



# 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
- Recognition of First Communicants and Seniors
- Faith Statements

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### TOWN HALL FORUMS

In order to maintain open communication lines, the St. John's church council has decided to pursue periodic town hall forums over the course of the year. The next two opportunities are: Sunday, May 7 following worship (around 10:15) in the dining hall; Wednesday, May 10 before worship from 5:30-6:30 in the library

It's very common among churches to have a communications divide between the church council leadership and membership, which is why we want to make sure we overcome that divide and build a bridge instead! Town hall forums are designed to allow members (and non-members alike!) to share their thoughts from joys to concerns to questions to solutions. These particular forums add one more invigorating opportunity: to share ideas.

Back in April, I announced to our worshipping body that we had again received a substantial sum of money that came from the estate of Mick Kelm. He left a total of \$346,201.25 to our church. The church council has already decided to pay off the remaining line of credit (around \$10,000) as the interest rate is variable and on the rise at the bank. They also agreed to match dollar for dollar any gifts made to the Luther Park loan that was taken out for the new ministry center, which is still above \$200,000. If you'd like to make a gift, checks can be written to St. John's Lutheran Church with LPBC loan on the memo line. The deadline for this matching funds offer is Sunday, May 14 (Mother's Day).

There were many other ideas shared at the meeting, but we decided that we'd like to hear from you too! These town hall forums are the perfect opportunity to share your dreams in order to determine how to utilize this money best. We're also open to hear from you any ideas about where to invest this money so that it can grow as we determine how to utilize it. But to be clear, this gift should not be used to pay our normal operations (salaries, normal bills like utilities, snow removal, etc.) This gift should not replace our financial commitments to this church's financial plan that was adopted at the January annual meeting.

I hope to see you at these town hall forums. This is an exciting time for our church and a great opportunity to come together to further our mission, "Growing disciples who eagerly share Christ's love"!

*Pastor Martin*

### CELEBRATING OUR SENIORS!

On Wednesday, May 17, we will celebrate the senior class of 2023 during the 6:45 worship service. Our soon to be graduates are:

Tyler Berlin	Madi Larson
Dylan Halom	Dominick Meisner
Abrina Hillman	Evan Nitek
RyAnna Keller	Zoe Pielhop
CC Kiecker	Jensyn Skaar
Josh Koehler	Delaney Zwiefelhofer

We'd like to thank Wendy LaGesse for preparing the senior blankets that will be distributed to each of our graduates as a means to remind them of the love we have for them as they enter their next stage in life!

Following the worship service please join our grads for a reception hosted by the youth committee.

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)

## 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](mailto:stjohnsl-secretary@bloomer.net)

### Prayers of Healing For Our Church Family

Julie Chojnacki; Noelle Seidl (niece of Tyler & Kristine Mickelson); Fumiko (Eric Larson's sister-in-law); Kyle Ruffedt; Pat Prill; Emmett Larson; Shelli Rogge; Arlene Christianson; 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 May 7<sup>th</sup>: Jackie, Monty, Addison and Brycen Fetting; Edith Fleming; Carlene Fox; Sara, Connor, Gavin Gehrig; Don and Kathy Geissler; Jill, Steve, Lauren, Stephanie and Jessica Gengler.

Prayers for the week of May 14<sup>th</sup>: Debra and Jerry Gillette; Alan, Haley Pierce, Keenah and Larissa (Chevrier) Gingras; Dianne Goettl; Lisa and Ted Goettl; Renee, Scott, Cayce, Charlie, Dalton and Gunnar Grambo.

Prayers for the week of May 21<sup>st</sup>: Heidi, Jason, Brock, Emslee, Jerzei and Kordell Graski; Ronnie, Kayla (Gunderson), Harper (Bohl) and Henry Rihn; Martin, Melinda, Dylan, Jaden and Nicholas Halom; Beth, Tyler, Lauren and Leo Halverson.

Prayers for the week of May 28<sup>th</sup>: Marge Hansen; Jason, Debra, Kevin, Darion and Samuel Hanson; Dorothy Hassemmer; Jan and Rich Helgeson; Cheryl, David and Alana Helland; Anna and Christopher Hilger; Joseph, Kathleen, Eric, Lucas and Mitchell Hilger

