?

Next meeting Monday May 9th at 5:30 pm.

Adjournment - **A motion was made** by Sara Wittrock, seconded by Jeff Cole to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Members Present: Adam Anderson, Janelle Yeakey, Sarah Wittrock, Pastor Martin Halom, Alicia Bonczyk, Jeff Cole, Pat Prill, Marcy Trubshaw (via zoom), Terri Smith, Katelyn Bohl

Members Absent: Jamie Keller

Minutes submitted by Janelle Yeakey, Secretary

FAITH STATEMENT

What my faith means to me.

We go to church every week and I am still learning what my faith means to me.

Right now I am thankful for Jesus and my faith and the things it has given me. My family because they are supportive, they create opportunities for me and are helpful when I need help in school. My friends because they make class more fun, they like riding four-wheeler and playing video games. My job because it gives me the opportunity to do more things. I think my faith lets me be thankful for all of these things and will give me a reason to do more stuff as an adult. I hope my faith encourages me to stay on a good path in life, do the right things and help people in their needs. I will know there is always somewhere I can go to talk about things.

Bible Verse:

But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

[James 1:6](#)

Youth Announcements

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

JAM & CONFIRMATION

Who: Pre-K – 8th Grade

When: Wed, May 4th @5:30pm

Join us for our final day of faith formation for the year! A meal and outdoor activities will be provided starting at 5pm. We will also have a Celebrate Kids worship that evening at 6:45!

VBS SAVE THE DATE

Who: Finished K-5th Grade

When: June 26-29 (tentative)

Join us as we invite Luther Park to lead our VBS this summer! It is a tentative date, but Pastor Martin will keep everyone in the loop to confirm whether or not it will happen during these dates.

SENIOR RECOGNITION

Who: 12th Grade

When: TBA

Calling all high school SENIORS!!! Join us to recognize YOU and all that you have accomplished in high school. A date is TBA, but plan on us celebrating you soon.



YOUTH IN ACTION

YIA

Who: 9th-12th Grade Youth

When: May 15th @ 5:30-7:30pm

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

If the weather is nice, I am hoping to grill out at North Park.

BRAT STAND FUNDRAISER

June 3rd & 4th

Are you still in need of another fundraiser to help send kids to camp, on mission trips, or do other fun activities? You're in luck! We will be having a brat stand outside of Shadick's the first weekend of June. A signup will be sent out at a later date.

You can contact Pastor Martin for more information.

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION

Finished K-12th Grade

There is still plenty of time to register for summer camp! Luther Park offers programs for all ages and all interests! Check them out at

www.lutherpark.org

for more information or to register.



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

715-568-5446
Email: stjohnsl-secretary@bloomer.net

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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