# MAY 2023 CALENDAR

## Faith Statements

MAY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>30</b> 9:00am Worship Service	<b>1</b> 8:00am Bible Study 4:30pm Preschool Committee Meeting	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 2:00pm Bible Study 4:45pm - 5:30pm Wednesday Meals 5:30pm - 6:30pm Faith Formation 6:45pm Worship Service –Celebrate Kids	<b>4</b> 5:15pm Youth Com- mittee Meeting	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Town Hall Forum	<b>8</b> 8:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Staff Meeting 6:00pm Church Council Meeting	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9:30am Bloomer Clergy Association 2:00pm Bible Study 5:30pm - 6:30pm Faith Formation Review & Banquet 5:30pm Town Hall Forum 6:45pm Worship Service	<b>11</b> 9:30am Pastor's Conference	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>  Mother's Day 9:00am Worship Service -Baptism Levi Brabec 2:00pm Harry Potter Bible Study	<b>15</b> 8:00am Bible Study	<b>16</b>  1:00pm - 4:00pm Quilting Group	<b>17</b> 2:00pm Bible Study 6:45pm Worship Service-Senior Recognition 7:45pm Reception-Recognition of Seniors	<b>18</b> Preschool PJs and Movie Day	<b>19</b> Preschool PJs and Movie Day	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Fellowship Committee Meeting 5:30pm Youth In Action	<b>22</b> 8:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Staff Meeting	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 9:00am - 11:00am Final Day for M-W-F Preschool, North Park (Weather Permitting) 2:00pm Bible Study 6:45pm Worship Service	<b>25</b> 9:00am - 11:00am Final Day for T-TH Preschool, North Park (Weather Per- mitting)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:00am Worship Service	<b>29</b>  Memorial Day - Office Closed	<b>30</b> 4:30pm Preschool Committee Meeting	<b>31</b> 2:00pm Bible Study 6:45pm Worship Service	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>

### FAITH STATEMENT

I believe that my faith has been a very important part of my life. Throughout my time going to confirmation classes, I have learned many things that I use in my everyday life. I have learned that there are many ways to be a better person and to help others in need. I believe that if I can make somebody's day better, than it will bring me closer with God. Having a good relationship with God is important to me because I feel that if I am close to God, then it will help me be a better person. I feel that God impacts my life most and comforts me when I am going through tough times. When something is hard or challenging, I know that my faith in God will help me get through it. I think that my faith will help me in the future by giving me something to fall back on when I am facing a challenge. Knowing that God is with me gives me strength and motivation and reminds me of the good person I want to become.

**Bible Verse—Isaiah 41:10 Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will also help you, I will also uphold you with My righteous right hand.'**

### FAITH STATEMENT

If I were to explain God to somebody, I would say that he is kind, caring, generous, forgiving, and compassionate. How I would explain God are also the reasons that my relationship with God is important to me. God is always there for me and always loves me even when I sin. The love that I have for god gives me some protection from the evils of the world and will continue to do so as long as I continue to love God. In all God's amazing and tries to help all that ask him for help.

**Bible Verse—Colossians 3:2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.**

Happy Mother's Day!



# Church News

Continued from page 5

## Additional Items and Announcements

Next Meeting: May 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm

Adjournment - a motion was made at 8:04 pm by Janelle Yeakey to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alicia Bonczyk. Motion carried.

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



Each year when I get to teach the first communion classes, I emphasize the important days of Holy Week: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. This year we are fortunate to give the following youth the opportunity to experience their first communion on Maundy Thursday, the day Jesus had his final meal with the disciples.

- Bentley Kroenig
- Kendall Kroenig
- Mason LaGesse
- Owen McCurdy
- Lincoln Mickelson
- Kaylee Neuenschwander
- Ava Pielhop
- Emmitt Schwarzenberger

Many thanks to Nancy Schindler for taking the time to teach the kids how to make the communion bread that they were blessed to take at their first communion on April 6. This was an important faith milestone for these kids, and we were all blessed with the grace and love of God that we have each time we partake in the body and blood of Christ!



## Senior Recognition

Senior recognition will take place on Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> during service. Senior blankets will be distributed at the end of service, and there will be a reception to follow after worship.

*"Your life is your story, and the adventure ahead of you is the journey to fulfill your own purpose and potential."* – Kerry Washington

## TOWN HALL FORUMS

Sunday, May 7 after church (10:15-?)

Wednesday, May 10 before church (5:30-6:30)

Bring your celebrations, concerns, and ideas and share them with our church leadership. This is a great opportunity to dream about the recent gift from Mick Kelm with us!

**Quilting Group**  
 Will be meeting on  
**May 16<sup>th</sup>**  
 at 1:00-4:00 p.m.

*Everyone is welcome!!*

### Deadline for June 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 **May 25th.** Thank You!!

Join LUTHER PARK as they **RETIRE THE DEBT WITH DAVE**

### Retire the Debt with Dave Challenge!

For any contribution made to help retire the \$234k Luther Park Ministry Center debt made from now until Sunday, May 14, the church council will match your gift dollar for dollar! The total that our church sends in will also be doubled again by a faithful partner up to \$25k! To illustrate:

**\$100 gift + \$100 council match + \$200 match = \$400 total gift**

Please take advantage of this opportunity and support our ministry partners at Luther Park!

# Church Council Minutes

## April 17, 2023

**Call to Order** - meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Dorene Turner, Council President.

**Opening Devotion** – Read Kaitlyn brought a ‘ball of devotion’ that contained questions to answer about faith and God.

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

**Approval of Minutes** - Approval of last Council Minutes-A motion was made by Terri Smith to approve the minutes from the March 20th, 2023 meeting, seconded by Kyle Prill. Motion carried.

**Financial Report -**

	Year to Date ( Jan-Mar 2023)
Income	\$ 53,196.90
Expenses	\$ 57,434.70
Difference	(\$ 4,237.80 )
Current SFB Line of Credit	\$10,036.11 <i>**as of 4-19 bal is Zero**</i>

Question from March: What was the \$455.19 difference in Council Fund from precious month. Answer – difference was due to the purchase lamps for the projectors in the sanctuary. Line of Credit Discussion – rate is variable and is continuing to rise. Elton Kelm left an amazingly generous gift of \$346,201.25 to St. John’s Lutheran Church. The money will be placed into the council fund. The church council will then determine how the money will be used. The council is looking for people with a strong financial background who can help the council determine ways to potentially invest a portion of the gift to help it earn money. Discussion about tithing from the gifts the church has received from both Darlene and Elton.

A motion was made by Janelle Yeakey to pay off the line of credit to the minimal amount allowed to keep the account open from the council fund. Seconded by Jamie Keller. Motion carried

A motion was made by Dorene Turner to collect a 2nd offering in worship through May 14th to support Luther Park through the ‘Retire the Debt with Dave Campaign’. Council will match the donations with money from the council fund. Seconded by Janelle Yeakey. Motion carried. A motion was made by Kaitlyn Bohl to approve the financial report. Seconded by Alicia Bonczyk. Motion carried.

**Old Business**

- Council Retreat- attendees: Pastor Martin, Janelle, Terri, Kaitlyn, Jeff, Dorene. Discussion to share info. at May meeting.
- Exterior Carpet : Property committee will continue to look into pricing for heater in entry way, carpet, and doors. Jeff took pictures of the exterior/interior of the church to document current state prior to road construction.
- Income boost with large fundraisers: no update
- Eagle Scout Project – will be funneled through property committee
- Town Hall Meeting—May 7th – 10 - 11am Dorene Turner, Janelle Yeakey (maybe)  
May 10th – 5:30 pm - 6:30pm - Dorene Turner

**New Business**

**Preschool Update** – A motion was made to accept the resignation of Jamie Nelson as teacher/director effective May 26th, 2023 by Alicia Bonczyk. Seconded by Janelle Yeakey. Motion carried.

Options for moving forward:

- Hire another teacher/director and continue with current set up of 2 classrooms.
- Hire a teacher assistant and run with 1 classroom, Amanda would run as director and administrator.
- Hire a teacher and run with 2 classrooms, Amanda would run as director and administrator.
- Close the preschool

Hiring committee will consist of Pastor Martin, Amanda R. , and a 3rd person (either preschool committee member or council member). Preschool committee will determine the process moving forward.

Sara Shadick, preschool committee chair, will be stepping down at the end of the 2023-24 school year. The committee will need to find more members.

**Statement of Policy 2023-24 Updates**

Council was informed of changes being made to the policy book. Once adjustments are finalized, council will approve. Follow up will happen at the May Church Council meeting. Dorene will look into a medical form for medication and share with Amanda.

**Committee Reports**

**Pastor’s Report** A motion was made by Terri Smith to welcome Emslee Graski through baptism, receive new members Courtney, Cambree and Cashlynn Lang. Transfer out for Alice Zimsmaster to Our Savior’s in Bloomer. Seconded by Alicia Bonczyk. Motion carried.

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

Fellowship Minutes and Preschool Minutes— can be viewed on website.

Social Ministry and Property Minutes - none

Worship & Music Minutes and Youth Minutes - can be viewed on website.

*minutes continued on page 4*

# Youth & Family Announcements

(more on Church News, page 4)

## Youth in Action

With our 2022-23 school year coming to an end, we are wrapping up our YIA events until the Fall. We are still looking for high school families to host for one YIA gathering each month (starting in the Fall). 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 final Youth in Action for the 2022-23 academic year will take place on Sunday, May 21st.

## PIZZA FUNDRAISER

Coupons from our pizza fundraiser are available for pick up from Amanda Ritchie or Pastor Martin. With your support, our youth were able to make a profit of \$371.

**WE TRULY APPRECIATE IT!**

If you missed the sign-up, we have some extra coupons available for purchase. Please contact Amanda Ritchie if you are interested in purchasing any pizzas from Fat Boys, The Quarhouse, Valley Tavern, or Harms Way.

## Celebrate Children's Day

Our final day of Faith Formation for the 2022-23 academic year will be Wednesday, May 3rd, 2023. We are hoping the weather will be nice enough to have activities outside like we did for our kick-off at the beginning of the year.

To celebrate our children, we will also be focusing on our youth during worship that evening. JAM students will be singing three songs for the congregation as well.

There will be a reception with cake served after service. Please come and enjoy a slice as we celebrate our students.

## Faith Formation Evaluation Teacher Appreciation Event

Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, we will be hosting our teacher appreciation/end of the year review/evaluation event. Please RSVP to Amanda Ritchie or Pastor Martin if you are able to attend so we can plan accordingly for food. This event will be for all JAM and Confirmation Teachers, along with subs that played an active role in assisting on Wednesday nights.

## Flower Fundraiser

Flowers purchased from the floral fundraiser can be picked up on Friday, May 12th between 5PM and 9PM, just in time for Mother's Day!

Please contact Amanda Ritchie, Pastor Martin, or Jean Rihn (715-933-4162) with any questions you may have.

## Harry Potter Bible Study

We are going to be hosting a Harry Potter bible study beginning on beginning on Sunday, May 14th from 2:00 – 5:00PM. If you are interested in attending, please contact Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1 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

A huge thank you to all of our families who helped serve dinner during Lent. All of the soups were delicious and appreciated by all.

## 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](http://lutherpark.org).

\***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 Ritchie or Pastor Martin if you have any addition questions regarding reimbursement.

# PRESCHOOL NEWS & UPDATES



## NEWS FROM PRESCHOOL STAFF!



Amanda



### Sneak Peek into the Program

Amanda and Jamie have a lot packed into the month of May. In our final month of the 2022-23 academic year, various themes that will be explored are Dragons Love Tacos (Cinco de Mayo); Mother's Day; Flowers; and Oh, the Places You'll Go. 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. \*Parents may notice that we have already gone through our alphabet, so we are now repeating letters based upon each week's theme.

Jamie



### Dates to Consider

**Thursday, May 18th and Friday, May 19th** will be our final movie/pajama days for the preschool this school year.

**Monday, May 22nd**, Ms. Ritchie's MWF students will have an additional makeup day for the year.

**Tuesday, May 23rd**, all TTH students will be making up a snow day that we had this year.

**Wednesday, May 24th and Thursday, May 25th** will be our final days of the 2022-23 academic year.

\*See "Final Days at North Park" for more information.

### PJs and a Movie Day

We will be having movie days on Thursday, May 18th and Friday, May 19th in our theater room upstairs. Children can stay in their jammies that morning and enjoy a movie with some fresh popcorn.

### Snow Day Make-Up Dates

As mentioned under "Dates to Consider," we are going to make up our snow days at the end of our school year. This means that our MWF students will have their final day on Wednesday, May 24th, and our TTH students will have class on Tuesday, May 23rd and Thursday, May 24th.

### Outside Recess

With the weather warming up, it is our hopes that we will be able to go outside to enjoy some fresh air. Miss Jamie and Ms. Ritchie criteria for going outside is that it needs to be above 30F outside and all students need weather appropriate clothing.

### Penny War Fundraiser

Our final fundraiser for the 2022-23 academic year will be a penny war- preschool vs Pastor Martin. There will be two containers to fill up with loose change or dollar bills, in which all proceeds will go towards purchasing items from the preschool's wish list: park bench with storage, new classroom toys (indoor and outdoor), a tee-totter, and more! If you're new to the Penny War, the directions are simple. Our students are going to participate against Pastor Martin in a very friendly competition. The group with the most money in their container by the ending date, will win the prize of throwing a plate of whipped topping at the losing class's teacher or Pastor.

### Pre-Registration for 2023-24

Pre-registration is open 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](mailto: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.

### Final Days at North Park

The final day for each groups program (MWF & TTH) will be on **Wednesday, May 24th (MWF group)** and **Thursday, May 25th (TTH group)**. Location: North Park (weather permitting- teacher's will update by 7:30am the morning of) or the Preschool if weather doesn't cooperate. **Time: 9am – 11am**. Students will showcase some things that they learned this year (ABC, Songs, Counting...), play on the playground with their friends, and enjoy some yummy treats to wrap up the year. We look forward to spending time with our students before their summer break begins.

*(See "Special Thank You" on page 8)*



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

715-568-5446  
Email: [stjohnsl-secretary@bloomer.net](mailto:stjohnsl-secretary@bloomer.net)

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

**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](mailto:pastormartin@bloomer.net)

*A Special Thank You!*

A huge thank you to all of our students and families for making this year a success. Miss Jamie and I had so much fun working together and with all our families this school year! I am excited to see some familiar faces along with other new ones this Fall. Also, a huge thank you to our preschool committee and the congregations support this year. Without your support, we would not have had the success we did this year.  
Have a wonderful Summer! – Ms. Ritchie

